

SARAH M. ESTELLE

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Professional Experience

Hope College

Professor (2023 –); Associate Professor (2015 – 2023); Assistant Professor (2012 – 2015)

Rhodes College

Assistant Professor (2007 – 2012)

Courses Taught: Senior Research Project, Economics of the Public Sector, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, Labor Economics, Introduction to Economics (Micro and Macro), Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Virginia, January 2008. (Fields: Labor and Public.)

M.A. Economics, University of Virginia, January 2002.

B.A. Economics, summa cum laude. Hillsdale College, June 2000.

Invited Projects

Religious Liberty in the States, developer, project director, sole author (May 2021 – August 2023) of a statistical index and dataset project resulting in an academic report, open-access website, and novel dataset now archived at religiouslibertyinthestates.com

Religious Liberty in the States 2023: A Domestic Measure of Statutory Safeguards for the Free Exercise of Religion, Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy, November 2023.

Religious Liberty in the States 2022: A Domestic Measure of Statutory Safeguards for the Free Exercise of Religion, Center for Religion, Culture & Democracy, September 2022.

“Workforce Development in Michigan,” research report for the Mackinac Center for Public Policy, May 2019.

Refereed Publications

“Smart Sentencing Guidelines: The Effect of Marginal Policy Changes on Recidivism” with David Phillips. *Journal of Public Economics*, August 2018.

“Will Daughters Walk Mom’s Talk? The Effects of Maternal Communication about Sex on the Sexual Behavior of Female Adolescents” with Susan L. Averett. *Review of Economics of the Household*, December 2014.

“The Relative Contract Position of School Teachers: An Analysis of Public Union vs. Non-Union Schools” with John Ruggiero. *Data Envelopment Analysis Journal*, October 2014.

“The Academic Impact on Children of Maternal Post-Secondary Enrollment” *Economics of Education Review*, April 2011.

“Three-Stage DEA Models for Incorporating Exogenous Inputs” with Andrew Johnson and John Ruggiero. *Computers and Operations Research*, June 2010.

Invited Papers

“The Good Endeavor of the Economist–Educator: An Interview with Kenneth G. Elzinga.” *Faith & Economics*, Vol. 79, Spring 2022.

“We’ll Never Be Royals, But That Doesn’t Matter” with Art Carden and Anne Bradley, *Independent Review*, Summer 2017.

“The Economics of Title IX Compliance in Collegiate Athletics” in *Handbook on the Economics of Women’s Sports*, eds. Eva Marikova Leeds and Michael A. Leeds. with Susan L. Averett, August 2013.

Other Academic Writing

“How States Can Protect Religious Liberty,” *Discourse*, August 25, 2023.

Review of *The Narrow Corridor: States, Societies, and The Fate of Liberty* by Daron Acemoglu and James A. Robinson in *Faith and Economics*, Fall 2020.

Review of *How to Survive the Apocalypse: Zombies, Cylons, Faith, and Politics at the End of the World*, by Robert Joustra and Alissa Wilkinson in *Journal of Markets & Morality*, Vol. 22, No. 1, 2019.

Review of *Counting the Cost: Christian Perspectives on Capitalism*, edited by Art Lindsley and Anne Bradley in *Journal of Faith and the Academy*, Fall 2018.

Review of *Hayek’s Modern Family: Classical Liberalism and the Evolution of Social Institutions*, by Steven Horwitz in *Faith and Economics*, Fall 2017.

Review of *Out of Poverty: Sweatshops in the Global Economy*, by Benjamin Powell in *Faith and Economics*, Spring 2015.

Working Papers

“A Christian Defense of Homo Economicus”

“Classical and Christian Notions of Love and the Relevance of Economics as Prudence”

“Efficiency in Service of Stewardship” with Nelson Kloosterman.

“Economics is What Economists Do’: Why Developing an Index from Statutory Law Requires Economic Science”

“Sound Theology: A Solution to the Local Knowledge Problem?”

“Why Economics? Understanding Markets as a Means of Divine Provision”

“Holding Fast to Essentials, Acknowledging the Negotiables: Recommendations for Christian Cultural Engagement”

“A Christian Defense of Liberalism” with John Lunn.

“Effective Childrearing of Young School-Aged Children: Evidence from College-Enrolled Mothers”

“The Relevance of Religious Adherence to Mother-Daughter Communication and Adolescent Sexual Risky Behavior” with Susan L. Averett.

“Do Marital Transitions Confound the Obesity Wage Gap?” with Hannah Spirrison (undergraduate student).

“Taking Classes and Taking Care of the Kids: Do Childcare Benefits Increase Collegiate Attainment?” with Sarah E. Turner.

Conference and Invited Presentations

“A Christian Defense of Homo Economicus,” Ciceronian Society, Harrisonburg, VA, planned March 2025.

“The Economic Ways of Loving”

Mackinac Center for Public Policy, Midland, MI, July 31, 2024.

Chesterton House Christian Study Center, Cornell University, April 10, 2023.

Russel Kirk Center, Mecosta, MI, July 8, 2022.

Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, GA, April 26, 2022.

Acton Lecture Series, Acton Institute, Grand Rapids, February 14, 2019.

“Classical and Christian Notions of Love and the Relevance of Economics as Prudence,” Social Science Division Professorial Lecture Series, February 14, 2024.

“Economics is What Economists Do’: Why Developing an Index from Statutory Law Requires Economic Science” American Economic Association meetings for the Association of Christian Economists, January 6, 2024.

“Religious Liberty in Arkansas,” keynote speaker, Harding University, November 10, 2023.

“Religious Liberty in the States: What's New in 2023?”

Samford University, Birmingham, September 26, 2023.

“Individual Liberty,” Legislative Leadership Program workshop, Mackinac Center for Public Policy, Lansing, September 15, 2023.

“For Love of God and Neighbor: Economic Wisdom and the Mission of the Church,” Kern Family Foundation Faculty Development Workshops for Theological Educators, Dallas, November 2022, and Milwaukee, August 2023.

“Faith and Ethics in the Economics Classroom,” Association of Christian Economists conference, July 21, 2023.

- “Interstate Variation in the Provisions for Free Exercise of Religion”
Association of Private Enterprise Education, April 17, 2023.
Southern Economic Association Meetings, November 19, 2022.
Mercatus Center Markets & Society Conference, October 23, 2022.
- “Religious Liberty in the States,” Ciceronian Society, Belmont Abbey, NC., March 10, 2023.
- “Holding Fast to Essentials, Acknowledging the Negotiables: Recommendations for Christian Cultural Engagement,” Southern Economic Association Meetings, November 21, 2022.
- “Theological Insights on the Knowledge Problem,” Acton University, 2022.
- “Why Hayek Should Matter to Christians,” Acton University, 2018, 2019, and 2022.
- “Operationalizing Free Exercise & the Measurement of Domestic Religious Liberty,” Henry Institute Symposium, April 7, 2022.
- “Classical and Christian Notions of Love and the Relevance of Economics as Prudence,” Ciceronian Society, March 12, 2022.
- “Sound Theology: A Solution to the Local Knowledge Problem?”
Acton Institute Colloquium on Markets & Morality, October 2021.
Eudaimonia Institute, Wake Forest University, March 2020.
Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society Meeting, March 2019.
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2017.
- “The Economics of Criminal Justice Reform,”
The Ivy League Club of Sarasota and Manatee Counties, Sarasota, FL, December 8, 2020.
- “The Economist's Favorite Conjunction, “As If”: Three Marvels of Markets,”
Hannibal-LaGrange University, October 15, 2020.
- “Engage the Speaker: The Economic Ways of Loving,” Acton University Online, June 17, 2020.
- “Free Market Economics and Christian Thought,” Acton University Online, June 17, 2020.
- “What We Know (and Don't Know) about Criminal Justice Policy,” Acton University, June 2019.
- “The Role of Public Policy in Racial and Gender Disparities,” Identity, Politics, and Identity Politics conference, Intercollegiate Studies Institute, Indianapolis, April 6, 2019.
- “The Economic Way of Thinking” Free and Virtuous Society conference for urban ministers, New York City, November 9, 2018.
- “Contemporary Scholarship in Austrian Economics: The Applicability of F.A. Hayek,” Matej Bel University (Banska Bystrica, Slovakia), October 8, 2018.

- “How Globalization Erases Boundaries for the Poor,” Concordia College (NY) Faculty Retreat, August 13, 2018
- “Neocalvinism and Economics in Context, Comparison, and Application,” panelist. Kuyper Conference at Calvin College and Seminary, May 1, 2018.
- “Effective Poverty Alleviation,” Annual Acton Institute China Conference, April 11, 2018.
- “ECON 101: Rethinking Poverty in South Florida” Free and Virtuous Society conference for nonprofit leaders, Miami, December 1, 2017.
- “Smart Justice? The Effects of Sentencing Guidelines on Felony Sentences and Recidivism”
Western Michigan University, March 2019.
Association of Public Policy and Management Meeting, November 2017.
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2016.
- “Contemporary Ethical Issues in a Changing Labor Market”
IHS Seminar on Work and Virtue, Northwood University, April 2017
- “The Relevance of Religious Adherence to Mother-Daughter Communication and Adolescent Sexual Risky Behavior”
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2011.
- “Is it Necessary to Walk the Talk? The Effects of Parental Experiences and Communication on Adolescent Sexual Behavior”
American Society of Health Economists biennial conference, June 2012.
University of Memphis seminar series, December 2011.
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2010.
Population Association of America Annual Meeting, April 2010.
Eastern Economic Association Annual Meeting, February 2010.
- “Do Marital Transitions Confound the Obesity Wage Gap?”
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2010.
Eastern Economic Association Annual Meeting, February 2010.
- “Effective Childrearing of Young School-Aged Children: Evidence from College-Enrolled Mothers”
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2009.
- “The Academic Impact on Children of Maternal College Enrollment.”
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2008.
- “Should Work Come First? Welfare, Employment, and Postsecondary Education Among Low Income Mothers”
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2006.
- “Welfare (to School?) to Work: How Welfare Reform Affects Collegiate Attainment”
American Educational Research Association Fall Conference, September 2008.
Bankard Workshop in Public Economics, University of Virginia, September 2006.

Allied Social Sciences Association Annual Meeting, January 2006.
 Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2005.
 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Research Conference, November 2005.

“Taking Classes and Taking Care of the Kids: Do Childcare Benefits Increase Collegiate Attainment?”
 University of Memphis seminar series, March 2008.
 Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, November 2004.
 NBER Program on Education, November 2003.

Competitive Fellowships, Awards, and Grants

Gifts and Grants from the Haworth family foundation/Stand Together	2017-18 – present
Charles Koch Foundation Grants	2013-14 – 2020-21
Acton Institute Mini-Grant for <i>The Economic Ways of Loving</i> Book Project	2021
Ruch Faculty Fellow in the Department of Economics and Business	2015 – 2019
Creative Advance Planning (CAP)-Mellon Study Leave	2010 – 2011
Faculty Development Endowment Grant, Rhodes College	2008 and 2009
American Educational Research Association Dissertation Grant	2006 – 2007
Fellow, Interdisciplinary Doctoral Training Program in Education Science, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education	2004 – 2006
Bankard Predoctoral Fellowship	2004 – 2005
Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics	2002 – 2003
Semifinalist, Seven Society Graduate Fellowship for Superb Teaching	2002

Other Professional Activities

Research

Board of Scholars, Mackinac Center for Public Policy	July 2015 – present
Colloquium Participant/Interdisciplinary Research Team, The Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leadership (A Lilly Endowment Grant at Garrett Theological Seminary)	March 2021 – September 2023
Facilitator/Planner, Teaching and Learning Theology at the Intersection of the Greatest Commandment, Economics, and Flourishing (A Workshop for Theological Educators, Project of the Kern Family Foundation)	May 2022 – August 2023
Kirby Laing Centre for Public Theology in Cambridge (UK) Economics Research Hub	Sept. 2021 – May 2022
Advisory Board Member, Advanced Pastoral Degree Program (APDP)-Faith, Work, and Economics Integration Advisory Committee (A Project of the Kern Family Foundation)	July 2020 – 2021
Research Fellow, Acton Institute	April 2018 – March 2020
Associate Editor, <i>Journal of Markets and Morality</i>	January 2017 – January 2020
Session Organizer: Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings	Nov. 2008 – 2015
Seminar, Colloquium, or Conference Participant:	
Boethius on Liberty and Providence, Liberty Fund Faculty Colloquium	September 2020
Moral Foundations of the Liberal Order, Institute for Humane Studies Seminar	July-Aug. 2020
The Capitalism-Socialism Debate, School of Civic and Economic Thought And Leadership Seminar, Arizona State University	May-July 2020
Loving Our Neighbors for the Common Good: Subsidiarity, Responsibility, and Change, Coram Deo	June 2019

The Christian Tradition and Changing Views of the State, Acton Institute September 2017
Referee/Reviewer: Review of Economics and Statistics; Economics of Education Review; Southern
Economic Journal, Eastern Economic Journal; The Journal of Economics; Journal of Markets and
Morality; Journal of Economics, Theology and Religion
Member: American Economic Association Southern Economic Association, Committee on the Status of
Women in the Economics Profession

Teaching

Co-leader, "Free Market Economics: From Smith to Friedman" January 2019, September 2019
Honors Student Colloquium, for Liberty Fund and Intercollegiate Studies Institute
Co-leader, China May Term May 2018
Co-leader, London May Term: Comparative Economic Policy (London, UK) May 2015

Media Presence

"How States Can Protect Religious Liberty," *Discourse* article picked up by *RealClearReligion*, August 28,
2023.
"Religious Liberty Beyond Red and Blue Divides," Op-Ed for *RealClearReligion*, September 16, 2022.
"The Market Can Solve America's Labor Shortage — If Washington Will Let It," Op-Ed in *The Hill*, June 26,
2021.
"Econ is for Lovers," Libertarian Christian Institute (podcast), February 10, 2020.
"Economics and Criminal Justice," Think Biblically (podcast), November 7, 2019.
Michigan's Big Show, July 18, 2019.
"Taxpayer Subsidized Workforce Development is a Lemon," Op-Ed in *The Detroit News*, July 13, 2019.
"F.A. Hayek's Road to Serfdom," Acton Line (podcast), April 10, 2019.
"Love and Economics," Acton Line (podcast), February 13, 2019.
"A First Step Toward Criminal Justice Reform," Radio Free Acton (podcast), January 9, 2019.

Select Campus and Community Service

Director: Markets & Morality, student reading group and campus speaker and film series 2013 – present
Manager: Haworth Fund, faculty and student programming for thinking Christianly 2016 – present
Faculty: Emmaus Scholars 2023 – present
Faculty Fellow: Saint Benedict Institute for Catholic Thought, Culture, and Evangelization 2015 – present
Member: Grant Writing Committee for Lilly Grant: Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose 2017
Director: Klesis, organization for future graduate students exploring Christian calling 2013 – 2017
Speaker: "Diversity and Poverty," Hope College chapel November 2016