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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

CAREER BRIEF

Jonathan Schwabish is a Senior Fellow at the [Urban Institute](http://www.urban.org), a nonprofit research institution in Washington, DC, and founder of the data visualization and presentation skills firm, [PolicyViz](http://www.policyviz.com). At the Urban Institute, he is a researcher in the Income and Benefits Policy Center and a member of the Institute’s Communication team where he specializes in data visualization and presentation design. His research agenda includes 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.

Dr. Schwabish 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 2013 and speaks widely on the issues of data visualization, open data, and data use in organizations.

Dr. Schwabish also teaches data visualization and presentation skills at Georgetown University and the Maryland Institute College of Art, as well as in public workshops and for private clients through his consulting firm, [PolicyViz](http://www.policyviz.com). He also hosts the [PolicyViz Podcast](http://www.policyviz.com/podcast), which focuses on data, open data, and data visualization. His book about presentation design and techniques, [Better Presentations: A Guide for Scholars, Researchers, and Wonks](http://www.policyviz.com/better-presentations), helps people improve the way they prepare, design, and deliver data-rich content. He is on Twitter [@jschwabish](https://twitter.com/jschwabish).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Full-Time Positions

Senior Fellow, The Urban Institute, Income and Benefits Policy Center and the Communications Department, December 2016 – current.

Senior Research Associate, The Urban Institute, Income and Benefits Policy Center and the Communications Department, May 2014 – December 2016.

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, American University, School of Public Affairs, *Core Principles of Data Visualization*, 2017 – current.

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.

Websites

Founder, PolicyViz.com, January 2013.

Founder, HelpMeViz.com, December 2013.

Podcasts

The PolicyViz Podcast, May 2015 – present.

The Rad Presenters Podcast, September 2014 – June 2016.

BOOKS AND MONOGRAPHS

Better Presentations: A Guide for Scholars, Researchers, and Wonks.
Columbia University Press, New York, New York
November 2016

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

*Princeton University Industrial Relations "Noteworthy Books", July 2004.

*Choice Magazine "Outstanding Academic Title", January 2004.

PUBLISHED RESEARCH PAPERS

"Organizing the Work of Data-Driven Visual Storytelling," in *Data-Driven Storytelling*,
AK Peters, Riche, Hurter, Diakopoulos, and Carpendale, eds. (with Christina Elmer
and Benjamin Wiederkehr) (April 2018).

"Communicating Data to an Audience," in *Data-Driven Storytelling*, AK Peters, Riche,
Hurter, Diakopoulos, and Carpendale, eds. (with Steven Drucker, Samuel Huron,
Robert Kosara, and Nicholas Diakopoulos) (April 2018).

"Data Journalism in 2017: The Current State and Challenges Facing the Field Today,"
Google News Lab Report (September 2017) (with Simon Rogers and Danielle
Bowers).

"Geographic Patterns in Disability Insurance Receipt: Mental Disorders in New
England," Urban Institute Research Report (June 2017.)

"Reforming the Disability Insurance Program Should Start Now: Long-Term Reform
Requires Structural Change," Urban Institute Brief (June 2017.)

"The Social Genome Model: Estimating How Policies Affect Outcomes, Mobility and
Inequality across the Life Course," *Journal of Social Issues* 72: 656-675 (December)
(with Greg Acs, Steven Martin and Isabel V. Sawhill).

"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 (July 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 Ignez 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.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

(See <https://policyviz.com/about/portfolio/#speaking-events> for select videos.)

- 2018 Columbia University, NY, NY
Princeton University, Princeton, NJ
Facebook, Menlo Park, CA
World Bank, Washington, DC
NERA, White Plains, NY; NY, NY; San Francisco, CA; Los Angeles, CA
Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, CA
- 2017 NERA, Paris, France
Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN
Grantmakers for Effective Organizations Annual Conference, Chicago, IL
Data Driven Storytelling: A Deep Dive into Visualization Techniques,
Washington, DC
World Bank, Washington, DC
NERA Economic Consulting senior staff meeting, Miami, FL
Bureau of Economic Analysis, Suitland, MD
Malofiej World Infographic Summit, Pamplona, Spain
RTI International, San Francisco, CA
- 2016 TEDxJNJ, Philadelphia, PA
APPAM Fall Conference, Washington, DC
Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
Centre College, Danville, KY
Presentation Summit, Las Vegas, NV
Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC
Department of Justice, Washington, DC
Voxy, New York, NY
Tableau User Group, Washington, DC
Dagstuhl Storytelling Confere, Germany
Minnesota Population Research Center, Minneapolis, MN
Responsible Data Forum, New York, NY
Population Association of American preconference workshop
- 2015 Socrata Customer Summit, Washington, DC

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 Charlotte Data Day, Charlotte, NC
Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics Association (keynote),
Morgantown, WV
ComScore, Reston, VA
Inter-American Development Bank, Washington, DC
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
- 2010 Statistics Canada's Symposium, Ottawa, Canada
The Brookings Institution, Washington, DC
Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin at Madison
- 2009 Association for Public Policy and Management Fall Conference, Washington, DC
American Economic Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA
Pew Hispanic Center, Washington, DC
Georgetown University Institute for the Study of International Migration, Washington, DC
Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC
Society of Government Economists Annual Meeting, Washington, DC
UCLA School of Law, Los Angeles, CA
- 2008 American Economic Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA
- 2007 Association for Public Policy and Management Fall Conference, Washington, DC
37th National Tax Association Spring Symposium, Washington, DC
American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- 2006 American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA
- 2005 Eastern Economic Association Annual Meetings, New York, NY
The Levy Economics Institute Conference on The Distributional Effects of Government Spending and Taxation, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
New York State Economics Association Annual Meeting, Ithaca, New York

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, Social Security Bulletin

President, Society of Government Economists, 2005-2006

Co-Organizer, Data Visualization DC Meetup Group, 2013-2015