

**AARON A. SCHOLL**

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**OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION:**

School of Business  
Northern State University  
College of Professional Studies  
Lincoln Hall 114  
Aberdeen, SD 57401-7621

**EMPLOYMENT:**

Assistant Professor of Economics (tenure-track) 2021-present

**EDUCATION:**

Ph.D., Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2021  
Dissertation Title: *Census Tracts, Racial Separation, and the Landscape of Higher Education*  
M.A., Economics, University of Nebraska-Lincoln 2017  
B.S., Mathematics-Economics, *Summa Cum Laude*, University of Nebraska at Kearney 2014

**RESEARCH FIELDS:**

Primary Fields: Labor, Public, and Urban Economics

**TEACHING INTERESTS:**

Microeconomics, Macroeconomics, Statistics, Data Analytics, Labor Economics, Public Economics, Urban Economics, Economic Demography

**WORKING PAPERS:**

“Splitting Tracts: The Impact of Neighborhood Racial Dynamics on Economic Opportunity”  
(*JMP*) [Abstract](#)

“Examining the Effects of Poverty on Municipal Public Finances: 1980-2010”  
[Abstract](#)

“The Outlook of Enrollment and Graduation During the Expansion of the For-Profit Sector”  
[Abstract](#)

## WORKS IN PROGRESS:

“Household Spatial Sorting Impacts of the Housing and Financial Crisis” (Census Bureau RDC project with John Anderson) [Census Bureau Abstract](#)

“Does Affordable Housing Improve Opportunity? Evidence from the LIHTC”

“The Role of Detailed Data in Economics: Evidence from U.S. Census Tract Delineation”

“Reducing the Sticker Price of College: The Impact of Tuition Resets”

“The Impact of the Great Recession on U.S. Migration Flows”

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

*Instructor (full responsibility) – Northern State University:*

Fall 2021                      Principles of Microeconomics (30/29 enrolled) x2 (in-person/online)  
   Business Statistics (30/30 enrolled) x2 (in-person/online)

*Instructor (full responsibility) – University of Nebraska-Lincoln:*

Fall 2020                      Analytic Methods for Economics and Business – “Math Camp” (11 enrolled)  
Spring 2020                   Principles of Microeconomics (50 enrolled)  
Summer 2019                Principles of Microeconomics (15 enrolled)  
Spring 2019                   Principles of Microeconomics (48 enrolled)  
Fall 2018                      Principles of Microeconomics (49 enrolled)

*Teaching Assistant (supervised by instructor) UNL:*

Summer 2016                Business Statistics  
   Principles of Microeconomics  
   Intermediate Macroeconomics  
   Intermediate Microeconomics

## FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION:

*Fellowships and Awards:*

2020                      McConnell Dissertation Fellowship, UNL  
2020                      CES Dissertation Mentorship Program, U.S. Census Bureau  
   *Mentor: Maggie R. Jones*  
2018-2019                Bingham Teaching Fellowship, UNL  
2019                      Graduate Student Travel Award, UNL  
2017-2019                Ogle Research Fellowship, UNL

*Special Recognition:*

2020 Nominated for Excellence in Teaching by Graduate Student, Col. of Business  
 2018-2020 Excellence in Teaching by a Graduate Student, Dept. of Economics, UNL  
 2014 Distinguished Mathematics Graduate, UNK

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

2017-2020 Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. John Anderson  
 2015-2017 Research Asst., Central Plains Research Data Center, Dr. John Anderson  
 2014 Undergraduate Research Assistant, Dr. Bree Dority

**PRESENTATIONS:**

2020 Nebraska Wesleyan University, Lincoln, NE  
 2019 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, Midwest Economics Association, St. Louis, MO  
 2018 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, Great Plains IDEa-CTR, UNMC, Omaha, NE  
 2017 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Scientific Meeting, Great Plains IDEa-CTR, UNMC, Omaha, NE  
 2016-2021 Applied Microeconomics Working Group, UNL  
 2015 College of Business Administration, RDC Presentation, UNL  
 2014 Mainstreet Kearney Economic Vitality Committee, Kearney, NE

**SERVICE:**

2021 Faculty Training for Online Teaching, NSU  
 2019-2020 President, Economics Graduate Student Association, UNL  
 2017-2019 Vice-President, Economics Graduate Student Association, UNL  
 2016-2020 Seminar Coordinator, Economics Graduate Student Association, UNL

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

Special Sworn Status, U.S. Census Bureau

**REFERENCES:**

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## SELECTED ABSTRACTS:

**“Splitting Tracts: The Impact of Neighborhood Racial Dynamics on Economic Opportunity”** ([JMP](#)) [Return](#)

**Abstract:** An important but less well-known feature of census tract geography is the role boundaries play in determining low-income, government-subsidized neighborhoods. Every ten years, in preparation for the Decennial Census, these boundaries are updated to accommodate population changes, and little is known to what extent further delineation affects neighborhood racial composition and economic opportunity. This paper first investigates the impacts to neighborhood racial composition, exploiting the 2010 Decennial Census boundary updates. Second, using census tract-induced racial separation, this paper examines the impacts of racial unevenness on minorities economic opportunities. I find that census tract envelopes that split increased in their share of Black residents, relative to tracts that didn't split. Further, I find that census tract-induced racial separation negatively impacts Black individuals across both income and skill distributions. Potential mechanisms include fewer local job opportunities in predominantly Black neighborhoods, and increased commuting costs to those jobs. I also find evidence of reduced positive peer influences in predominantly Black neighborhoods, as a result of census tract-induced racial separation. My results suggest that census tract delineation may play an important role in shaping neighborhood dynamics, and thus economic opportunity.

**“Household Spatial Sorting Impacts of the Housing and Financial Crisis”**

(RDC project w/ John Anderson) [Return](#)

**Census Bureau Abstract:** The predominant purpose of this project is to provide analysis of the bursting of the housing bubble during the 2007-2009 period on the Tiebout-like sorting pattern of households. The areas of interest include three large metropolitan areas that experienced varying degrees of housing market impacts: Phoenix, Denver, and St. Louis. The testable hypothesis is that the housing crisis caused a significant resorting of individuals both *within* and *across* communities. The first empirical strategy constructs several neighborhood heterogeneity metrics using geographically detailed, individual-level data on income, age profile, housing tenure, occupation status, educational attainment, and race. These metrics are plotted over time and in choropleth maps to visually depict varying degrees of heterogeneity within and across neighborhoods. The second strategy merges external housing data to the restricted-use data to understand the role housing markets played in contributing to neighborhood heterogeneity over this volatile period.

**“Examining the Effects of Poverty on Municipal Public Finances: 1980-2010”** [Return](#)

**Abstract:** Poverty is a persistent feature of American society. Previous work has well documented the negative impacts of growing up in poverty on individual outcomes, but less is known on the role poverty plays in contributing to local public economies. Because some localities provide a full array of public services, while others share the responsibility with overlying independent governments, previous work can be misleading in fiscal comparisons. This paper overcomes this issue by matching poverty characteristics to newly available fiscally-standardized data through the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy. Using a shift-share design, my results suggest that increases in local poverty reduce local tax revenues – primarily driven by reductions in property and sales tax revenues, and partially offset by increased reliance on intergovernmental transfers. In terms of expenditure, I find that local poverty reduces investment in important public safety services: police expenditures, fire protection services, and highway infrastructure – all with elasticities greater than one. This work contributes to our understanding of how the lower end of the income distribution, an often ignored but important group, affect local public finances.

## “The Outlook of Enrollment and Graduation During the Expansion of the For-Profit Sector” [Return](#)

**Abstract:** Every year the federal government spends billions of dollars financing higher education. In order for policy makers to effectively distribute these government subsidies, it becomes increasingly important to identify which institutions are successful and unsuccessful in graduating their students. This paper uses a unique descriptive analysis to better understand the landscape of financing, enrollment, and graduation in higher education during the height of the Great Recession. I find that in the lowest quality institutions, enrollment grew by more than 100 percent and was predominantly captured by for-profit institutions – also where graduation rates fell by the largest. Using a decomposition analysis, I further show how enrollment and graduation influenced aggregate rates both, *within* institutions, and *across* the institution quality distribution. Results suggest that in the lowest quality institutions, almost all of the decline in aggregate graduation rates is due to the *across* institution enrollment composition changing, while in the highest quality institutions, aggregate graduation rates increased primarily due to *within* institutional graduation rates. My results indicate that enrollment over this period greatly altered the landscape of higher education, and has important implications for effectively distributing aid, especially during the expanding pool of for-profit institutions.