

# MELISSA A. THOMASSON

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## APPOINTMENTS

- Chair, Department of Economics, Miami University, 2019-present
- Julian Lange Professor of Economics, Miami University, 2015-present.
- Associate Professor of Economics, Miami University, 2005-2015
- Assistant Professor of Economics, Miami University: 1998-2005
- Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research: 2005-present
- Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research: 1999-2005

## EDUCATION

### University of Arizona, 1992-1998

Ph.D. in Economics, August 1998.

M.A. in Economics, December 1993.

Dissertation: *From Sickness to Health: The Twentieth-Century Development of the Demand for Health Insurance*. Advisor: Price V. Fishback.

Fields of Specialization: Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Economic History

### University of Puget Sound, 1988-1992

B.S. in Economics, minors in Mathematics and English Literature, May 1992

Awards: Phi Beta Kappa, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Kappa Phi.

## AWARDS

- Richard K. Smucker Outstanding Professor Award, Farmer School of Business, 2019
- Farmer School of Business Junior Research Excellence Award, 2006
- Best paper award, *Explorations in Economic History*, 2005
- EH.Net Featured Economic Historian, Fall 2004
- National Bureau of Economic Research National Fellow, 2002-2003.
- 1999 Finalist for Allen Nevins Prize for best dissertation in economic history
- John M. Olin Fellowship, 1997
- University of Arizona Award for Outstanding Teaching, 1997
- University of Arizona nominee for national Irwin Fellowship, 1996
- Elmer J. Brown Fellowship for outstanding third-year graduate student paper in economics, 1995 (co-recipient)

## GRANTS

- *Miami University Committee for Faculty Research and Farmer School of Business*, 2014. Summer Research Grant.
- *Center for Business Excellence*, 2013. Curriculum Development Grant.
- *Farmer School of Business*, 2006. Summer research grant for “The Effect of the Great Depression on Long Term Health and Economic Outcomes.”
- *National Science Foundation*, 2001: “The Evolution of Hospitals in the Twentieth Century and their Impact on Public Health.” Funded for \$136,957.
- *National Science Foundation*, 1996: Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant No. SBR-9632121: “Examining the Impact of the Government Tax Subsidy on the Development of the Demand for Health Insurance.” Funded for \$12,150.
- *University of Arizona Graduate Research Fund*, 1995: Competitive grant awarded for the purposes of doctoral dissertation research. Funded for \$900.

## REFEREED ARTICLES AND BOOK CHAPTERS

- "Can pandemics affect educational attainment? Evidence from the polio epidemic of 1916" (with Keith Meyers). *Cliometrica*, 15(2), 2021, 231-265 (lead article). DOI <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11698-020-00212-3>. Formerly entitled "Panics, Quarantines, and School Closures: Did the 1916 Poliomyelitis Epidemic Affect Educational Attainment?" (with Keith Meyers). NBER Working Paper # 23890.
- "Votes For Women: An Economic Perspective on Women's Enfranchisement" (with Carolyn M. Moehling). *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 34(2), 2020, 3-23.
- "Medical Education Reforms and the Origins of the Rural Physician Shortage" (with Carolyn M. Moehling, Gregory T. Niemesh and Jaret Treber). *Cliometrica*, 14, 2020, 181-225.
- "Revising Infant Mortality Rates for the Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century United States" (with Katherine Ericksson and Gregory T. Niemesh). *Demography*, 55(6), December 2018, 2001-2024 (lead article). Previously NBER Working Paper #w23263, 2017.
- "Hard Times in the Land of Plenty: The Effect of Childhood During the Great Depression on Adult Outcomes" (with Price V. Fishback). *Explorations in Economic History*, 54(1), October 2014, 64-78.
- "Saving Babies: The Impact of Public Health Education Programs on Infant Mortality." (with Carolyn Moehling). *Demography*, 51(2), April 2014, 367-386.
- "The Political Economy of Saving Mothers and Babies: The Politics of State Participation in the Sheppard-Towner Program" (with Carolyn Moehling). *Journal of Economic History*, 72(1), March 2012, 75-103.
- "The Trials of Job: The Impact of Climate and Weather on Infant and Non-Infant Death Rates During the Great Depression," with Price F. Fishback, Werner Troesken, Trevor Kollman, Michael Haines, and Paul W. Rhode. In *The Economics of Climate Change: Adaptations Past and Present*, edited by Gary D. Libecap and Richard H. Steckel, The University of Chicago Press, 2011.
- "From Home to Hospital: The Evolution of Childbirth in the United States, 1928-1940" (with Jaret Treber). *Explorations in Economic History*, 45(1), January 2008, 76-99.
- "Racial Differences in Health Insurance Coverage and Medical Expenditures: An Historical Perspective." *Social Science History* 30(4), Winter 2006.

- Early Evidence of an Adverse Selection Death Spiral? *Explorations in Economic History*, 41(4), October 2004, 313-328 (lead article, awarded prize for best article published in 2004).
- “The Declining Contribution of Socioeconomic Disparities to the Racial Gap in Infant Mortality Rates” (with William J. Collins). *Southern Economic Journal*, 70(4), April 2004, 746-776.
- “The Importance of Group Coverage: How Tax Policy Shaped U.S. Health Insurance.” *American Economic Review*, 93(4), September 2003, 1373-84.
- “From Sickness to Health: The Twentieth Century Development of U.S. Health Insurance.” *Explorations in Economic History*, 39(3), July 2002, 233-53 (lead article).

### NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

- "Fermetures d'écoles, épidémies et niveau de scolarité: Une perspective historique basée sur l'épidémie de poliomyélite en 1916 aux États-Unis." *Revue d'économie financière* 139/140, 2021, 307-312.
- "[Why Do Employers Provide Health Care in the First Place?](#)" *Harvard Business Review*, March 15, 2019.
- “Improvements in Health and the Organization and Development of Health Care and Health Insurance Markets.” With Gregory T. Niemesh. In C. Diebolt and M. Hauptert (Eds.), *Handbook of Cliometrics*. Springer, 2019.
- “Health Policy in U.S. Economic History.” In L. Cain, P. Fishback and P. Rhode (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook of American Economic History*. Oxford University Press, 2018.
- “The Economic History of the Healthcare Industry.” In R. Whaples and R.E. Parker (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Modern Economic History*. London and New York: Routledge, 2013.
- “The Millennial Edition of the Historical Statistics of the United States, chapter on Statistics on Social Welfare,” co-editor (with Price Fishback). Cambridge University Press, 2006.
- “Health Insurance in the United States.” Article for EH.Net. March 2003.

### BOOK REVIEWS

- Chapin, Christy Ford. *Ensuring America's Health: The Public Creation of the Corporate Health Care System*. EH.net, May 2017.
- Klein, Jennifer. *For All These Rights: Business, Labor, and the Shaping of America's Public-Private Welfare State*. EH.Net, August 2004.
- Hoffman, Beatrix. *The Wages of Sickness: The Politics of Health Insurance in Progressive America*. EH.Net, July 2001.
- Emery, George and J.C. Herbert Emery. *A Young Man's Benefit*. *Canadian Journal of Economic History*, 2001.
- Kwolek-Folland, Angel. Incorporating Women. *Journal of Economic History*, June, 2000.
- Mettler, Suzanne. *Gender and Federalism in New Deal Public Policy*. *Journal of Economic History*, September, 1999.
- Sellers, Christopher C. *Hazards of the Job: From Industrial Disease to Environmental Health Science*. *Journal of Economic History*, March 1998.
- Clark, Claudia. *Radium Girls: Women and Industrial Health Reform, 1910-1935*. *Journal of Economic History*, September 1998.

## **TEACHING-RELATED PUBLICATIONS**

- *Study Guide to Accompany Principles of Macroeconomics*. St. Paul: West Publishing Co., 1995.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

- "School Closures During the 1918 Flu Pandemic." (with Philipp Ager, Katherine Ericksson, Ezra Karger, and Peter Nencka). Under review. NBER Working Paper #28246, December 2020, doi 10.3386/w28246.
- "Shut Down and Shut Out: Women Physicians in the Era of Medical Education Reform." (with Carolyn M. Moehling and Gregory T. Niemesh).

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

- Did Changes in Medical Education Contribute to the Mortality Transition? The Case of Diphtheria (with Carolyn M. Moehling and Gregory T. Niemesh).
- A Gift of Health: The Duke Endowment's Impact on Health Care in the Carolinas, 1925-1962 (with Alex Hollingsworth, Krzysztof Karbownik, and Anthony Wray).
- *Medical History: What the Past Says about Health Care Reform and the Future of U.S. Health Insurance*. Under contract, University of Chicago Press.

## **PAPER PRESENTATIONS**

2019: New York University; Indiana University PIEP; Chapman University; National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute  
2018: World Economic History Conference, Boston, MA  
2017: University of Wisconsin, La Crosse; World Cliometric Congress; National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute; Southern Economic Association  
2015: Oberlin College  
2014: University of Maryland-Baltimore County; The American University  
2013: University of Toronto; World Cliometric Society Meetings; National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute  
2012: University of Colorado; Lafayette College  
2011: Cliometric Society Meetings; University of Chicago; University of Puget Sound; Chapman University; University of Michigan Robert Wood Johnson Scholars in Health Policy Research Program  
2010: Allied Social Science Association Meetings, Wittenberg University  
2009: National Bureau of Economic Research Cohort Studies Program Meeting; University of California-Merced; National Bureau of Economic Research Meeting on Climate Change: Past and Present; National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute; Economic History Association Meetings; University of Michigan; Carnegie-Mellon University  
2008: Brown University; Economic History Association Meetings  
2006: Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
2005: University of Michigan; Lehigh University; National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute; Allied Social Science Association Meetings  
2004: National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute; Indiana University; Allied Social Science Association Meetings  
2003: Harvard University; Florida State University; All-Ohio Economic History Seminar.

2002: University of Cincinnati; Allied Social Science Association Meetings; Social Science History Association Meetings

2001: Yale University; Social Science History Association Meetings; National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute

2000: Rutgers University; Federal Trade Commission, Fourth World Congress of the Cliometrics Society

1999: Indiana University; Southern Economic Association Meetings; North Carolina State University

1997: Northwestern University; National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute; All-UC Conference in Economic History; Cliometrics Conference; Western Economic Association Meetings

### **PRESS CITATIONS OF RESEARCH/OP-ED**

- Smith, David. "Sickness=Profit." The Cost of Care podcast, Lemonada Media, April 15, 2021.
- Morrow, Sean. "Who is the Partnership for America's Health Care Future?" March 16, 2021. Podcast: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/who-is-the-partnership-for-americas-health-care-future/id1481265576?i=1000513203711>.
- Kamanetz, Anya. "How to Reopen Closed Schools Amid Coronavirus." National Public Radio, All Things Considered, April 24, 2020.
- Gorenstein, Dan. "How did we end up with health insurance being tied to our jobs?" Marketplace, June 28, 2017. (<https://www.marketplace.org/2017/06/28/health-care/how-did-we-end-health-insurance-being-tied-our-jobs>).
- Gordon, Elana. "Pre-Existing Condition Conundrum." WHYY (The Pulse), March 30, 2017. ([http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/homepage-feature/item/102247-the-pre-existing-condition-conundrum-before-and-after-the-aca?linktype=hp\\_impact](http://www.newsworks.org/index.php/homepage-feature/item/102247-the-pre-existing-condition-conundrum-before-and-after-the-aca?linktype=hp_impact)).
- Michaels, Allison. "Can President Trump come through on his health care promises?" *Washington Post* podcast, "Can He Do That?" March 24, 2017.
- Foroohar, Rana. "Employers can help fix American healthcare." *Financial Times*, March 19, 2017.
- "A lesson from history: Repealing the ACA will make health insurance more expensive." Op-ed for STAT, February 13, 2017. <https://www.statnews.com/2017/02/13/health-insurance-aca-cost/>
- StraightTalk MD podcast, Episode 34, Presidential Election Primer: <http://straighttalkmd.com/podcast/presidential-election-primer/>
- Bartlett, Bruce. "The Question of Taxing Employer-Provided Health Insurance." *The New York Times*, July 30, 2013.
- Featured on *This American Life*, Chicago Public Radio, "Someone Else's Money," October 16, 2009.
- *All Things Considered*, National Public Radio, "Accidents of History Created U.S. Health System," by Alex Blumberg and Adam Davidson. October 22, 2009.
- Doug Fabrizio of RadioWest, public radio at the University of Utah. October 26, 2009.

### **CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY**

- Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, September 6, 2017.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

- Editorial Board member, *Cliometrica*, 2019-present.
- Board member, Community Health Alliance, 2019-present.
- Executive Director, Cliometric Society, 2017-present.
- Editorial Board member, *Essays in Business and Economic History*, 2017-present.
- Board Member, Bethesda, Inc., 2016-present.
- Board of Trustees (elected), Cliometric Society, 2008-2012.
- Editorial Board member, *Explorations in Economic History*, 2006- 2014.
- Editorial Board member, *Journal of Economic History*, 2010-2014.

**REFEREE**

*American Economic Journal: Applied Economics; Economic Inquiry; Bulletin of the History of Medicine; Cliometrica; Demography; Economic Journal; Explorations in Economic History; Essays in Business and Economic History; European Review of Economic History; Historical Methods; Independent Review; Journal of Economic History; Journal of the European Economic Association; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Population Economics; MIT Press; National Science Foundation; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Robert Wood Johnson Foundation; Southern Economic Journal; University of Chicago Press.*

**PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Economic Association, Economic History Association, Cliometric Society.