

# Brandon Lehr

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## Education

Ph.D. Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2010  
B.A. Highest Honors in Mathematics and Economics, University of California at Berkeley, 2005

## Employment

Occidental College, Associate Professor of Economics with Tenure, August 2017-present  
Assistant Professor of Economics, September 2010-August 2017  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Research and Teaching Assistant, 2006-2009  
University of California at Berkeley, Research Assistant for Professor Raj Chetty, 2004-2005

## Research

*Fields:* Public Finance, Behavioral Economics, and Applied Microeconomic Theory

### *Book*

*Behavioral Economics: Evidence, Theory, and Welfare*, Routledge (2022).

### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles*

"Optimal Social Security with Loss Aversion." *Public Finance Review* forthcoming.  
"Optimal Unemployment Insurance with Endogenous Negative Duration Dependence." *Public Finance Review* 45, no. 3 (2017): 395-422.  
"Optimal Social Insurance for Heterogeneous Agents with Private Insurance." *Journal of Risk and Insurance* 83, no. 2 (2016): 301-333.  
"Information and Inflation: An Analysis of Grading Behavior." *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy* 16, no. 2 (2016): 755-783.  
"Efficiency Wages with Heterogeneous Agents." *International Game Theory Review* Pe

## Awards, Grants, and Honors

2019-23	Schwartz Scholar Grant, Occidental College
2011, '19, '20	Faculty Enrichment Grant, Occidental College
2018	Linda and Tod White Teaching Prize, Occidental College
2016	Faculty of the Year Award, Awarded by LGBTQA Students, Occidental College
2011-18	Robinson Scholar Grant, Occidental College
2013	MacArthur International Grant, Occidental College
2011	Mellon Digital Scholarship Summer Institute Grant, Occidental College
2009	James and Ruth Levitan Award for Excellence in Teaching in the School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, MIT
2009	Undergraduate Economics Association Teaching Award, MIT
2004	Junior Phi Beta Kappa, University of California at Berkeley
2001-05	Regents' and Chancellor's Scholarship, University of California at Berkeley

## Professional Activities

### *Reviewer*

*Journal of Public Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Economica, International Tax and Public Finance, Eastern Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Education, Canadian Journal of Economics, The Geneva Risk and Insurance Review, Palgrave Macmillan Publishers*

### *Conference Presentations*

- 2015: Western Economic Association International, Honolulu; Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics, Claremont McKenna College
- 2013: Western Economic Association International, Seattle
- 2012: Western Economic Association International, San Francisco
- 2011: Western Economic Association International, San Diego

## Teaching

### *Occidental College*

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory, Econ 250

Game Theory, Econ 305

Public Economics, Econ 308

Behavioral Economics, Econ 340

Research Seminar, Econ 498

Health and Humanity, Cultural Studies Program. *Co-Instructors:* Professor Clair Morrissey, Department of Philosophy & Professor Kristi Upson-Saia, Department of Religious Studies

*Massachusetts Institute of Technology*

Economics Summer Math Camp, 14.00 (Ph.D.)

Principles of Microeconomics, 14.01

Teaching Assistant for Microeconomic Theory I, 14.121 (Ph.D.)

Teaching Assistant for Microeconomic Theory II, 14.122 (Ph.D.)

## Research Students

Miles Smith '23

Andrew McCall '19

Yiyun (Eva) Wang '18

Preston Harry '17

Samuel Cua '17

Jessica May '16

Aleksandra Radojevic '14

Megan Lang '13

## Service to Occidental College

2023-24	Academic Planning Committee
2023-24	Co-Chair, Course Equivalency Working Group
2023-24	Faculty Representative, Investment Trustee Committee
2023-24	403(b) Retirement Plan Committee
2012-22	Budget and Strategic Advisory Committee
2019-21	Faculty Council and Liaison to Subcommittee on Finance
2016-22	Faculty Representative, Budget & Finance Trustee Committee
2020-21	College Cabinet
2020	Fall 2020 Planning Steering Committee
2019	President of the College Search Committee
2018-19	Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committee
2017-18	Chair, Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committee
2016-18	Chair, Subcommittee on Finance
2012-16	Subcommittee on Finance
2017	Faculty Learning Community on Structure and Process for Senior Comprehensive Courses
2016	Vice President for Academic Affairs/Dean of the College Search Committee
2016	Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs/Dean of the College Search Subcommittee
2015	Faculty Learning Community on Quantitative Reasoning

2015	Merit Pay Task Force
2014-15	Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committee
2013	Area Coordinator, Undergraduate Summer Research Program
2012-13	Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committee
2011-12	Secretary & Treasurer, Phi Beta Kappa
2011-12	Emergency Preparedness Committee
2011-12	Economics Department Tenure-Track Search Committee

## Public Speaking

2019: Economic and Sociological Approaches to the Social Phenomenon of Poverty (with John Liu), Shared Objects Series at Occidental College

2016: Tax Policies of the 2016 Democratic Presidential Candidates, KCHUNG Radio Interview

2012: Death and Taxes: Fiscal Policy & the 2012 Presidential Election, Election Series Lecture at Occidental College; Pasadena Senior Curriculum Lecture; and Human Resources (broadcast on KCHUNG)

Last updated: May 23, 2024