

**Jonathan A. Schwabish**  
**Senior Research Associate**  
**Income and Benefit Policy Center and Communications Department**  
**The Urban Institute**

## **EDUCATION**

2001–2003 Ph.D., M.A., Economics, Syracuse University

1999–2001 M.A., Economics, The Johns Hopkins University

1995–1998 B.A., Economics, University of Wisconsin at Madison, B.A.

## **CAREER BRIEF**

Jonathan Schwabish is a Senior Research Associate in The Urban Institute’s Income and Benefits Policy Center. He is also a member of the Institute’s Communication team where he specializes in data visualization and presentation design. He spent the past 9 years at the Congressional Budget Office conducting research in such areas as earnings and income inequality, immigration, disability insurance, retirement security, data measurement, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and other aspects of public policy. He is also considered a leader in the data visualization field and is a leading voice for clarity and accessibility in research. He has written on various aspects of how to best visualize data including technical aspects of creation, design best practices, and how to communicate social science research in more accessible ways. He was named a “visualization thought leader” by AllAnalytics in 2012.

In addition to his efforts to improve how researchers communicate their findings to a wider audience, Dr. Schwabish continues to pursue his existing research portfolio. Ongoing and future work includes investigation of child nutrition programs; long-term earnings patterns among SNAP recipients; the relationship between state-level SNAP policies and individual participation decisions; coincident retirement-disability Social Security benefit claiming behavior; and patterns in earnings inequality and volatility within and across groups of workers.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Full-Time Positions**

Senior Research Associate, The Urban Institute, Income and Benefits Policy Center and the Communications Department, May 2014 – present.

Principal Analyst, Congressional Budget Office, Long-Term Analysis Unit; Health, Retirement, and Long-Term Analysis Division, April 2005 – April 2014.

Senior Director, Partnership for New York City, July 2003 – March 2005.

## Teaching

Adjunct Professor, McCourt School of Public Policy and the McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University,  
*Data Visualization for Policy Analysis, Introduction to Data Visualization*, September 2014 – current.

Adjunct Professor, Maryland Institute College of Art (MICA),  
*Statistical Applications for Information Visualization*, May 2014 – current.

Adjunct Professor, Georgetown Public Policy Institute, Georgetown University,  
Instructor, *Statistical Methods for Policy Analysis*, September 2007 – May 2010.

## PUBLISHED RESEARCH PAPERS

“Understanding Social Security Disability Insurance: Interactions with Other Programs,” Urban Institute Brief (February 2016) (with Stephan Lindner and Pamela J. Loprest).

“Understanding Social Security Disability Programs: Diversity in Beneficiary Experiences and Needs,” Urban Institute Brief (February 2016) (with Melissa M. Favreault).

“Challenges and Choices for the New Mayor: Leveraging the Power of Open Data to Improve City Services,” Urban Institute Brief (December 2014) (with Kathryn L.S. Pettit).

“Promoting Social and Economic Mobility in Washington, DC: Challenges and Choices for the New Mayor,” Urban Institute Brief (April 2015) (with Gregory Acs and Lauren Eyster).

“Effects of a Higher Minimum Wage in the District of Columbia,” Urban Institute Research Report, August 12, 2014 (with Austin Nichols).

“Visualizing Data: An Economist’s Guide,” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (Winter 2014): pp. 209-234.

“Modeling Individual Earnings in CBO’s Long-Term Microsimulation Model,” Congressional Budget Office Working Paper No. 2013-04 (June 4, 2013).

“The Future of Social Security Disability Insurance,” *Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco Economic Letter*, June 24, 2013 (with Mary C. Daly and Brian Lucking).

“Subtle Sources of Bias and Error,” in *Bad Data Handbook*, Q. Ethan McCallum, ed., O’Reilly publishing, November 2012.

*Policy Options for the Social Security Disability Insurance Program*. Congressional Budget Office (July 2012).

*Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.* Congressional Budget Office (April 2012) (with Molly Dahl, Kathleen FitzGerald, and Emily Holcombe).

“The Earned Income Tax Credit and Expected social Security Retirement Benefits Among Low-Income Women,” Congressional Budget Office Working Paper No. 2012-06 (March 2012) (with Molly Dahl, Thomas DeLeire, and Timothy Smeeding).

*A Description of the Immigrant Population: An Update.* Congressional Budget Office (June 2011) (with Nabeel Alsalam).

“Identifying Rates of Emigration in the U.S. using Administrative Earnings Records,” *International Journal of Population Research* (Summer 2011).

*Migrants’ Remittances and Related Flows.* Congressional Budget Office (February 2011) (with Robert Shackleton).

“Year-to-Year Variability in Workers Earnings and in Household Incomes: Estimates from Administrative Data,” *Journal of Human Resources* Vol. 46, No. 1 (Winter 2011) (with Molly Dahl and Thomas DeLeire).

“The Long-Term Budget Outlook in the United States and the Role of Health Care Entitlements,” *National Tax Journal* Vol. 63 (June 2010): 285-305 (with Joyce Manchester).

*Changes in the Distribution of Workers’ Annual Earnings Between 1979 and 2007.* Congressional Budget Office (October 2009) (with Molly Dahl).

“Stepping Stone or Dead End? The Effect of the EITC on Earnings Growth,” *National Tax Journal*, Vol. 62, No. 2 (June 2009): 329-346 (with Thomas DeLeire and Molly Dahl).

*CBO’s Long-Term Model: An Overview.* Congressional Budget Office Background Paper (June 2009) (with others).

“Measurement Error in the SIPP: Evidence from Administrative Matched Records,” *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (2007) (with Julian Cristia); Congressional Budget Office Working Paper 2007-03 (January).

*Assigning Education Status in CBO’s Long-Term Microsimulation Model.* Congressional Budget Office Background Paper (October 2008).

*Recent Trends in the Variability of Individual Earnings and Household Income.* Congressional Budget Office (June 2008) (with Thomas DeLeire and Molly Dahl).

"Can America Afford to Get Sick?" *National Tax Journal*, Vol. 60, No. 3 (September 2007): 407-418 (with Julie Topoleski and Ignéz Tristao).

*Trends in Earnings Variability Over the Past 20 Years*. Congressional Budget Office, April 2007 (with Thomas DeLeire and Molly Dahl).

"Take a Penny, Leave a Penny: The Propensity to Round Earnings in Survey Data," *Journal of Economic and Social Measurement*, Vol. 32, No. 2-3 (2007): 93-111.

"Social Security Individual Accounts and the Impact on Low Earners," *Journal of Pension Economics and Finance*, Vol. 7, No. 2 (2008) (with Julie Topoleski).

"Estimating Employment Spillover Effects In New York City with an Application to The Stock Transfer Tax," *Public Finance Review*, Vol. 33 (November 2005): 663-689.

*Earnings Inequality and High Earners: Changes During and after the Stock Market Boom of the 1990s*. Congressional Budget Office Working Paper 2006-06 (April 2006).

"Do youth nonmarital childbearing choices reflect income and relationship expectations?" *Journal of Population Economics*, Vol. 20 (January 2007): 73-100 (with Barbara Wolfe, Robert Haveman and Karen Pence).

*Projecting Labor Force Participation and Earnings in CBO's Long-Term Microsimulation Model*. Congressional Budget Office Background Paper (October 2006) (with Amy Rehder Harris and John Sabelhaus).

"Income Distribution and Social Expenditures: A Cross-National Perspective," In *The Distributional Effects of Government Spending and Taxation*, Dimitri Papadimitriou, ed., New York: Palgrave Macmillan (2006) (with Timothy M. Smeeding and Lars Osberg).

"Regulating Underground Industry: An Economic Analysis of Sports Betting," *New York State Economic Review* (Fall 2005): 65-77.

"New Job and Business Growth among Recent Immigrants: Rising Self-Employment in New York City," *Regional Labor Review* (Fall 2005) (with Jane E. Lynch): 33-44.

"Employment Spillover Effects in New York City with an Application to the Stock Transfer Tax," *Public Finance Review* (Fall 2005): 663-689.

"Insurance Coverage for New York City in an Age of Terrorist Risk," In *Resilient City: The Economic Impact of 9/11*, Howard Chernick, ed., New York: Russell Sage Foundation (August 2005) (with Joshua Chang).

*Hidden Revenue: Regulating the Underground Economy of Sports Betting*. Partnership for New York City Issue Brief No. 3 (February 2005) (with Michael Simas).

*The Stock Transfer Tax and New York City: Potential Employment Effects.* Partnership for New York City Issue Brief No. 2 (December 2004).

*New York City and Terrorism Insurance in a Post-9/11 World.* Partnership for New York City Issue Brief No. 1 (September 2004) (with Joshua Chang).

“Accounting for the wage-benefit tradeoff using the ECI,” *Monthly Labor Review* (September 2004): 26-41.

“Income Distribution and Public Social Expenditure: Theories, Effects, and Evidence,” In *Social Inequality*, Kathryn Neckerman, ed., New York: Russell Sage Foundation (2004) (with Lars Osberg and Timothy M. Smeeding).

*Income Distribution and Social Expenditures: A Cross-National Perspective*, Luxembourg Income Study Working Paper No. 350. Center for Policy Research, Syracuse, NY: Luxembourg Income Study (May 2003) (with Timothy M. Smeeding and Lars Osberg).

“Has Macroeconomic Performance Regained its Antipoverty Bite?” *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 18(4) (2000): 415-427 (with Robert Haveman).

“Economic growth and poverty: A return to normalcy?” *Focus*, Institute for Research on Poverty publication, 20(2) (1999): 1-7 (with Robert Haveman).

## CONTRIBUTED CBO VOLUMES

*CBO Snapshots*, various years.

*Budget and Economic Outlook*, various years (primarily graphics and presentation slides).

*Long-Term Budget Outlook*, various years.

*Long-Term Projections to Social Security*, various years.

## BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

*Better Presentations: A Guide for Scholars, Researchers, and Wonks*, Columbia University Press (2016, forthcoming).

*Human Capital in the United States from 1975-2000: Patterns of Growth and Utilization.* Kalamazoo, MI: W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research (2003) (with Robert Haveman and Andrew Bershadker).

\*Princeton University Industrial Relations “Noteworthy Books”, July 2004.

\*Choice Magazine “Outstanding Academic Title”, January 2004.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 Department of Justice, Washington, DC  
Voxy, New York, NY  
Tableau User Group, Washington, DC  
Dagstuhl, Germany  
Minnesota Population Research Center, Minneapolis, MN  
Responsible Data Forum, New York, NY  
Population Association of American preconference workshop
- 2015 Freddie Mac, Tysons Corner, VA  
IRP-Urban Institute Webinar, Washington, DC  
APPAM Spring Conference, Washington, DC  
University of Akron, Akron OH  
Bureau of Labor Statistics, Washington, DC  
Measurement and Accountability for Results in Health, Washington, DC  
Visualized: Political Data, Washington, DC  
Bureau of Economic Analysis, Washington, DC  
comScore, Reston, VA  
CDO Executive Summit, Washington, DC  
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA  
Apple Inc., Cupertino, CA  
American Economic Association Annual Conference, Boston, MA  
Bureau of Economic Analysis, Washington, DC  
Tow Center for Digital Journalism, Columbia Journalism School,  
New York, NY
- 2014 General Assembly, Washington, DC  
DataKind DC Launch, Washington, DC  
Community Indicators Consortium Annual Conference, Washington, DC  
The Association of Public Data Users Annual Conference, Rosslyn, VA  
Microsoft Research, Redmond, WA  
Tableau Software, Seattle, WA  
SeaViz Meetup Group, Seattle, WA  
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA  
Apple Inc., Cupertino, CA  
Academy Health Conference, Washington, DC  
Tapestry Conference, Annapolis, MD  
SXSW, Austin, TX  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA  
Congressional Research Service, Washington, DC
- 2013 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Conference,  
Washington, DC  
Congressional Research Service, Washington, DC  
Data Science DC MeetUp Group, Washington, DC  
Tableau Customer Conference, Washington, DC

University of Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, WI  
American Economic Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA

- 2012 Visweek, Seattle, WA  
Social Security Advisory Board, Washington, DC  
U.S. Census Bureau, Suitland, MD  
George Washington University, Washington, DC  
Brookings Institution, Washington, DC  
Congressional Budget Office  
American Association for Budget and Program Analysis Annual  
Conference, Washington, DC  
Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Washington, DC  
American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL  
Tax Economists Forum, Washington, DC  
Department of Commerce, Washington, DC
- 2011 American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Denver CO  
Tax Economists Forum, Washington, DC  
Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Workshop, University of  
Wisconsin at Madison, Madison, WI  
Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco, San Francisco, CA  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Conference,  
Washington, DC  
Southern Economic Association Annual Meetings, Washington, DC  
Government Accountability Office, Washington, DC  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA  
American Association for Budget and Program Analysis, Washington, DC

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee, National Tax Journal, Journal of Economic and Social Measurement, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Population Economics, Southern Economic Journal, Eastern Economic Journal, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Journal of Economic Inequality, Economic Development Quarterly, Review of Income and Wealth, New York State Economic Review, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management

President, Society of Government Economists, 2005-2006

Co-Organizer, Data Visualization DC Meetup Group, 2013-present