

SCOTT CUNNINGHAM

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POSITIONS HELD

- 2022–present: Ben H. Williams Professor, Baylor University
- 2025–2026 (scheduled): Visiting Professor, Harvard University (Government School)
- 2024: Visiting Professor of Economics, Texas A&M
- 2019–present: Professor of Economics, Baylor University
- 2020–2022: Visiting Professor of Economics, UT-Austin
- 2013–2019: Associate Professor of Economics, Baylor University (with tenure)
- 2007–2013: Assistant Professor of Economics, Baylor University

AFFILIATIONS

- 2021–present: President, Mixtape Consulting
- 2022–present: Advisor, Geminos
- 2018–present: Research Affiliate, Computational Justice Lab

EDUCATION

- 2007: Ph.D. Economics, University of Georgia
- 1999: B.A. Literature, University of Tennessee at Knoxville

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Mental health care, sex work, corrections, drug policy

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

“Difference-in-Differences Designs: A Practitioner’s Guide” (with Andrew Baker, Brantly Callaway, Andrew Goodman-Bacon and Pedro H.C. Sant’Anna). Forthcoming at *Journal of Economic Literature*.

“Many Agents and the Minimum Wage: Randomized Priors in a Many-Analyst Experiment.” Under review.

“Leadership, Communication, and Gender Peer Effects at the National Outdoor Leadership School” (with Benjamin Blemings and Matthew Pearson). *Revise and Resubmit* at *Southern Economic Journal*.

“Unintended Consequences of Life-Saving Pharmaceutical Innovations: How HAART Led to the Resurgence of Syphilis” (with David Beheshti and Nir Eilam). Accepted at *Health Economics*.

“The role of repugnance in markets: How the Jared Fogle scandal affected patronage of subway.” *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, Volume 229, January 2025, 106848.

“Temporary gains and permanent costs in methamphetamine precursor control.” *International Journal of Drug Policy*, June 2024, 104501.

“Adverse Impacts of Mental Health Needs Assessment on Jail Outcomes: Evidence from Transition Age Youth and Adults” (with Jonathan Seward, Karen Clay and Vivian S. Vigliotti). 2024. *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 59, Supplement 282.

“Did Craigslist’s Erotic Services Reduce Female Homicide and Rape?” (with Gregory DeAngelo and John Tripp). *Journal of Human Resources*, January 2024, 59(1) 280-315.

“The Long-term Effects of the Rwanda Genocide on Child Work” (with Yoo-Mi Chin and Van Pham). *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, accepted.

“Children on the Move: Progressive Redistribution of Cash Transfers among Refugees” (with Berk Ozler, Çiğdem Çelik, P. Facuno Cuevas and Luca Parisotto). *Journal of Development Economics*, vol. 153, Number 102733, November 2021.

“Systematic review and meta-analysis of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation among Ph.D. students” (with Emily N. Satinsky, Tomoki Kimura, Mathew V. Kiang, Rediet Abebe, Hedwig Lee, Xiaofei Lin, Cindy H. Liu, Igor Rudan, Srijan Sen, Mark Tomlinson, Miranda Yaver, and Alexander C. Tsai). 2021. *Nature: Scientific Reports*, vol. 11, article no. 14370.

“Fracking and Risky Sexual Behavior” (with Gregory DeAngelo and Brock Smith). 2020. *Journal of Health Economics*, vol. 72.

“How far is too far? New evidence on abortion clinic closures, access and abortions” (with Jason Lindo, Caitlin Myers, and Andrea Schlosser). *Journal of Human Resources*, vol. 55(4) 1137-1160, 2020.

“Revisiting the Effect of Warrantless Domestic Violence Arrest Laws on Intimate Partner Homicides” (with Yoo-Mi Chin). 2019. *Journal of Public Economics*, vol. 179.

“Decriminalizing Prostitution: Surprising Implications for Sexual Violence and Public Health” (with Manisha Shah). 2018. *Review of Economic Studies*, vol. 85(3) July, 1683-1715.

“Health Anxiety and Medical Utilization: The Moderating Effect of Age Among Patients in Primary Care” (with Thomas A. Ferguson, Jackson O. Griggs and Lance P. Kelley). *Journal of Anxiety Disorders*, 2017, vol. 51, October, 79-85.

“Prostitution, Hours, Job Amenities and Education” (with Todd Kendall). *Review of Economics of the Household*, 2017, 15(4) 1055-1080.

“Identifying Demand Responses to Illegal Drug Supply Interdictions” (with Keith Finlay). 2016. *Health Economics*, October, 25(10), 1268-1290.

“Violent Video Games and Violent Crime” (with Michael Ward and Benjamin Engelstatter). 2016. *Southern Economic Journal*, April, 82(4) 1247-1265.

“Willingness-to-Pay for Pharmaceutical Retail Convenience: Evidence from a Contingent Choice Experiment” (with Keith Finlay and Charles Stoecker). 2015. *PLoS-One* 10(5): e0126790.

“Are Prescription-only Precursor Control Laws a Prescription to Lower the Social Costs of Methamphetamine?” (with Keith Finlay and Charles Stoecker). *International Journal of Drug Policy*, 2015, 26(11) November, 1144-1149.

“Prostitution 3.0: A Comment” (with Todd Kendall). 2014. *Iowa Law Review Bulletin*, 98:131-141.

“Parental Substance Use and Foster Care: Evidence from Two Methamphetamine Supply Shocks” (with Keith Finlay). 2013. *Economic Inquiry*, 51(1): 764-82.

“The Long-run Effect of Abortion on Sexually Transmitted Infections” (with Christopher Cornwell). 2013. *American Law and Economics Review*, 15(1), Spring: 381-407.

“Prostitution 2.0: The Changing Face of Sex Work” (with Todd Kendall). 2011. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 69(3) 273-287.

“Men in Transit and Prostitution: Using Political Conventions as a Natural Experiment” (with Todd Kendall). 2011. *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*, 11(1), Topics, Article 30.

“Risk Behaviours among Internet-facilitated Sex Workers: Evidence from Two New Datasets” (with Todd Kendall). 2010. *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, 86(iii), 100-105.

BOOK CHAPTERS

“A Brief Introduction to Causal Inference in Healthcare” (with Jonathan Seward). Forthcoming in *Cambridge Handbook on Productivity, Efficiency, and Effectiveness in Healthcare*.

“Randomized Trials in Legal Epidemiology” (with Harold Pollack and Alida Bouris). Chapter 13 in *Legal Epidemiology: Theory and Methods*, 2nd edition, edited by Alexander Wagenaar, Rosalie Pacula and Scott Burris, Josey-Bass (2023).

“The Economics of Sex Markets: Regulation, Online Technology and Sex Trafficking” (with Manisha Shah). *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*, edited by Dave Marcotte, New York, Springer (2021).

“Examining the Role of Client Reviews and Reputation within Online Prostitution” (with Todd Kendall). *Handbook on the Economics of Prostitution*, edited by Scott Cunningham and Manisha Shah, Oxford University Press (2016).

“Prostitution, Technology, and the Law: New Data and Directions” (with Todd Kendall). *Research Handbook in the Law and Economics of the Family*, edited by Lloyd R. Cohen and Joshua D. Wright, Edward Elgar Publishing Limited (2011).

“Sex for Sale: Online Commerce in the World’s Oldest Profession” (with Todd Kendall). In *Crime Online: Correlates, Causes and Controls*, edited by Thomas Holt, Carolina Academic Press, Durham NC (2010).

BOOKS

Causal Inference: The Remix. New Haven and London: Yale University Press (2026).

Causal Inference: The Mixtape. New Haven and London: Yale University Press (2021).

Co-editor (with Manisha Shah) of *Handbook on the Economics of Prostitution*. Oxford University Press Publisher (2016).

WORKING PAPERS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Power to the Platform: Online Dating and American Fertility” (with Christine Durrance and Melanie Guldi).

“The Effect of Decriminalization on Psychedelic-Associated Emergency Department Visits” (with Jared Black).

“Pitfalls and Lessons with Difference-in-Differences” (with Christine Durrance and Melanie Guldi).

“Predicting and Preventing Suicides in Corrections” (with Jonathan Seward and Christopher Cornwell).

“Massage Parlor Fees, Expansion and Sexually Transmitted Infections” (with Amanda Nguyen and Manisha Shah).

“Estimated Effectiveness of the Self Harm Prevention Offices in Texas Department of Criminal Justice” (with Christopher Cornwell and Jonathan Seward).

“Can Base ChatGPT be Used for Forecasting Without Additional Optimization” (with Van Pham).

“ElectionGPT: Using LLMs For Predicting Out of Sample with Presidential Elections” (with Jared Black and Coco Sun).

“Effect of Being Nice to ChatGPT on Task Accuracy, Sentiment and Verbosity” (with Joshua Ramsay).

“Non-Routine Tasks, Spiritual Workers and LLM Bias” (with Joshua Ramsay and Hayley Lam).

RESTING PAPERS

“Imprisonment Shocks and Substance Abuse” (with Sam Kang).

“Sex Ratios and Risky Sexual Behavior” (with Chris Cornwell).

“Understanding the Site-wise Heterogeneity of MDMA Assisted Psychotherapy Treatment on PTSD: A Bayesian Hierarchical Analysis” (with Priyasmitta Ghosh and Rebecca Thornton).

GRANTS

Robert Wood Johnson Public Health and Law (co-PI, \$116,462): “How does regulating pseudoephedrine access affect methamphetamine-related public health outcomes?” (with Keith Finlay).

NBER grant on Women, Victimization, and COVID (co-PI, \$20,000 with Rebecca Thornton, Anual Assamidanov, Greg DeAngelo, and Yunie Le).

TEACHING

- Causal Inference and Research Design: 2012-2025
- History of Economic Thought: 2022-2024
- Economics of Artificial Intelligence: 2025
- Advanced Causal Inference: 2021-2022
- Issues in Economics: 2019, 2021-2023
- Microeconomic Theory: 2007-2018, 2020
- Principles of Macroeconomics: 2007-2008, 2014
- Principles of Microeconomics: 2008-2018, 2020-2021
- Modern Market Mechanisms: 2014
- Labor Economics: 2012
- Economics of Networks: 2014
- Engineering Economy: 2015
- Economics of Crime: 2018

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2021: Robert and Robin Nitsche Outstanding Research Award (Baylor)
- 2003-2007: H.B. Earhart Fellowship (UGA)

- 2005-2007: Phelps Stokes Fellowship (UTK)
- 1999: Knickerbacker Poetry Prize (UTK)

SERVICE: WORKSHOPS

I teach causal inference workshops around the world as part of my service to the profession. This includes both online and in-person instruction through two main channels: the Mixtape Sessions platform and independent workshops I conduct directly with institutions and organizations.

Mixtape Sessions is an online platform I co-founded that connects people globally to modern econometric methods in causal inference. The platform has hosted approximately 60 workshops since 2021, reaching over 8,000 participants and featuring speakers including myself, Ariel Pakes, Jeff Gortmaker, Brant Callaway, Peter Hull, Rocio Titiunik, Alberto Abadie, Mark Anderson, Dan Rees, Jon Roth, and Brigham Frandsen. In addition to these platform-based workshops, I have conducted 30-40 independent workshops directly with firms, universities, government agencies, and private organizations worldwide.

I pursue this work because I believe econometric pedagogy has not always reached people in a timely manner, particularly regarding design-based causal inference methods that have transformed applied microeconomics. My goal is to help connect researchers everywhere to these modern methods, regardless of their institutional affiliation or geographic location.

SERVICE: PODCAST

In addition to workshops, I have been performing an “oral history” of the profession of the last 50 years using podcasting. I have interviewed approximately 130 economists ranging from Nobel Laureates, John Bates Clark Award Winners, theorists, economists in tech, and various historical groups (e.g., students of David Card). The goal is to listen to the personal stories of living economists and over time create a selected oral history of the profession.

PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCES

2007

Population Association of America Annual Meeting; Southern Economics Association Annual Meeting; Baylor University, Dept of Economics; University of Arkansas Little Rock, Dept of Economics; Indiana-Purdue at Indianapolis, Dept of Economics; Indiana-Purdue at Indianapolis, Veterans Affairs Hospital; University of the Pacific, Dept of Economics; University of Texas Arlington, Dept of Economics; The Analysis Group.

2008

Southern Economic Association; Texas State University San Marcos, Dept of Economics; Baylor University, Dept of Economics.

2009

Baylor University, Dept of Economics; Sam Houston State University, Dept of Economics; IZA, Economics of Risky Behaviors First Annual Conference, Atlanta; Centers for Disease Control, STD Research Division; Georgia State University, Dept of Economics.

2010

Tulane University, Dept of Economics; Association of Private Enterprise Annual Meeting; American Society of Health Economists Annual Meeting; “Rural Law Enforcement Methamphetamine Initiative (RLEMI)” Summit; Baylor College of Medicine, Houston; “Place of Sex Work in Program Science of HIV”

Conference, Prague.

2011

“Rural Law Enforcement Methamphetamine Initiative (RLEMI)” Webinar; “Economics of the Family and Public Policy” Conference, Mount Holyoke.

2012

Baylor College of Medicine, Houston; Cornell University, Dept of Human Ecology; University of Colorado – Denver, Dept of Economics; University of Georgia, Dept of Economics; Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting; George Mason University, “Philosophy, Politics and Economics” series; Texas A&M (College Station); University of Texas (Austin); IZA, Economics of Risky Behaviors Fourth Annual Conference (Istanbul Turkey); Sciences Po LIEPP University of Chicago Crime Lab Joint Conference on Crime Control Policies (Paris, France); American Psychological Association annual conference (Orlando, FL); 2012 Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference (Austin, TX).

2013

Indiana University Purdue University at Indianapolis, Dept of Economics; Butler University (Indianapolis, IN); Texas A&M (Department of Economics); Yale University (College of Public Health); Yale University (Center for Interdisciplinary Research on AIDS); NBER Summer Institute (co-author presented); University of Otago.

2014

Emory University; University of Texas Dallas; Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting.

2015

George Mason University; Baylor College of Medicine, Houston; Vienna, Austria conference on prostitution policy; San Jose State University; Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting.

2016

Eastern Economic Association Annual Meeting; American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association Meeting; Southern Economic Association.

2017

George Mason University; PROSPOL, Copenhagen Denmark (keynote speaker); Montana State University; 2017 Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference (Austin, TX); Southern Economic Association; AEA/ASSA.

2018

Texas Tech; SMU “The Dark Side of Capitalism”; ASHE; California State University, Fullerton; SITE Academic Conference on Economics of Gender (Sweden).

2019

AEA/ASSA; UNLV (planned); University of Memphis; University of Wyoming; University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Testimony before the Rhode Island House Judiciary Committee; St. Lawrence University; University of Southern California; Claremont Graduate University; American University; Catholic University Montevideo; San Diego State University; University of Illinois; Kennesaw State University; University of Manchester; University College London; Cornell University; Stanford; Erasmus University at Rotterdam.

2020

Facebook; Loyola (Zoom); Pitt (Zoom); Bogota (Zoom); Uruguay (Zoom).

2021

NBER HE (Zoom); Howard (Zoom); School of Social Sciences at Tec de Monterrey (Zoom); Manifold (Zoom); HP (Zoom); St. Andrews (Zoom); Virginia Tech (Zoom); San Jose State University (Zoom); LSE (Zoom); University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (Zoom); University of Oxford – Politics (Zoom); University of Oxford – Social Policy and Intervention (Zoom); Orebro University School of Business (Zoom); McGill University (Zoom); Remote Student Exchange (low and middle income platform); University of Colorado at Denver (Zoom); Kenyatta University (Zoom); Middlebury College (Zoom); University of Texas at Austin (Zoom); Difference-in-differences seminar (Zoom); Codechella 2021; Brazil causal inference workshop; Jongkoping University (Zoom); Uruguay (Zoom); Liberal Arts College Labor and Econ (Keynote, Zoom); Etsy (Zoom); Asian Conference on Business and Economic Studies (Keynote, Zoom); Michigan State University (Zoom); Erasmus University; Auburn; University of Copenhagen (workshop); ARIA (workshop); Southern Economics Association (Zoom); HSE (Zoom).

2022

AEA/ASSA; Syracuse; Azim Premji Uni (Zoom); St Olaf lecture; Ireland Masterclass; World Bank, McNamara Fellowship Lecture; George Mason University; Papa Johns; Elon University; University of Georgia; Oxford University; ADB Management; Co-organizer of Northwestern Causal Inference Conference; Twitch; eBay; Deiken University, Natural Experiment Conference (keynote); University of Turin, Empirical Micro conference (keynote); Uppsala Center for Peace and Defense; Federal Energy Commission.

2023

INSEAD; San Jose State; Microsoft; Johns Hopkins; NYU Med School; UC3M; CUNEF; University of Edinburgh; Royal Holloway; Collegio Carlo Alberto; Co-organizer of Northwestern Causal Inference Conference

2024

First Annual CodeChella in Madrid; Stirling University; Collegio Carlo Alberto; University of Georgia (keynote); Papa Johns; Covenant College; Co-organizer of Northwestern Causal Inference Conference

2025

Stellenbosch University; Second Annual CodeChella in Madrid; University of Mississippi; University of Glasgow; Collegio Carlo Alberto; University of Gallice; Co-organizer of Northwestern Causal Inference Conference

EDITORIAL SERVICE

Referee for: *Journal of Human Resources*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Economic Education*, *Journal of Scandinavian Economics*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Crime & Delinquency*, *Journal of Policy and Management*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Health Economics*, *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis*, *Socio-Economic Review*, *Management Science*, *Public Choice*, *Eastern Economic Journal*, *Journal of Legal Studies*, *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, *Sexually Transmitted Infections*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Reinvention*, *Journal of Experimental Criminology*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Crime, Law and Social Change*, Cambridge University Press, *Journal of Health Economics*.