

Matthew A. Lenard

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EDUCATION

Harvard Graduate School of Education (HGSE), Ph.D. Candidate (expected 2024) Concentration: Education Policy & Program Evaluation Dissertation: <i>Essays on the education and labor market impacts of credentials</i> Committee: Luke Miratrix, Lindsay Page, & Christopher Avery	2018–
Georgia State University, M.A. in Political Science Thesis: <i>The Political Economy of Federal Assistance: Demand-Side Determinants of New Awards in the 110th Congress</i>	2010–2011
Wesleyan University, B.A. in (1) Economics and (2) Russian & East European Studies	1996–2000
London School of Economics, General Course	1998–1999

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Wake County Public School System (Cary, NC), Director of Data Strategy and Analytics	2014–2018
Wake County Public School System (Cary NC), Director of Special Studies	2012–2014
Southern Regional Education Board (Atlanta GA), Policy Analyst	2011–2012
Southern Regional Education Board (Atlanta, GA), Research Associate	2006–2011

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

<i>Statistical Methods for Applied Educational Research</i> (HGSE S052), Teaching Asst. to Andrew Ho	Spring 2021
<i>Multilevel and Longitudinal Models</i> (HGSE S043/STAT 150), Teaching Asst. to Luke Miratrix	Fall 2020
<i>Introduction to Applied Data Analysis</i> (HGSE S040), Teaching Assistant to Joe McIntyre	Fall 2020
<i>Making Data Count</i> (HGSE S054), Teaching Assistant to Carrie Conaway	Spring 2020
JFK Middle School (Atlanta GA), Teacher & Teach for America Corps Member	2004–2006

HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

AERA-NSF Grants Program Dissertation Grantee	2022–2023
ECMC Foundation Postsecondary Career and Technical Education (CTE) Research Fellow	2021–2022
APPAM Raymond Vernon Memorial Award	2021
Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Teaching	2020
Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) Summer Fellow	2020
Partnering in Education Research (PIER) Fellow	2020–2022
AERA Division H Outstanding Publication Competition Winner	2019–2020
Strategic Data Project (SDP) Fellow (Cohort 3)	2012–2014

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Keele, L., **Lenard, M.**, & Page, L. (2024). “Overlap Violations in Clustered Observational Studies of Educational Interventions.” *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 17(1): 1-18

Hill, D.V., Hughes, R.P., **Lenard, M.A.**, Liebowitz, D.D., & Page, L.C. (2023). “New Schools and New Classmates: The Disruption and Peer Group Effects of School Reassignment.” *Economics of Education Review*, 92, 102316.

- Selected by *EER* as one of two 2023 Best Paper awardees

Keele, L., **Lenard, M.**, Miratrix, L., & Page, L. (2023). “A Software Tutorial for Matching in Clustered Observational Studies.” *Observational Studies*, 9(4): 73-96.

Chi, O.L. & **Lenard, M.A.** (2022). “Can a Commercial Screening Tool Help Select Better Teachers?” *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 45(3): 530-539.

Domina, T., Carlson, D., Carter, J., **Lenard, M.**, McEachin, A., & Perera, R. (2021). “The Kids on the Bus: The Academic Consequences of Diversity-Driven School Reassignments.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 40(4): 1197-1229.

- Selected by *JPAM* as the winner of the 2021 Vernon Prize

Keele, L., **Lenard, M.**, & Page, L. (2021). “Matching Methods for Clustered Observational Studies in Education.” *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 14(3): 696-725.

Lenard, M., Morrill, M.S., & Westall, J. (2020) “High school start times and student achievement: Looking beyond test scores.” *Economics of Education Review*, 76, 101975.

Page, L.C., **Lenard, M.A.**, & Keele, L. (2020). “The Design of Clustered Observational Studies in Education.” *AERA Open*, 6(3): 1-14.

Holbein, J.B., Hillygus, S.D., **Lenard, M.A.**, Gibson-Davis, C., & Hill, D.V. (2020). “The development of students’ engagement in school, community and democracy.” *British Journal of Political Science*, 50(4): 1439-1457.

Hemelt, S.W. & **Lenard, M.A.** (2020). “Math acceleration in elementary school: Access and effects on student outcomes.” *Economics of Education Review*, 74, 101921.

Carlson, D., Bell, E., **Lenard, M.A.**, Cowen, J.B., & McEachin A. (2019). “Socioeconomic-based school assignment policy and racial segregation levels: Evidence from the Wake County Public School System.” *American Educational Research Journal*, 57(1): 258-304.

Hemelt, S.W., **Lenard, M.A.**, & Paepflow, C.G. (2019). “Building bridges to life after high school: Contemporary career academies and student outcomes.” *Economics of Education Review*, 68: 161-178. (*WWC Review*)

Lenard, M.A. & Peña, P.A. (2018). “Maturity and minorities: The impact of redshirting on achievement gaps.” *Education Economics*, 26(6): 593-609.

Pimentel, S.D., Page, L.C., **Lenard, M.**, & Keele, L. (2018). “Optimal multilevel matching using network flows: An application to a summer reading intervention.” *Annals of Applied Statistics*, 12(3): 1479-1505.

WORKING PAPERS

“Informal social interactions, behavior, and academic achievement.” (revise & resubmit, with Mikko Siliman).

“The Attraction of Magnet Schools: Evidence from Embedded Lotteries in School Assignment.” (submitted, with Umut Dur, Bob Hammond, Melinda Morrill, Thayer Morrill, & Colleen Paepflow).

“Promises, Pitfalls, and Tradeoffs in Identifying Gifted Learners: Evidence from a Curricular Experiment” (submitted, with Angel Harris & Darryl Hill).

“Evaluating Balancing Weights for Clustered Observational Studies.” (submitted, with Luke Keele, Luke Miratrix, & Lindsay Page).

POLICY BRIEFS & PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

“Assessing integration in Wake County: Loud debate, but muted effects for students and schools.” 2022.

Education Next (with James S. Carter III, Rodney P. Hughes, David D. Liebowitz, & Rachel M. Perera).

“SEM Advancement Act Report: Academic Acceleration Policy.” 2022. Report to the Tennessee Legislature (with Danesha Ward).

“Graduation Rate and Ready Graduate Indicator Report.” 2021. Report to the Tennessee Legislature.

“Contemporary Labor Market Data in Postsecondary Contexts.” 2021. SREE Summer Fellowship Technical Report.

“Student reassignments achieve diversity without academic adversity.”. 2021. *Brookings* (with Thurston Domina, Deven Carlson, James Carter III, Andrew McEachin, and Rachel Perera).

“Career academies and the resurgence of career and technical education in the United States” (CALDER Research Brief). 2018. Washington, DC: National Center for Analysis of Longitudinal Data in Education Research (with Steven Hemelt).

“Academically Gifted Co-Teaching in the Wake County Public School System: Implementation, Perceptions and Achievement.” 2017. *Wake County Public School System* (with Megan Townsend).

“Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) Status Report, 2015-16.” 2017. *Wake County Public School System* (with Beth Adams, Nancy Baenen, & Dina Bulgakov-Cooke).

“Math Acceleration in WCPSS Elementary and Middle Schools: Implementation and Impact.” 2017. *Wake County Public School System*.

“Building Bridges in High School and Beyond: The Impacts of Apex High School’s Academy of Information Technology.” 2017. *Wake County Public School System* (with Steven Hemelt & Colleen Paeplow).

“Single-Subject Acceleration: Status Report.” 2016. *Wake County Public School System* (with Megan Townsend).

“The Impact of Achieve3000 on Elementary Literacy Outcomes: Randomized Control Trial Evidence, 2013-14 to 2014-15.” 2016. *Wake County Public School System* (with Darryl Hill). Included in the following *What Works Clearinghouse Intervention Report*.

“High School Career Academies: Status Report, 2014-15.” 2016. *Wake County Public School System* (with Elizabeth Adams & Colleen Paeplow).

“Enhancing Data Use for Effective Program Planning: A New Districtwide Framework in the Wake County Public School System.” 2014. *Strategic Data Project Fellowship Capstone Project* (with Darryl Hill, Colleen Paeplow, & Sonya Stephens).

“Student Performance and Achievement Gaps on Assessments of Early Literacy: 2011-12.” 2013. *Wake County Public School System*.

“Limited English Proficient Students: Exit Rates for 2008-09 Cohort.” 2013. *Wake County Public School System* (with Amy Heubeler).

“WCPSS School Innovations: 2011-12 Year 1 Status Update.” 2012. *Wake County Public School System* (with Dina Bulgakov-Cooke, Nancy Baenen, Andy Jackl & Megan Townsend).

“Smart Class-Size Policies for Lean Times.” 2012. *Southern Regional Education Board* (with Jeff Gagne).

“Transitioning to the New High School Graduation Rate.” 2011. *Southern Regional Education Board*.

“Strengthening Attend ‘n’ Drive Laws to Reduce Truancy and Dropouts.” 2011. *Southern Regional Education Board*.

“The Political Economy of Federal Assistance: Demand-Side Determinants of New Awards in the 110th

Congress.” 2010. *Master’s thesis*.

“Challenge to Lead Goals for Education: State Progress Reports – Moving Ahead.” 2010. *Southern Regional Education Board* (with Gene Bottoms, Crystal Collins, Jeff Gagne, Joan Lord, Lexi Netto, & Marilyn Thomas).

“Gaining Ground on High School Graduation Rates in SREB States: Milestones and Guideposts.” 2009. *Southern Regional Education Board* (with Joan Lord).

“Challenge to Lead Goals for Education: State Progress Reports – On the Move.” 2008. *Southern Regional Education Board* (with Gene Bottoms, Crystal Collins, Joan Lord, Lexi Netto, Sue Street, & Marilyn Thomas).

“SREB States Lead the Nation in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Programs.” 2008. *Southern Regional Education Board* (with Crystal Collins).

“The Changing Roles of Statewide High School Exams.” 2007. *Southern Regional Education Board* (with Joan Lord).

“High School to College and Careers: Aligning State Policies.” 2007. *Southern Regional Education Board* (with Joan Lord).

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

2023–2024: Russell Sage Foundation, Research Assistant (PIs: Deven Carlson and Thad Domina), “Backlash? Schooling Reassignments and the Politics of School Desegregation.”

2019–2022: Spencer Foundation, Research Assistant (PI: Lindsay Page; Co-PI: Luke Keele), “Matching in Multilevel Contexts.”

EXTERNAL TRAININGS

2021: Fordham Institute/AEI Emerging Education Policy Scholars (EEPS) Program

2020: Training Institute on Causal Research in Career and Technical Education

2016: Center for Benefit-Cost Studies of Education (CBCSE) Training in Cost-Effectiveness and Cost-Benefit Analysis, Teachers College, Columbia University

FUNDED RESEARCH

2022–2023: New Jersey Education to Earnings Data System Grant Program, Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Jeremy Wright-Kim), “Stackable Credentials in New Jersey: Mapping the Current Landscape.” \$3,000.

2022: Harvard Radcliffe Institute (HRI) Engaged Student Grant Program, “Youth Civic Engagement and Participation.” \$1,500.

2017–2019: Smith Richardson Foundation, Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Thurston Domina), “Schools, Neighborhoods, and the Transition to Adulthood: A Policy Lab with the Wake County Public Schools.” \$242,025.

2017–2019: Spencer Foundation, Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Steve Hemelt), “Building Better Bridges to Life After High School: Experimental Evidence on Contemporary Career Academies.” \$49,823.

2017–2019: National Science Foundation, Co-Principal Investigator (PI: Sunshine Hillygus), “Making Young Voters: Policy Reforms to Increase Youth Turnout.” \$335,690.

2015–2017: Laura and John Arnold Foundation, Principal Investigator, “Beyond One-Size-Fits-All: A Randomized Control Trial of Multi-Tiered System of Supports.” \$74,321.

Grants submitted:

- “The long-term consequences of diverse school attendance: A quasi-experimental test of perpetuation theory” to the Institute of Education Sciences (PI: Thurston Domina).
- “Transitions to young adulthood: The effects of career and technical education (CTE) programming on college-going and employment outcomes of high school students” to the Institute of Education Sciences (PI: Steve Hemelt).

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

- Division H—Research, Evaluation, and Assessment in Schools
- Special Interest Group (SIG): Career and Technical Education

Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

National Council on Measurement in Education (NCME)

Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)

SERVICE

To field:

- Journal refereeing: *AERA Open*, *American Educational Research Journal*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Education Economics*, *Education Finance and Policy*, *Educational Research and Evaluation*, *Educational Researcher*, *Journal of Adolescence*, *Journal of Education for Students Placed at Risk*, *Journal of Human Capital*, *The Journal of Politics*
- Conferences: Association for Career and Technical Education Research, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE), American Educational Research Association (AERA), Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)
- Award peer review: AERA Division H Outstanding Publication Awards
- Grant peer review: Smith Richardson Foundation
- Conference organizing: AERA Division H 2021 Section Chair, SREE Spring 2018 Conference Program Committee

To institution (HGSE):

- Advisor to HGSE M.A. degree students
- Application reviewer for Harvard SDP and PIER fellowships

Other:

- Technical Working Group member, Mathematica Policy Research’s Rapid Cycle Evaluation (RCE) Coach, 2017
- Member, Young Professionals for Education Equity, 2010-2012
- Chair and Founding Member, KIPP Atlanta Collegiate Advisory Board, 2011-2012
- Member, Charter School Review Panel, Atlanta Public Schools, 2011
- Founding Board Member, Young Leaders Collegiate Academy, 2009-2011

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2023 Performance Management Academy, North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management.

2022 Strategic Data Project Racial Justice and Education Research Webinar, “The Kids on the Bus: The Academic Consequences of Diversity-Driven School Reassignments.”

2017 Proving Ground Annual Convening, “Achieve3000 & the Wake County Public School System.”

2016–17 Partnering in Education Research (PIER) Public Seminar Series, “The Gold Standard: Conducting Randomized Trials in Education Agencies.”

RECENT CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION (during PhD program)

2023 APPAM Fall Research Conference: “Economic Returns to Postsecondary Trajectories: Evidence from Statewide Vocational, Short-Term, and Stackable Pathways.”

2023 APPAM Fall Research Conference: “Navigating the Job Search: An Examination of Applications to Teaching Jobs.”

2023 SREE Fall Conference: “Postsecondary and labor market returns to the contemporary high school equivalency diploma.”

2023 Triangle Economics of Education Workshop: “The Attraction of Magnet Schools: Evidence from Embedded Lotteries in School Assignment.”

2023 CESifo/ifo Junior Workshop on the Economics of Education: “Informal social interactions, academic achievement and behavior.”

2023 AERA Annual Meeting: “The Impacts of Earning Industry-Recognized Certifications in High School.”

2023 AEFPP Annual Conference: “Academic and economic returns to stackable credentials: Evidence from New Jersey.”

2022 SREE Fall Conference: “The Impacts Industry-Recognized Certifications: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from High School STEM Awards.”

2021 Association for Career and Technical Education Research (ACTER) Conference: “The Impacts of High School Industry Certifications: Regression Discontinuity Evidence.”

2021 SREE Fall Conference: “The Impacts of School District Turnaround: Applying Multilevel Matching to Clustered Observational Studies.”

2021 AEFPP Annual Conference: “Informal social interactions, behavior, and academic achievement: Evidence from bus-peers.”

2020 APPAM Fall Research Conference: “The Effects of Changing the Family Income and Academic Skill Levels of Students’ Peers” and “The Kids on the Bus: The Academic Consequences of Diversity-Driven School Reassignments.”

2020 Grantmakers for Education Annual Conference: “Contemporary Labor Market Data in Postsecondary Contexts.”

2020 IZA Workshop: “Informal Social Interactions, Academic Achievement and Behavior: Evidence from Bus-Peers.”

2020 AEFPP Annual Conference: “The Attraction of Magnet Schools: Evidence from Embedded Lotteries in School Assignment”, “High School Start Times and Student Achievement: Looking Beyond Test Scores”, and “Maybe busing isn’t so bad: Reassignment’s effects on reassigned students.”

2020 SREE Spring Conference: “The Protective Effects of Student Reassignment: Evidence from a Districtwide Socioeconomic Integration Plan” and “The Impact of a District Turnaround Model: Applying Multilevel Matching to a Clustered Observational Study.”

2020 AERA Annual Meeting: “Trading Places: Reassignment and desegregation in Wake County Public Schools.”

2019 AEFPP Annual Conference: “Math Acceleration in Elementary School: Access and Effects on Student Outcomes”, “Can a Big Data Commercial Screening Tool Help Select Better Teachers?”, and “Trading Places: Reassignment and Desegregation in Wake County Public Schools.”

2019 SREE Spring Conference: “Adaptive Math and Student Achievement: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial of DreamBox Learning.”

2018 SEA Annual Meeting: “School Start Times and Student Achievement: Evidence from High Schools.”

2018 APPAM Fall Research Conference: “Understanding the Impact of Socioeconomic-based Student-assignment Policies: Evidence from Wake County, North Carolina.”

OTHER CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Dillon, E., & Lenard, M. (2017). “Open Tools: Evaluation with the Rapid Cycle Evaluation (RCE) Coach.” *Strategic Data Project Annual Convening*.

Avery, C., Hill, D., Hughes, R., & Lenard, M., (2017) “Open Road: From Advanced Coursetaking to College Success.” *Strategic Data Project Annual Convening*.

2016 K-16 Research-Practice Partnership Symposium: Planned and coordinated first WCPSS gathering of school district practitioners and academic researchers to discuss and present collaborative findings. The day-long symposium, consisting of three panels and five concurrent research presentations in the afternoon, was held at the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation (Raleigh, NC) and supported by the Russell Sage Foundation. (agenda)

LABS

Anti-Racist and Quantitative Research (ARQR) lab group. PI: Luke Miratrix.

Causality, Applications, and Research in Education and Statistics (C.A.R.E.S.) Lab. PI: Luke Miratrix.

Economics of Education Lab. PI: Eric Taylor.

Measurement Lab. PI: Andrew Ho.

MEDIA COVERAGE OF RESEARCH

Usable Knowledge, 6/29/20, “A Fresh Start? The impact of high school start times on non-cognitive factors.”

Atlanta Journal-Constitution, 4/30/20, “Study: Earlier high school start times can lead to lateness, absences.”

Education Dive, 2/4/20, “North Carolina district aims for socioeconomically ‘healthy’ schools amid continued growth.”

Chalkbeat, 10/28/19, “How the gender gap in STEM might get its start in elementary schools.”

Education Week, 8/12/19, “A Losing Fight to Keep Schools Desegregated.”

The 74 Million, 11/25/18, “‘Gritty’ Kids Vote More: What the Research Shows About How Schools Build Citizens.”

Indy Week, 5/20/17, “In Wake Schools, Why Aren’t Gifted Black and Hispanic Students Being Given the Same Opportunities as Their White and Asian Counterparts?”

News & Observer, 4/17/17, “AOIT draws high marks but needs more diversity.”

Education Gadfly Show (11:50 mark), 3/22/17. “Fat chance for Trump’s skinny budget.”

Brookings Institution's Gov Innovator Podcast, 5/13/16, "How school districts can use rigorous program evaluation to test new education reforms."

News & Observer, 3/8/15, "Wake County ending East Wake High small-schools model."

News & Observer, 1/12/15. "Changes proposed for Eastern Wake County high schools."

News & Observer, 12/18/14. "Wake County hoping to identify more gifted students."

PBS NewsHour, 3/13/12. "Driver's License Incentives Used in Some States to Keep Teens in School."

Atlanta Journal Constitution, 10/20/11. "Nearly 13,000 temporarily lost driving privileges in 2010."

Des Moines Register, 10/1/11. "Iowa education leaders drop high school exit exam proposal."

COMPLETE WORK HISTORY

2012–2018	Wake County Public School System (Cary, NC), Multiple roles
2008–2012	BetterLesson, Inc. (Cambridge, MA), Co-founder
2006–2012	Southern Regional Education Board (Atlanta, GA), Multiple roles
2004–2006	JFK Middle School / Teach for America (Atlanta, GA), Teacher
2002–2004	Rogers & Hardin LLP (Atlanta, GA), Litigation Researcher & Legal Caseworker
2000-2001	Lehman Brothers, Inc. (New York, NY), Investment Banking Analyst