

Curriculum Vitae (updated January 2025)

Name, position, academic departments(s)

Brian G. Knight
Professor
Department of Economics

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Brown University, Box B
Providence, RI 02912

Education

B.S. Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, 1992, Business Economics and Finance.
M.S. University of Wisconsin, Madison, 1997, Economics.
Ph.D. University of Wisconsin, Madison, 2000.
Dissertation title: Essays in Fiscal Federalism and Political Economy.

Professional Appointments

Economist, Division of Research and Statistics, Federal Reserve Board, 8/2000-12/2002.
Assistant Professor, Brown University, 1/2003-6/2007.
Associate Professor, Brown University, 7/2007-6/2011.
Professor, Brown University, 7/2011-current.
Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2002-2008.
Faculty Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2008-
Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Yale University, academic year 2006-2007.
Visiting Professor of Economics, Harvard University, academic year 2014-2015.
Visiting Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 2009.

Editorial Appointments

Co-editor, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2023-current.
Co-Editor, *Journal of Public Economics*, 2009-2016.
Editorial Advisory Board, *National Tax Journal*, 2004-2017.
Associate Editor, *Journal of Public Economics*, 2009.
Board of Editors, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2009-2012.
Board of Editors, *American Economic Review*, 2013-2022.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

1. "Supermajority Voting Requirements for Tax Increases: Evidence from the States," *Journal of Public Economics*, 76(1), 2000, pp. 41-67.
2. "Endogenous Federal Grants and Crowd-out of State Government Spending: Theory and Evidence from the Federal Highway Aid Program," *American Economic Review*, 92(1), 2002, pp. 71-92.
3. "Parochial Interests and the Centralized Provision of Local Public Goods: Evidence from Congressional Voting on Transportation Projects", *Journal of Public Economics* 88(3), 2004, pp. 845-866.

4. "Estimating the Value of Proposal Power", *American Economic Review*, 95(5), 2005, pp. 1639-1652,
5. "Are Policy Platforms Capitalized Into Equity Prices? Evidence from the Bush / Gore 2000 Presidential Election", *Journal of Public Economics*, 90(4-5), 2006, pp. 751-773.
6. "Socially Optimal Districting: A Theoretical and Empirical Exploration" (with Stephen Coate), November 2007, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122(4), 1409-1471.
7. "Legislative Representation, Bargaining Power, and the Distribution of Federal Funds: Evidence from the U.S. Senate", October 2008, *Economic Journal*, 118(532), 1785-1803.
8. "The Effects of School District Consolidation on Educational Cost and Quality" (with Nora Gordon), 2008, *Public Finance Review*, 36(4), 408-430.
9. "A New Look at Racial Profiling: Evidence from the Boston Police Department" (with Kate Antonovics), February 2009, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 91(1), 163-177.
10. "A Spatial Merger Estimator with an Application to School District Consolidation" (with Nora Gordon), June 2009, *Journal of Public Economics*, 93(5-6), 752-765.
11. "Pet Overpopulation: An Economic Analysis" (with Stephen Coate), 2010, *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*: Vol. 10 : Iss. 1 (Advances), Article 106.
12. "Momentum and Social Learning in Presidential Primaries" (with Nathan Schiff), October 2010, *Journal of Political Economy*, 118(6), 1110-1150.
13. "Media Bias and Influence: Evidence from Newspaper Endorsements" (with Chun-Fang Chiang), July 2011, *Review of Economic Studies*, 78(3), 795-820.
14. "Government Form and Public Spending: Theory and Evidence from U.S. Cities" (with Stephen Coate), August 2011, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 3, 82-112.
15. "Partisan Control, Media Bias, and Viewer Responses: Evidence from Berlusconi's Italy", (with Ruben Durante), June 2012, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 3, pp. 451-481, lead article.
16. "Spatial Competition and Cross-border Shopping: Evidence from State Lotteries" (with Nathan Schiff), November 2012, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 4, 199-229.
17. "State Gun Policy and Cross-State Externalities: Evidence from Crime Gun Tracing", November 2013, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 5: 200-229.
18. "On the Selection of Arbitrators", with Geoffroy de Clippell and Kfir Eliaz,, November 2014, *American Economic Review*: 104(11): 3434-58.

19. "Sequential or Simultaneous Elections? An Empirical Welfare Analysis", with Patrick Hummell, August 2015, *International Economic Review*: 56(3): 851–887.
20. "Market-based Lobbying: Evidence from Advertising Spending in Italy" (with Stefano DellaVigna, Ruben Durante, and Eliana La Ferrara), January 2016, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*: 8(1): 224-256.
21. "Homophily, Group Size, and the Diffusion of Political Information in Social Networks: Evidence from Twitter" (with Yosh Halberstam), November 2016, *Journal of Public Economics*. 143: 73-88.
22. "An Econometric Evaluation of Competing Explanations for The Midterm Gap" 2017, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*. 12(2): 205-239.
23. "The Out-of-State Tuition Distortion" (with Nathan Schiff), February 2019 *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 11:317-50.
24. "The Limits of Propaganda: Evidence from Venezuela" (with Ana Maria Tribin), April 2019, *Journal of the European Economic Association*. 17(2).
25. "Advertising Spending and Media Bias: Evidence from News Coverage of Car Safety Recalls" (with Graham Beattie, Ruben Durante, and Ananya Sen), February 2021, *Management Science*. 67(2): 698–719.
26. "Reducing Frictions in College Admissions: Evidence from the Common Application", (with Nate Schiff), February 2022, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*. 14(1): 179-206
27. "Opposition Media, State Censorship, and Political Accountability: Evidence from Chavez's Venezuela" (with Ana Maria Tribin), May 2022, *World Bank Economic Review*. 36(2): 455-487.
28. "Immigration and Violent Crime: Evidence from the Colombia-Venezuela Border", (with Ana Tribin), May 2023, *Journal of Development Economics*. Volume 162.
29. "Crime and Gender Segregation: Evidence from the Bogota "Pico y Genero" Lockdown", (with Maria Mercedes Ponce de Leon and Ana Tribin) August 2024 *World Bank Economic Review*. 38(3): 466-482.
30. "The Franchise, Policing, and Race: Evidence from Arrests Data and the Voting Rights Act", (with Giovanni Facchini and Cecilia Testa), NBER working paper 27463, forthcoming at *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*.
31. "Vote early and vote often? Detecting Electoral Fraud from the Timing of 19th Century Elections", (with Francesco Ferlenga), NBER working paper 30393, forthcoming at *Journal of Public Economics*.

Working Papers

"The Rise of the Religious Right: Evidence from the Moral Majority and the Jimmy Carter Presidency" (with Giulia Buccione), NBER working paper 32551.

"Policing for profit? Evidence from post-Ferguson reforms in Missouri" (with Jesse Bruhn and Nate Schiff)

Non-Refereed Articles

1. "Rainy Day Funds and State Government Savings," with Arik Levinson, *National Tax Journal*, 52(3), 1999, pp. 459-72.
2. "The State and Local Sector: Problems and Prospects" with Andrea Kusko and Laura Rubin, *State Tax Notes*, 29(6), August 2003.
3. "Public Funds and Private Capital Markets: The Investment Practices and Performance of State and Local Pension Funds", with Julia Coronado and Eric Engen, *National Tax Journal*, 56(3), September 2003.
4. "The Common Application and Student Choice", *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, May 2021, 111: 460-464.
5. "Protecting Journalism in the Age of Digital Platforms. Committee for the Study of Digital Platforms - Media Subcommittee Report", George J. Stigler Center for the Study of the Economy and the State; The University of Chicago Booth School of Business. 2019. hal-03947806, with Guy Rolnik, Julia Cagé, Joshua Gans, Ellen Goodman, Andrea Prat, and Anya Schiffrin.

Chapters in Books

1. "Fiscal Institutions in U.S. States," with Arik Levinson, in Institutions, Politics and Fiscal Policy, Kluwer Academic Press, 2000.
2. "Measuring the Incidence of Endogenous Policies: Applications in Fiscal Federalism," Proceedings of the 94th Annual Conference on Taxation, 2002.
3. "Common Tax Pool Problems in Federal Systems", in Democratic Constitutional Design and Public Policy: Analysis and Evidence, MIT Press, 2006.
4. "Targeted Public Spending" in The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics, 2nd edition, eds. Steven N. Durlauf and Lawrence E. Blume and. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

Book reviews

"Volatile States: Institutions, Policy, and the Performance of American State Economies", *Journal of Economic Literature* 42(2), 2004, pg. 555.

Academic awards and honors

National Tax Association's Outstanding Dissertation Award, 2001.
Best Paper Award, AEJ: Applied Economics, 2017.
AER: Insights Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2019
AEJ: Economic Policy Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2020
AEJ: Economic Policy Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2021
AEJ: Economic Policy Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2022
AEJ: Applied Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2022
AER: Insights Excellence in Refereeing Award, 2022

Research Grants

1. "The Political Economy of School District Mergers", 2005 Salomon Award, 15,000.

2. "Welfare Analysis of Legislative Redistricting", National Science Foundation, with Stephen Coate, \$264,845, 2005-2009.
3. "Fines, Fees, and Policing for Profit: Evidence from Policy Reforms in Missouri", Arnold Foundation, provisionally approved, co-PI with Jesse Bruhn, \$296,695, 2025-2026.

Service

(i) To the university and department

Director of Graduate Studies, Economics Department, 2010-2014.

Tenure, Promotions and Appointments Committee (TPAC), Academic years 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-2019.

Vice Chair, Department of Economics, Academic years 2018-2019, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023.

University Resources Committee (URC), Academic years 2022-2023 and 2024-2025.

Search Committee for the Inaugural Dean of the School of International and Public Affairs, 2024-2025.

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Economics Department, 2024-current.

(ii) To the profession

Program Committee, National Tax Association Spring Symposium, 2002.

Program Chair; National Tax Association Annual Conference on Taxation, 2012

Co-organizer, NBER Public Economics Spring Conference, Spring 2013.

Program Committee; National Tax Association Annual Conference on Taxation, 2019.

Co-organizer, NBER Political Economy Fall Conference, Fall 2023.

Steering Committee, NBER Political Economy Group, 2023.

Co-organizer, Political Economy at Brown Conference, Fall 2025.

Teaching

Public Economics (EC148), Spring 2003, enrollment of 41.

Fiscal Federalism Policy (PP170-15), Fall 2003, enrollment of 4.

Public Economics (EC148), Spring 2004, enrollment of 33.

Public Economics (EC248), Spring 2004, enrollment of 6.

Public Economics (EC148), Fall 2004, enrollment of 19.

Public Economics (EC248), Spring 2005, enrollment of 7.

Economics and Public Policy (PP170-15), Spring 2005, enrollment of 27.

Public Economics (EC148), Fall 2005, enrollment of 58.

Public Economics (EC248), Spring 2006, enrollment of 4.

Economics and Public Policy (PP201), Spring 2006, enrollment of 21.

Public Economics (EC148), Fall 2007, enrollment of 25.

Public Economics (EC2480), Spring 2008, enrollment of 5.

Economics and Public Policy (PP170-15), Spring 2008, enrollment of 6.

Economics and Public Policy (PP170-15), Spring 2009, enrollment of 14.

Public Economics (EC1480), Spring 2009, enrollment of 197.

Economics and Public Policy (PP170-15), Spring 2010, enrollment of 13.

Public Economics (EC1480), Spring 2010, enrollment of 214.

Public Economics (EC2480), Fall 2010, enrollment of 4.

Public Economics (EC2480), Fall 2011, enrollment of 5.

Public Economics (EC1480), Spring 2012, enrollment of 80.

Public Economics (EC2480), Fall 2012, enrollment of 3.

Public Economics (EC1480), Spring 2013, enrollment of 49.

Public Economics (EC2480), Fall 2013, enrollment of 7.

Public Economics (EC1480), Spring 2014, enrollment of 38.
 Political Economy (EC2260), Fall 2015, enrollment of 7.
 Introduction to Econometrics (EC1620), Spring 2016, enrollment of 142.
 Political Economy (EC2260), Fall 2016, enrollment of 5.
 Introduction to Econometrics (EC1620), Spring 2017, enrollment of 119.
 Political Economy (EC2260), Spring 2018, enrollment of 4.
 Introduction to Econometrics (EC1620), Spring 2018, enrollment of 152.
 Introduction to Econometrics (EC1620), Fall 2018, enrollment of 151.
 Political Economy (EC2260), Fall 2019, enrollment of 7.
 Political Economy (EC2260), Fall 2020, enrollment of 7.
 Introduction to Econometrics (EC1620), Fall 2020, enrollment of 146.
 Political Economy (EC2260), Fall 2021, enrollment of 5.
 Introduction to Econometrics (EC1620), Fall 2021, enrollment of 111.
 Introduction to Econometrics (EC1620), Fall 2022, enrollment of 164.
 Introduction to Econometrics (EC1620), Fall 2024, enrollment of 85.
 Political Economy (EC2260), Fall 2024, enrollment of 5.

Presentations

2003: American Economic Association (discussant); University of Florida; Public Choice Society; State Fiscal Crises: Causes, Consequences, Solutions (Urban Institute); NBER Public Economics Spring Meeting; Public Economic Theory Conference; Econometric Society; NBER Summer Institute (discussant); Constitutional Design Conference (Stockholm, Sweden); Harvard University; University of the South; University of Pennsylvania (Economics); University of Pennsylvania (Wharton); Columbia University.

2004: Warwick/IFS Public Economics Weekend; Federal Trade Commission; Duke / UNC; Boston University; Research Group on Political Institutions and Economy Policy (Harvard University); Cornell University; Econometric Society; Stanford University; Trans-Atlantic Public Economics Society Meeting (discussant); NBER Public Economics Spring Meetings.

2005: Yale University; Northwestern University; NBER Public Economics Spring Meetings (discussant); University of Virginia; University of Pennsylvania; New York University; University of Chicago; University of Connecticut.

2006: AEA meetings (discussant); Budget Policy Conference (USC); Stanford University; Harvard-MIT Joint Public Economics Seminar; UW-Madison; University of Michigan; Conference on Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations (Georgia State University); NBER Summer Institute (discussant); IIES (Stockholm University); NBER Public Economics Fall Meetings.

2007: Yale University, Johns Hopkins, University of Maryland, McGill; University of Toronto; University of Pennsylvania (Wharton); Northwestern University; NBER Political Economy Fall Meetings.

2008: NBER Neemrana Conference; American Politics Summer Conference (Yale); PIER Political Economy (University of Pennsylvania); Duke University; Georgetown; Northwestern University; Columbia University; Stanford GSB; University of California, Berkeley.

2009: Yale University American Politics Workshop; Federal Reserve Bank of Boston; Brown University.

2010: AEA meetings (Atlanta); NBER Public Economics Spring Meetings; Stanford University; Festival of Economics (Trento); Erasmus Workshop in Political Economy; Brookings Panel on Economic Activity (discussant); Wallis Institute Annual Conference on Political Economy (discussant); UT-Austin; Simon Fraser University; University of British Columbia.

2011: Harvard University; Public Choice (keynote speaker); Miami University; Princeton Conference on Political Economy; IEB (Barcelona) Fiscal Federalism Conference (keynote speaker); NBER Political Economy; Princeton University; Clemson University; NBER Public Economics; Dartmouth College.

2012: University of Pennsylvania; University of Michigan; New Economic School (Moscow); American Politics Summer Conference (Yale); NBER Summer Institute Public Finance and Political Economy; NBER Summer Institute Political Economy (discussant); NBER Summer Institute Public Economics (discussant); University of Houston; University of Miami; Wallis Institute Annual Conference on Political Economy (discussant); National Tax Association (discussant).

2013: American Economic Association; Johns Hopkins; New York University; NBER Political Economy (discussant); UC-Berkeley; Caltech; The Political Impact of Media Conference (Princeton); London School of Economics; University of Warwick; University of Toronto.

2014: Wake Forest University; Stanford University; Cornell University; Political Institutions Conference (CIRPEE); Media and Communications Conference (Chicago Booth); Central Bank of Columbia; University of Rosario; European Economic Association; Harvard University; Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); National Tax Association.

2015: Rice University; Carnegie Mellon University; NBER Political Economy Spring Meetings; American Politics Summer Conference (Yale); Barcelona GSE Summer Forum; Stony Brook Political Economy Conference; NBER China Meetings (discussant); University of Texas-Austin; Northwestern University; University of Chicago Harris School; Federal Reserve Board.

2016: UW-Madison; Drexel University; NBER Education Spring Meetings; New York City Media Seminar; Guanghua School of Management Peking University; CfPE Conference (Vancouver School of Economics); NBER Public Economics Fall Meetings; Georgetown University; New York Federal Reserve Bank.

2017: USC Marshall; 2nd Economics of Media Bias Workshop, Lausanne (keynote speaker); NBER China (discussant); NBER Political Economy (Discussant); Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF); Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (UC3M); Center for Monetary and Financial Studies (CEMFI); Workshop in Political Economy, Uppsala (keynote speaker); Singapore Management University; National University of Singapore; University of Kentucky; Washington University; University of Calgary.

2018: American University; Montana State University; BFI Economics of Media and Communications Conference (discussant); NBER Summer Institute Political Economy (discussant); National Tax Association; London School of Economics; Nottingham University.

2019: American Economic Association (discussant); Harvard University; University of Warwick; University of Utah; New York City Media Seminar; Stanford GSB; Cal Tech; Paris Empirical Political Economy Seminar.

2020: NBER Summer Institute (Crime), Harvard Business School, OECD Immigration Conference, RIDGE-LACEA Political Economy Conference.

2021: American Economic Association, Political Economy Seminar (National U of Singapore, National Taiwan U, Hong Kong Baptist U, and CEIBS), UCLA Anderson, Conference on Political Economy of Development and Conflict VIII, Economics of Crime Online Seminar, Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) 2021 on Global Unrest, NBER Summer Institute, George Washington University, CREI-IPEG Workshop on Political Economy.

2022: University of Houston, Brown University, NBER Summer Institute Political Economy (discussant), UC-Berkeley Political Economy Seminar.

2023: Upsalla University; BSE Summer Forum - Political Economy Southern Economic Association; National Taiwan University; Academia Sinica; National Chengchi University; LSE/Bocconi joint seminar.

2024: Rochester University; Harvard University; Northwestern University; Florida All-Florida Applied Micro Seminar; RIDGE-LACEA PEG Political Economy Workshop (Santiago Chile); LSE and NYU Conference in Political Science and Political Economy; Northwestern Kellogg Ford Center Ideas and Ideology Conference; Claremont McKenna.