

# Erica G. Birk

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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## EDUCATION

University of Oregon, USA

Ph.D., Economics, June 2017 (expected)

Committee: Glen R. Waddell (Chair), Benjamin Hansen, Michael A. Kuhn.

M.S., Economics, June 2013

University of Montana, USA

B.A., Economics, June 2012

B.S., Business Finance, June 2012

## INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Labor, Health, Experimental.

## WORKING PAPERS

“Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs and the Abuse of Illicit Drugs” (*Job market paper*)

Abstract: In response to the epidemic of prescription-drug abuse, now 49 US states have passed legislation to establish Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs). These programs track controlled-substance prescribing and usage behavior in an effort to improve patient outcomes and identify and preempt access by drug abusers. I exploit variation in the timing of implementation across states to identify the effectiveness of PDMPs on reducing opioid abuse. In particular, after considering the heterogeneity across in program attributes, I offer the strongest evidence to date of the potential for PDMP-type policy to decrease opioid-related treatment admissions. I also consider heterogeneity across intensity and tenure of use, which points to the largest gains coming from reductions in the number of less-attached users. Overall, these results have important implications for the effective re-design of PDMP policy.

“Do Men Matter to Female Competition Even When They Don't?” IZA Discussion Paper No. 10184 (with Logan Lee and Glen Waddell)

Abstract: A large literature attempts to identify factors that contribute to gender differences in performance and in the decision to compete. We exploit a highly competitive environment in which elite-female athletes are exposed to the presence of men without the element of direct competition, which allows for the identification of psychological effects of competition. Our results suggest that the presence of men affects the performance of

female runners differentially across ability, with negative performance effects being concentrated among lower-ability runners.

“Gender Differences in Competitiveness: The Effect of Cheating on Opt-Out Behavior” (with Glen Waddell)

Abstract: Experimental evidence has established that females are less likely to enter into competitive environments than men. Our research is the first to examine how the potential for cheating affects the individual’s decision to enter competitive environments and how this affect differs by gender. We find evidence that the potential for dishonesty reduces the propensity for females to enter competitive environments, while having little effect on the competitiveness of men.

#### WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Heroin Epidemic: Is There a Role for Supply-Side Restrictions on Prescription Drugs?”

“Accidental Shootings and 2nd Amendment Fears.” (with Glen Waddell)

“The Behavioral Implications of School-Induced Agglomeration.”

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

##### *Independent Instructor*

EC 201: Principles of Microeconomics (Fall 2016) – enrollment: 260

EC 313: Intermediate Macroeconomics (Spring 2015) – enrollment: 90

EC 350: Labor Market Issues (Summer 2014) – enrollment: 60

EC 450: Labor Economics (Summer 2015, Fall 2015, Winter 2016) – avg enrollment: 62

##### *Discussion Leader/Teaching Assistant*

EC 411/511: Advanced Microeconomic Theory (Fall 2014)

EC 320: Introduction to Econometrics (Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

EC 201: Principles of Microeconomics (Winter 2013, Spring 2013)

EC 101: Contemporary Economic Issues (Fall 2012)

#### GRANTS, HONORS, AWARDS

*PhD Research Paper Award*, 2016, University of Oregon

*Department of Economics GTF Teaching Award*, 2016, University of Oregon

*Kleinsorge Research Fellowship*, 2016, University of Oregon

*Graduate Teaching Fellowship*, 2012-2017, University of Oregon

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

##### *Referee*

*Economics of Education Review*

*Departmental Service*

Graduate Admissions Committee (2014)  
Economics Department Guild President (2014-2015)

*Conference Participation*

Western Economic Association Annual Meeting, 29 June – 3 July 2016, Portland.

PERSONAL

Citizen: United States.

REFERENCES

Glen R. Waddell  
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University of Oregon  
IZA Research Fellow  
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