

Long Run Research Interests and Selected Current Research

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My general research interests include positive and normative economic analysis in the applied and theoretical areas of public economics and human resources, and the development of theoretical and empirical statistical techniques related to these areas of inquiry. My research is typically collaborative across disciplinary boundaries, and often results in meaningful civic engagement at the federal, state and local levels. I seek to report with students and faculty collaborators research findings in appropriate scholarly journals as well as through various kinds of civic engagement.

Current traditional research topics include:

- the readability of the US Code with a focus on Title XXVI using Natural Language Processing;
- the design of least regressive national retail sales taxation in developed and developing national economies
- the theory and measurement of vertical and horizontal equity, and effective tax function analysis of the US tax system;
- the effects of Marcellus Shale exploration on public roads, and the general sustainability of public roads;
- student learning outcomes in conjunction with resources and environmental factors
- governance structures of publicly listed corporations and the public sector;
- distributional consequences of PM 2.5 in the US
- alternative approaches to accomplishing infrastructure investment in the US
- interaction among income maintenance systems and labor market outcomes

Nontraditional applications of technology to civic issues include:

--A Research Guide to Marcellus/Utica Shale: A Searchable Electronic Bibliography
<http://www.andrew.cmu.edu/org/marcellus-biblio/> (October , 2012)

--Property Tax Estimator for Allegheny County, Pennsylvania
www.propertytaxestimator.net (August, 2012, 2013)

--RODAS: Road Damage Assessment System (Pothole Tracking through crowd
sourcing)www.rodasproject.org (March, 2010)

Pennsylvania Student and Teacher Test Score Web Site: Compare any building subgroup
test scores in the state over time, view how each building does over time. Examine
teacher preparation test scores and placement results by Pennsylvania Teacher
Preparation Program: www.paeducationquality.net (2008)

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