

Brendan O'Flaherty
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Employment

- 2005-now Professor of economics, Columbia University
- Summer 2006 Acting Director of Finance/Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, City of Newark, New Jersey. Responsible for the financial affairs of the largest city in New Jersey with an annual budget of about \$900 million.
- 2002-05, 1993-96 Associate professor, Department of Economics.
- 1996-2002 Associate professor, Department of Economics and Department of International and Public Affairs.
- 1987-1992 Assistant professor, Department of Economics
- 1987 Associate research scholar, Department of Economics
- 1979-1986 Legislative aide, State Senator John P. Caufield
- 1986 Adjunct instructor, New Jersey Institute of Technology
- 1985-1986 Aide to mayor, Newark. Assisted mayor in all areas of city government, with particular emphasis on financial, regulatory, and economic areas. Responsible for University Heights plan and negotiations on reform of city pension system. Handled constituent problems. Established property tax revaluation advisory committee. Served as acting zoning officer.
- 1983-1985 Consultant, Newark Police Department. Devised schedules of duty tours.
- 1982-1983 Special lecturer, New Jersey Institute of Technology
- 1971-1981 Assistant to director, Newark employment and training programs. Devised financial and program plans. Acted as liaison with federal officials and municipal council. Served at times as acting director. Prepared grant documents and state and municipal legislation. Established management information system. Wrote bidding specifications and contracts and chaired contract review committee.

Other experience

Adviser, Newark Water Group, 2010-now.

Member, transition team of Mayor Ras J. Baraka, 2014.

Member, research advisory board, National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2012-2017.

Member, Newark City Council Budget Working Group, 2010.

Weimer fellow, Homer Hoyt Institute for Advanced Studies, 2006.

Research Advisory Board, New York City Department of Homeless Services, 2004-2013.

Board of Directors, Newark Emergency Services for Families, 2000-2016; vice president 2007-2016.

Board of trustees, Newark History Society, since 2001.

Technical advisory committee, New York City Department of City Planning, Division of Transportation, 1998.

Best adviser award, Columbia Association of Graduate Economics Students, 1998 and 2007.

Board of directors, Unified Vailsburg Services Organization, since 1991. Secretary of corporation 2003-2021; treasurer since 2021.

President, Vailsburg Block Association Council, 1991-1993.

Co-founder and newsletter editor, Newark Fair Taxation Committee, 1986-1994. A citizens' organization that opposed tax abatement extensions and use of public funds for private projects, sometimes successfully.

Winner, Columbia economics department T-shirt design contest, 1989.

Co-chair, West Ward Democratic Committee and member, executive committee, Essex County Democratic Committee, 1980-1987. Organized campaigns and elections in the West Ward of Newark; recommended members of district boards of elections; recruited and managed election campaigns for between 78 and 84 district leaders each year; re-elected six times; retired undefeated.

Unsuccessful candidate for State Senate, district 28, 1986.

New Jersey Property Tax Assessment Study Commission, 1984-1986.

Campaign manager and campaign treasurer for State Senator John P. Caufield, 1979-1986.

Experienced ultramarathon runner with best times of 17:27 (100 miles) and 6:50 (50 miles).

Education

Harvard University, Ph.D., 1980; A.B., 1973.

Publications

Homelessness and housing policy

"Aggregate-level inferences from individual-level data: The case of permanent supportive housing and Housing First," 2023, *Journal of Housing Economics* 59 (part A).

"Frustrated bus robbers, liberal cat-lovers, and Keynesian dentists: A review of three books about US homelessness," 2022, *European Journal of Homelessness* 16 (2): 231-250.

"Why it won't ever be 2019 again," 2021, keynote address at FEANTSA annual research conference; *European Journal of Homelessness* 16(1).

"Homelessness," 2021, *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources, and Population Economics*. Springer-Verlag.

"Review essay: The Council of Economic Advisers (2019) *The State of Homelessness in the United States*," 2020, *European Journal of Homelessness* 14(1): 139-162.

"Progress and poverty," 2020, Deborah Padgett and Benjamin Henwood, eds. *Social Work Grand Challenge: Ending Homelessness*, pp. 5-11, at <https://www.gc2eh.org/>.

"Homelessness research: A guide for economists (and friends)," 2019, *Journal of Housing Economics* 44: 1-25.

"Private information, exits from homelessness, and better ways to operate rehousing programs," with Rosanna Scutella and Yi-Peng Tseng, 2018, *Journal of Housing Economics* 41(1): 93-105.

"Using private information to predict homeless entries: Evidence and prospects," with Rosanna Scutella and Yi-Peng Tseng, 2018, *Housing Policy Debate* 28(3): 368-392.

"Assessment and prediction in homelessness services and elsewhere," 2017, *Australian Economic Review* 50(2): 229-235.

"Homelessness prevention: On average, it works" with Peter Messeri and Sarena Goodman, 2016, *Journal of Housing Economics* 31(1):14-34.

"How effective homelessness prevention impacts the length of shelter spells," with Sarena F. Goodman and Peter Messeri, 2014, *Journal of Housing Economics* 23(1): 55-62.

"How New York and Los Angeles housing policies are different—and maybe why," with Ingrid Gould Ellen, 2013. In: David Halle and Andrew A. Beveridge, editors, *New York and Los Angeles: The Uncertain Future*, pp. 286-309. New York: Oxford University Press.

"Individual homelessness: Entries, exits, and policy," 2012, *Journal of Housing Economics* 21(2): 77-100.

"Housing allowances and homelessness: A simple idea," 2012, University of Calgary, School of Public Policy Research Papers, volume 5, issue 2.

Review of *Homelessness, Housing, and Mental Illness*, by Russell K. Schutt, 2012, in *Political Science Quarterly* 127(1): 169-71.

"Homelessness: Economic perspectives," 2012. In: Susan J. Smith, Marja Elsinga, Lorna Fox O'Mahony, Ong Seow Eng, Susan Wachter, editors. *International Encyclopedia of Housing and Home*, Volume 2, pp. 37-41. Oxford: Elsevier.

"Rental housing assistance for the 21st century," 2011, *Cityscape* 13(2): 127-146.

How to House the Homeless. Co-editor, with Ingrid Gould Ellen. 2010. New York: Russell Sage.

Within this book:

"Introduction," with Ingrid Gould Ellen.

"Homelessness as bad luck: Implications for research and practice."

"Is shared housing a way to reduce homelessness? The effect of household arrangements on formerly homeless people," 2010, with Yinghua He and Robert Rosenheck, *Journal of Housing Economics* 19 (1): 1-12.

"Homeless prevention," with Jocelyn Apicello and William McAllister, forthcoming, *Encyclopedia of Housing and Home*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

"Homelessness in the United States," 2011, *Handbook of Urban Economics and Planning*, Oxford University Press.

"When should homeless families get subsidized apartments?" 2009, *Journal of Housing Economics* 18 (2): 69-80.

"Homeless shelters for single adults: Why does their population change?" with Ting Wu, 2008, *Social Service Review* 82 (3): 511-50.

"Do government programs make households too small? Evidence from New York City," with Ingrid Gould Ellen, 2007, *Population Research and Policy Review* 26 (4): 387-409.

"Fewer subsidized exits and a recession: How New York City's family homeless shelter population became immense," with Ting Wu, 2006, *Journal of Housing Economics* 15 (2): 99-125.

"Wrong person and wrong place: For homelessness, the conjunction is what matters," 2004, *Journal of Housing Economics* 13 (1): 1-15.

"Need and generosity: How markets for free goods equilibrate," 2003, *Journal of Urban Economics* 54 (1): 157-72

"Do homeless shelter conditions determine shelter population? The case of the Dinkins deluge," 1999, with Michael Cragg, *Journal of Urban Economics* 46: 377-415.

"The form of U.S. in-kind programs," 1999, *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 15: 401-17.

Making Room: The Economics of Homelessness. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1996. Chosen by Association of American Publishers as the best economics book of 1996.

"An economic theory of housing and homelessness," 1995, *Journal of Housing Economics* 4: 13-49.

"Measuring the economics of homelessness," *SIPA News* 7: 3.

Race

"American uprising," with Rajiv Sethi, *India Today Magazine*, June 22, 2020.

"Civil rights laws, race, and employment," pp. 560-581 in Mark D. White, editor, *The Oxford Handbook of Ethics and Economics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2019.

"Ethnicity, immigration, and wealth fluctuations in the United States," with Olga Gorbachev and Rajiv Sethi, 2017, *Review of Income and Wealth*.

The Economics of Race in the United States. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2015.

"Apes, essences, and races: What natural scientists believed about human variation, 1700-1900," with Jill Shapiro, 2004. In David Colander, Robert Prasch, and Falguni Sheth, editors, *Racism, Liberalism, and Economics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Crime

"Stereotypes, crime, and policing," with Rajiv Sethi, forthcoming, *Annual Review of Criminology* 7.

"Stereotypes and the administration of justice," 2022, with Rajiv Sethi. In Ashwini Deshpande, ed., *Handbook on Economics of Discrimination and Affirmative Action*. Springer: Singapore.

"Policing as a complex system," 2020, with Rajiv Sethi, *The Bridge*, 50(4, winter): 41-43.

Shadows of Doubt: Crime, Stereotypes, and the Pursuit of Justice. With Rajiv Sethi. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2019.

"Urban crime," 2015, with Rajiv Sethi, pp. 1519-1621 in Gilles Duranton, J. Vernon Henderson, and William Strange, eds., *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics*, volume 5B. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

"Homicide in black and white," 2010, with Rajiv Sethi, *Journal of Urban Economics* 68 (3): 215-30.

"The racial geography of street vice," 2010, with Rajiv Sethi, *Journal of Urban Economics* 67 (3): 270-86.

"Peaceable kingdoms and war zones: Preemption, ballistics, and murder in Newark," with Rajiv Sethi, 2010, in *Crime Economics: Lessons for Latin America*, edited by Rafael Di Tella, Sebastian Edwards and Ernesto Schargrodsky. NBER and University of Chicago Press.

"Witness intimidation," with Rajiv Sethi, 2010, *Journal of Legal Studies* 39 (2): 399-432.

"Why have robberies become less frequent but more violent?" with Rajiv Sethi, 2009, *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization* 25 (2): 518-34.

"Public outrage and criminal justice: Lessons from the Jessica Lal case," with Rajiv Sethi, 2009, in Bhaskar Dutta, Tridip Ray, and E. Somanathan, eds., *New and Enduring Themes in Development Economics*, World Scientific.

"Racial stereotypes and robbery," with Rajiv Sethi, 2008, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 68 (3-4): 511-524.

"Crime and segregation," with Rajiv Sethi, 2007, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 64 (3-4): 391-405.

"Drugs, race, and technology: Winning the war on bad drugs," with Vanita Gowda, 2004. In David Colander, Robert Prasch, and Falguni Sheth, editors, *Racism, Liberalism, and Economics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

"Why repeated criminal opportunities matter: A dynamic stochastic analysis of criminal decision-making," 1998, *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 14: 232-55.

Other urban economics

"How wide is the Hudson River? The effect of the state border on the New York-New Jersey metropolitan region." In Wei Shan and Lijun Wang, eds., *Metropolitan Circles Development and the Future of Urbanization*, pp. 35-60. Hackensack, NJ: World Scientific, 2020.

"What happens when you give money to panhandlers," with Gwen Dordick, Jakob Brounstein, Srishti Sinha, and Jungsoo Yoo, 2019, *Journal of Urban Economics* (108): 107-123.

"Good panhandling and bad: How to encourage the good and discourage the bad," with Gwen Dordick, Jakob Brounstein, and Srishti Sinha, 2018, *European Journal of Homelessness* 12(1): 67-92.

"Give and take: Credentials could aid panhandling," with Gwen Dordick, 2017, *The Conversation*, July 11, at https://theconversation.com/give-and-take-credentials-could-aid-panhandling-80297#comment_1338795.

City Economics. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005. Chinese translation: Beijing, Renmin University Press, 2015.

"Sprawl in New Jersey: A comprehensive approach," 2005, Hall Institute for Public Policy white paper. Reprinted in Michael P. Riccards, editor, *The State of the Garden State*. Trenton: Hall Institute.

"Land assembly and urban renewal," 1994, *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 24: 287-300.

"Abandoned buildings: A stochastic analysis," 1993, *Journal of Urban Economics* 34: 43-74.

"The option value of tax delinquency: Theory," 1990, *Journal of Urban Economics* 28: 287-317.

Political economy

"Representatives and districts," 2000, *Social Choice and Welfare* 17: 157-78.

"Special districts: Federalism as soap opera," 1999. In Eamon O'Shea and Michael Keane, editors, *Core Issues in European Integration*, 227-44. Dublin: Oak Tree Press.

"Does free trade with political science put normative economists out of work?" with Jagdish Bhagwati, 1997, *Economics and Politics* 9. Reprinted in Kaushik Basu, editor, *Readings in Political Economy*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.

Review of *Of Time and Power*, 1992. In *Economics and Politics* 4: 109-115.

"Why are there democracies? A principal-agent answer," 1990, *Economics and Politics* 2: 133-55.

"The care and handling of monetary authorities," 1990, *Economics and Politics* 2: 25-44.

Labor

"Turnover reflects specific training better than wages do," with Lalith Munasinghe, 2005, *Journal of Labor Economics* (April).

"Up-or-out rules in the market for lawyers," with Aloysius Siow, 1995, *Journal of Labor Economics* 13: 709-35.

"On-the-job screening, up-or-out rules, and firm growth," with Aloysius Siow, 1992, *Canadian Journal of Economics* 25: 346-68.

"Promotion lotteries," with Aloysius Siow, 1991, *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 7: 401-09.

Newark

"Forces beyond control," in Robert Holmes, and Richard Roper, eds., *A Mayor for All the People, Kenneth Gibson's Newark*, pp. 208-219. New Brunswick: Rutgers University Press, 2019. Book received New Jersey Studies Academic Alliance Author Award in edited works category, 2021.

"The unnatural political demise of German Newark," Newark History Society paper, April 2018, available at <http://www.newarkhistorysociety.org/resources.html>.

"The curse of the celebrity mayor: Why Booker failed Newark and why that matters to everyone else," 2013, Hall Institute paper at www.hallinstitutenj.org.

"Booker's water plans have dried up," 2012, op-ed, *The Star-Ledger*, March 13, page 11.

"Fixing Newark: What to Cut and What to Tax," 2012, with Robert Curvin and Richard Cammarieri, op-ed, *The Star-Ledger*, June 15.

"Hog Wild: An Analysis of the Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation," 2012, Newark Water Group.

"The Newark budget debacle: What happens next?" 2010, Hall Institute white paper, Trenton.

"Eminent domain, land sales, and tax abatement: A soft-core Georgist perspective on local economic development policies," 2007, Hall Institute white paper, Trenton.

"After the first of July: Looking beyond the Newark municipal elections," 2006, white paper, Hall Institute for Public Policy. Reprinted in Michael P. Riccards, editor, *The State of the Garden State*. Trenton: Hall Institute.

"Citizens' guide to the City of Newark budget," 2002, pamphlet produced for the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Newark.

"Citizens' guide to the County of Essex budget," 2002, pamphlet produced for the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Newark.

"Newark's failing economic policies," 2000, *The Star-Ledger*, June 4: Perspectives section, p. 3.

"A comparison of the Newark Employees' Retirement System and the Public Employees Retirement System," 1990, booklet prepared for the Newark Employees Retirement System members.

"New tax break would hurt Newark," *New York Times*, New Jersey section, September 6, 1987.

Other topics

"Preserving liberal arts education: A futile endeavor," 2009, pp. 157-162 in David Colander and KimMarie McGoldrick, eds., *Educating Economists: The Teagle Discussion on Re-Evaluating the Undergraduate Economics Major*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.

"Needle sharing and HIV transmission: A model with markets and purposive behavior," with David Bloom and Ajay Mahal, National Bureau of Economic Research working paper 14823, 2009.

"Economic perspectives on injecting drug use," 2005, with David Bloom and Ajay Mahal. In Bjorn Lindgren and Michael Grossman, editors, *Substance Use: Individual Behaviour, Social Interactions, Markets and Politics*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

"Professors who defend tenure: Are they hypocrites?" with Jagdish Bhagwati, 2001, *Chronicle of Higher Education* (October 5): B24.

"Technical progress, globalization, and speed of change: What track and field records show," with Lalith Munasinghe and Stephen Danninger, 2001, *Journal of Political Economy* 109: 1132-49.

"Queens ultra endurance street tour," 1996, *Ultrarunning*: March.

"Comment on chapter 7," 1994. In Michael A.S. Guth, *Speculative Behavior and the Operation of Competitive Markets under Uncertainty*. Aldershot, U.K.: Avebury.

"A game-theoretic rendering of threats and promises," with Daniel Klein, 1993, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 21: 295-314.

"Going beyond with Bayesian updating," with Judith Komaki, 1992, *Journal of Applied Behavioral Analysis* 25: 585-97.

"The Brooklyn-Queens experience," 1989, *Ultrarunning*: December.

"Some results on two-armed bandits when both projects vary," 1989, *Journal of Applied Probability* 26: 655-58.

"Potential Pareto optimality of risky projects," 1986, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 51: 648-52.

Rational Commitment: A Foundation for Macroeconomics. Durham: Duke University Press, 1985.

Works in progress and working papers

"Troubled transactions and their consequences: Race in the United States."

"Drugs, race, and American neighborhoods," with Rajiv Sethi.

"Empirical Bayes Counterfactuals in Poisson regressions with an application to police use of deadly force," with Rajiv Sethi and Jose Luis Montiel Olea.

"Why are there racial and ethnic disparities in police homicide victimization?" with Rajiv Sethi and Jose Luis Montiel Olea.

"History of police homicides," with Rajiv Sethi and Jose Luis Montiel Olea.

Courses taught

Undergraduate:

- Principles of economics
- Urban economics
- Economics of race in the United States
- Public economics
- Economics-philosophy seminar (co-taught with Professor Philip S. Kitcher and with Professor Jessica Collins)

Masters in Public Administration

- Microeconomics
- Microeconomics and policy analysis
- Policy analysis (part semester, Tsinghua University, Beijing)

Program in Economic Policy Management

- Microeconomics
- Urban economic development (co-taught with Professor Kenneth T. Jackson)

M.A. in economics

Economic policy analysis

Ph.D. in economics

Economics of information

Urban economics

Public finance

Academic activities

Director of graduate studies, Economics Department, 2003-2006, 2009-2013, 2014-2017.

Vice chair, Economics Department, 2010 to 2012.

Placement chair, Economics Department, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2002.

Director, Graduate Program in Public Policy and Administration, 1998-2001.

Chair, SIPA Committee on Instruction, 2000-2001.

Member, Educational Policy and Planning Committee, Arts and Sciences, 2012-2013. Subcommittee on Frontiers of Science review. Chair, 2019-2021.

Member, executive committee of the School of Continuing Education, 2014-2015.

Elected member, Policy and Planning Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 2015 to 2018. Chair, 2016-2017.

Member, Dean's Advisory Council, School of Professional Studies, 2017-2019.

Member, Committee on Equity and Diversity (Arts and Sciences), 2019-2021.

Member, Executive Committee of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2018-2021.

Elected member, University Senate, 2011-2015 and 2018 to now. Smoking Task Force; Honors and Prizes Committee; External Relations Committee; Elections Commission; Structure and Operations Committee.

Elected member, Executive Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 1997-2000.

Chair, Economics Graduate Admissions Committee, 1990, 1992, 1993.

Departmental representative, economics and philosophy, 1991-2001.

Co-editor, *Economics and Politics*, 1993-98; managing editor, 1991-93. Member of editorial board, *Journal of Housing Economics*, 2009 to now.

Referee for many journals including: *American Economic Review*; *American Journal of Psychiatry*; *Agenda: A Journal of Policy and Reform*; *American Political Science Review*; *BMJ Open*; *China Economic Review*; *Communications in Nonlinear Science and Numerical Simulation*; *Demography*; *Econometrica*; *Economic Inquiry*; *Economic Journal*; *Economics and Politics*; *European Economic Review*; *Evaluation Review*; *Housing Policy Debate*; *International Economic Review*; *Journal of Actuarial Practice*; *Journal of Economic Behavior*

and Organization; Journal of Economic Geography; Journal of Housing Economics; Journal of Japanese and International Economics; Journal of Labor Economics; Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization; Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of Regional Science; Journal of Social Distress and Homelessness, Journal of the American Planning Association; Journal of Urban Economics; National Tax Journal; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Regional Science and Urban Economics; Review of Economic Studies; Southern Economic Journal; State and Local Government Review; Urban Studies.

Referee for Columbia University Press, Harvard University Press, Princeton University Press, New York University Press, Routledge Publishers, and Russell Sage Foundation Press.