



VCU

School of Business

Department of Economics Overview for Faculty Search Candidates

The Virginia Commonwealth University Department of Economics is a welcoming and collegial community. As a faculty, we enjoy eating lunch together, discussing current events, collaborating and engaging in friendly debate.

We offer an M.A. in Economics, an accelerated B.S. to M.A. track, a B.S. in Economics (with students in both the College of Humanities & Sciences and School of Business) and a minor. Our students are active in student organizations and the College Fed Challenge, making national finals several times in the last ten years.

Our internationally recognized faculty has received research funding from a myriad of organizations, including the National Science Foundation and the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality. Research highlights include our relationship with The Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, as well as our [Experimental Lab](#), in operation since 1986.

Econ faculty bios

For full profiles including photos and research details, please see our [online directory](#).

- **Dr. Adam Blandin** joined VCU as an assistant professor of Economics in 2016. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Arizona State in 2016. His research interests are at the intersection of macroeconomics and labor economics. Much of his current work investigates the sources of earnings differences across individuals, with an emphasis on the role of human capital. He has published in *The Journal of Economic Dynamics & Control* and *Economic Theory*.
- **Dr. Caleb Cox** received his Ph.D. in Economics from The Ohio State University in 2013. His research uses laboratory experiments and game theory to study strategic behavior, with a focus on cooperation and the voluntary provision of public goods. Much of his recent work uses content analysis of communication between laboratory participants to study strategic thinking. His research has been published in peer-reviewed journals such as *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *Journal of Economic Psychology*, and *Economic Theory*.



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- **Dr. Douglas Davis** received his Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1984. He is an experimental economist who uses laboratory methods primarily to study issues in industrial organization and financial market regulation. His current research focuses on the effects of information disclosure on financial market stability. Dr. Davis's work has been supported nearly continuously by the National Science Foundation and other Federal Agencies since 1989. His work has appeared in a variety of peer reviewed outlets including the *Economic Journal*, the *RAND Journal of Economics*, *Experimental Economics*, the *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, the *Journal of Monetary Economics* and the *Journal of Money Credit and Banking*. Professor Davis is also a coauthor of the text *Experimental Economics* (Princeton UP).
- **Dr. Linda Fernandez** is associate professor of Environmental and Resource Economics with a joint appointment in both the Economics Dept. and Center for Environmental Studies. Some of her research has ties to public health as it has involved studying economic incentives to improve environmental quality when air and water pollution result in morbidity and mortality effects. Some of her publications and research have been used at state and federal levels of governance for policymaking. The range of topics for analysis includes energy, transportation, international trade policy and the environment, cross-media (air, water, land) resource protection, and transboundary biodiversity management through invasive species prevention in traded products, maritime shipping and habitat protection.
- **Dr. David Harless** received his Ph.D. in Economics from Indiana University in 1988. He is an applied cross-sectional and panel data econometrician whose research has been multidisciplinary, having enjoyed long-standing collaborations with researchers from nursing, medicine, health policy & services, and accounting. Recent research focus areas have included hospital quality, especially as related to the question of the impact of staffing on quality of care and financial performance, and policy evaluations of aspects of the Affordable Care Act. He has authored or co-authored 48 articles in academic journals. These publications include the leading journals in economics (*Econometrica*, and two publications in the *American Economic Review*), and health policy & services (*Health Services Research*, *Health Affairs*, *Health Economics*).



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- **Dr. Chris Herrington** received his Ph.D. in Economics from Arizona State University in 2013, prior to which he worked as a research analyst in the Federal Reserve Banks of Minneapolis and Richmond. His research interests are in macroeconomics, growth and development, and labor, with particular emphasis on human capital, education, and intergenerational linkages. His current projects examine the role of family background for college attendance and completion trends, both over the very long run and for more recent cohorts. His work has been published in *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* and *Review of Economic Dynamics*.
- **Dr. Oleg Korenok** received his Ph.D. in Economics from Rutgers University in 2005. His research interests are in experimental macroeconomics, behavioral economics, and experimental finance. Currently, his research focuses on interbank markets and charitable giving. Prior research interests include inflation and prices, tacit collusion, cooperation, altruism, and policy interventions in financial markets. His work has been published in a variety of peer reviewed journals such as *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Experimental Economics*, *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, *Journal of Public Economics* and *Journal of Monetary Economics*.
- **Dr. Ioannis Kospentaris** joined VCU as an assistant professor of Economics in 2018. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles in 2018. His research interests are in Macroeconomics, Labor Economics, and Search and Matching. His dissertation work was published in the *Review of Economic Dynamics*. Kospentaris' recent research focuses on the implications of liquidity frictions in over-the-counter markets for the real economy, the consequences of public employment for private-sector labor markets, and the role of unemployment insurance for workers' employment prospects.
- **Dr. Jeffrey Lacker** received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1984. His current research relates to the history of financial crises and central bank policy. Prior to joining the faculty in 2018, he worked at the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond for 28 years, including over 12 years as president and CEO. In that role, he participated in meetings of the Federal Open Market Committee, the monetary policy arm of the Federal Reserve. Past research has focused on monetary economics, banking and financial intermediation, and payment economics, and has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals, including *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, *The Cato Journal*, *Review of Economic Dynamics*, *Economic Theory*, *Journal of Financial Intermediation*, and the *Carnegie-Rochester Conference Series on Public Policy*.



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- **Dr. John Lightle** received his Ph.D. in Economics from the Ohio State University in 2008. His research interests are in experimental economics, behavioral economics, applied microeconomic theory, and experimental finance. Currently, his research focuses on interbank markets, economic contests, positive reciprocity in the workplace, and non-standard markets or pricing mechanisms. His work has been published in journals including *Management Science*, *Experimental Economics*, *Labour Economics*, *Journal of Economics and Management Strategy*, and *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*.
- **Dr. Edward Millner** received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1983. His research interests are in behavioral economics and philanthropy. His current research focuses on how feelings of ownership influence giving to and taking from other people. His work has been published in the *Rand Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Experimental Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Economic Psychology*, and the *Journal of Public Economics*. He served as the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies in the School of Business for 5 years and Chairman of the Department of Economics for 14 years.
- **Dr. Evelyn Nunes** joined VCU as a visiting assistant professor of Economics in 2016, and is now Instructor of Economics. She received her PhD in Economics from Penn State University in 2016. Her research interests are in development and education, with her current project examining the effects of a financial literacy certification in the learning of economics in high-school. At VCU she has taught courses on development economics, environmental economics, international economics, principles of macro and micro, among others.
- **Dr. Carol Scotes** received her Ph.D. from Penn State University. She is a macroeconomist with research interests in economic growth and macro-labor. She has studied growth issues related to fertility, education and financial factors and has current research interests on the wage distribution impact of changing skill demand. Her research has been published in *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Journal of Population Economics* and other outlets.
- **Dr. Daniel Stephenson** joined VCU as an assistant professor of Economics in 2019. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from Texas A&M University in 2017. His research interests include experimental economics, mechanism design, learning, and evolutionary models. His current work investigates behavioral change over time in auctions, contests, markets, and student assignment mechanisms. His research has been published in such journals as *Games and Economic Behavior* and *Experimental Economics*.



VCU

School of Business

- **Dr. Leslie S. Stratton** received her Ph.D. in Economics from the Massachusetts Institution of Technology in 1989. She is an applied econometrician working primarily in the labor economics field. Her research has centered on the time allocation decisions of individuals and households. As such she has explored intrahousehold time allocation decisions, marital wage differentials, labor supply decisions, and post-secondary enrollment patterns. Her research has been published in such journals as the *Journal of Population Economics*, the *Review of Economics of the Household*, *Economica*, and *Economics of Education Review* and has a substantial international component. She teaches introductory microeconomics, labor economics, and a graduate course in econometrics and is currently the department chair.

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