

## M. KATHLEEN THOMAS

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### EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Georgia State University, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, December 2000  
M.A., Economics, University of Alabama, December 1995  
B.S., Economics, Birmingham-Southern College, Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude*, May 1992

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

Mississippi State University, Department of Finance and Economics  
Department Head, July 2018 -  
Professor of Economics, July 2018 -  
Associate Professor of Economics, 2009 - 2018  
Assistant Professor of Economics, 2002 - 2009

The University of Texas at Dallas  
Affiliated Researcher, State of Texas Education Research Center, 2002 - 2015  
Postdoctoral Research Scholar, Texas Schools Project, 2000 - 2002

Georgia State University  
Research Associate, Fiscal Research Program, 1999 - 2000

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Journal Articles

- [19] Thomas, M.K. & Klopfenstein, K. (2020). Practice what you preach and be a control freak. *Applied Economics*, 52 (42): 4573-4576. doi: 10.1080/00036846.2020.1738325.
- [18] Luccasen, R.A. & Thomas, M.K. (2020). Voluntary taxation and the arts. *Journal of Cultural Economics*, 44 (4): 589-604. doi: 10.1007/s10824-020-09376-2.
- [17] Luccasen, R.A., Thomas, M.K., & Grossman, P. (2017). Giving to poverty relief charities: The impact of beliefs and misperceptions toward income redistribution in a real donation experiment. *Social Choice and Welfare*. 49 (2): 387-409.
- [16] Evans, B.A., Swinton, J.R., & Thomas, M.K. (2015). The effects of algebra and geometry skills on performance in high school economics. *Perspectives on Economic Education Research*. 9 (2): 54-64.
- [15] Thomas, M.K., Singh, P., & Klopfenstein, K. (2015). Arts education and the high school dropout problem. *Journal of Cultural Economics*, 39 (4): 327-339.
- [14] Luccasen, R.A. & Thomas, M.K. (2014). Monetary incentives versus class credit: Evidence from a large classroom trust experiment. *Economics Letters*, 123 (2014): 232-235.
- [13] Thomas, M.K., Singh, P., Klopfenstein, K., & Henry, T.C. (2013). Access to high school arts education: Why student participation matters as much as course availability. *Education Policy Analysis Archives*, 21(83). <http://epaa.asu.edu/ojs/article/view/1224>.

- [12] Luccasen, R.A., Hammock, M., & Thomas, M.K. (2011). Teaching macroeconomic principles using animated cartoons. *The American Economist*, 56 (1): 38-47.
- [11] Grimes, P.W., Millea, M., & Thomas, M.K. (2010). Testing the economic literacy of K-12 teachers: A statewide baseline analysis. *American Secondary Education*, 38 (3): 4-20.
- [10] Luccasen, R.A., & Thomas, M.K. (2010). Simpsonomics: Teaching economics using episodes from the television show *The Simpsons*. *Journal of Economic Education*, 41(2): 136-149.
- [9] Klopfenstein, K. & Thomas, M.K. (2009). The link between Advanced Placement experience and early college success. *Southern Economic Journal*, 75 (3): 873-91.
- [8] Thomas, M.K. (2009). The impact of educational histories on the decision to become self-employed: A study of young, aspiring, minority business owners. *Small Business Economics*, 33 (4): 455-466.
- [7] Grimes, P.W., Millea, M. & Thomas, M.K. (2008). District level mandates and high school students' understanding of economics. *Journal of Economics and Economic Education Research*, 9 (2): 3-16.
- [6] Moore, R.S., Moore, M., Grimes, P.W., Millea, M., Lehman, M., Pearson, A., Liddell, P., Thomas, M.K. (2007). Developing an intervention bridging program for at-risk students before the traditional pre-freshman summer program. *College Student Journal*, 41 (1): 151-59.
- [5] Thomas, M.K. & Campbell, R.C. (2006). Teacher training and market attitudes in transitioning economies. *The American Economist*, L (2): 32-41.
- [4] Thomas, M.K. (2004). The SAT II: Majority/Minority test score gaps and what they could mean for college admissions. *Social Science Quarterly*, 85 (5), *A Special Issue: Social Science Examines Education*: 1318-34.
- [3] Thomas, M.K. (2004). Where college-bound students send their SAT scores: Does race matter? *Social Science Quarterly*, 85 (5), *A Special Issue: Social Science Examines Education*:1374-89.
- [2] Thomas, M.K. (2004). Seeking every advantage: The phenomenon of taking both the SAT and ACT. *Economics of Education Review*, 23 (2): 203-08.
- [1] Campbell, C.A. & Thomas, M.K. (2003). The Mississippi budget: An overview of selected revenue and expenditure patterns. *State Tax Notes*, 30 (11): 849-66.

### **Book Chapters**

- Thomas, M. K., Klopfenstein, K., & Singh, P. (2016). Savoir évaluer des programmes d'enseignement artistique: le cas de Little Kids Rock. In Nicolas, Y. & Gergaud, O. (Eds.), *Évaluer les politiques publiques de la culture* (pp.135-157). Paris: Ministère de la Culture et de la Communication.
- Klopfenstein, K. & Thomas, M.K. (2010). Advanced Placement participation: Evaluating the policies of states and colleges. In Sadler, P., Tai, R., Klopfenstein, K. and Sonnert, G. (Eds), *AP: A Critical Examination of the Role of the Advanced Placement Program in Education* (pp. 167-188). Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press.

### **Reports and Other Publications**

- The arts connect students to school. (2016). Blog post for *Economists Talk Art*.  
<https://economiststalkart.org/2016/08/16/the-arts-connect-students-to-school/>.

Arts education and dropping out of high school. (2015). Blog post for *Policy Analysis for California Education*. <http://www.edpolicyinca.org/blog/arts-education-and-dropping-out-high-school>.

What constitutes an arts-rich school? (2014). Blog post for *Policy Analysis for California Education*. <http://edpolicyinca.org/blog/what-constitutes-arts-rich-school>.

Ask an Economist: How important is more education/skill development if I want to avoid unemployment? (2009). With R. Andrew Luccasen. *Economy Watch*. 1(2): 12-13.

Profile of Georgia state revenues: 1974-1999. *Fiscal Research Program Report No. 48*, October 2000: 1-24.

An analysis of Georgia's economic development tax credit incentives. *Fiscal Research Program Report No. 42* with Dagny Faulk, Keith R. Ihlanfeldt, David L. Sjoquist, William J. Smith, Jeanie Thomas, January 2000: 1-59.

A profile of Georgia's economic performance and competitiveness. *Fiscal Research Program Report No. 41* with David L. Sjoquist, William J. Smith, January 2000:1-62.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

The Effects of Information on Perceptions of Income Inequality. With Phillip Grossman and R. Andrew Luccasen. Data Collection Stage.

## **FUNDED RESEARCH GRANTS, CONTRACTS AND AWARDS: Total to Date: \$762,724**

The Causal Impact of Music Education on Student Outcomes: A Program Evaluation of Little Kids Rock. National Endowment for the Arts. September 2014 – August 2015. (\$15,000)

High School Arts Education and Academic Success: The Access of At-Risk Students and the Impact of Participation. Principal Investigator. Spencer Foundation. July 2011 - September 2013. (\$312,900)

The Mississippi Delta: Second Steps in Preparing for the High School Economics Mandate. (With Millea, Thomas, and Highfield) National Council on Economic Education. Funding provided through the United States Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement: November 2007. (\$15,000).

Buildings Opportunities to Succeed School.(With Grimes, Millea, et al). Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), United States Department of Education. Awarded through the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning.2007. (\$50,000).

The Mississippi Delta: An Initial Step in Preparing for the High School Economics Mandate. (With Grimes and Millea).National Council on Economic Education. Funding provided through the United States Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement: December 2006. (\$7,198).

District Level Mandates and High School Students' Understanding of Economics.(With Grimes). National Council on Economic Education Funding provided through the United States Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement: December 2005. (\$25,000).

Establishing a Baseline Measure of Teacher Economic Literacy in Mississippi. (With Grimes). National Council on Economic Education Funding provided through the United States Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement. 2005. (\$13,607).

Economics Camp for At-Risk High School Students in Rural Mississippi. (With Grimes and Millea) National Council on Economic Education Funding provided through the United States Department of Education's Office of Innovation and Improvement. 2005. (\$9,999).

Business Opportunities for Success School: Career Exploration, Sessions One and Two. (With Grimes, Millea, et al). Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), U. S. Department of Education. Awarded through Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. 2005. (\$50,000).

Developing Master Teachers of Economics for the Public Schools of Mississippi. (With Grimes and Millea). Fund for the Improvement of Education, United States Department of Education Appropriation Act of 2005. 2005. (\$100,000).

Business Opportunities for Success School: BOSS Camp I and II. (With Grimes, Millea, et al). Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP), United States Department of Education. Awarded through the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning. 2005. (\$49,998).

The Impact of Education Histories on the Decision to Become Self-Employed: A Study of Young, Minority Business Owners. Principal Investigator. Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. 2005. (\$22,856)

Business Opportunities for Success School: BOSS Camp (With Paul W. Grimes, Meghan Millea, Melissa Moore, Rob Moore, Allison Pearson, and Mark Lehman) Awarded through Gear Up Mississippi. 2004. (\$22,985).

Economics in the Classroom: Professional Development for Teachers in Southern Mississippi. (With Grimes, Millea, and Campbell). National Council on Economic Education. 2003. (\$16,000).

Do Teacher Attitudes Become More Pro-Market After Teachers Participate in Training Programs In Transition Economies? Principal Investigator. Council for Economic Education. 2003. (\$4,000)

Economics for All Teachers. (With Grimes, Millea, and Campbell). National Council on Economic Education and International Paper Company Foundation. 2002. (\$1,500).

Mathematics and Economics: Connections for Life, Grades 9-12. (With Grimes, Millea, and Campbell). National Council on Economic Education and State Farms Insurance Company. 2002. (\$550).

Economics Challenge. (With Grimes, Millea, and Campbell). National Council on Economic Education and Goldman Sachs Foundation National Economics. 2002. (\$3,000).

Budget Analysis of Mississippi's State Level Revenue and Expenditures. (With Charles A. Campbell). Children's Defense Fund/Kellogg Foundation. 2002. (\$47,131).

## **RESEARCH GRANTS SUBMITTED**

Developing Music for the 80 Percent in the School District of Philadelphia: Researcher-Practitioner Partnership. Researcher-Practitioner Partnership Grant. Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. With Frank Machos. 2017. (\$397,693). *Not funded*.

Developing Music for the 80 Percent in the School District of Philadelphia. Arts in Education Development Grant, Goal 2. Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education. With Kristin Klopfenstein and Frank Machos. 2016. (\$1,392,498). *Not funded*.

## SELECT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- 2020 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association. Perceptions on Income Inequality. With Phillip Grossman and R. Andrew Luccasen.
- 2017 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association. We Don't Know What We Don't Know: The Importance of Exploratory Research Prior to Evaluating Program Impact. With Kristin Klopfenstein and Priyanka Singh.
- 2017 *Invited*. Annual Meeting of the Western Economic Association International. *President-Elect Featured Session: The Arts in the U.S. Economy*. The Impact of Arts Education. With Kristin Klopfenstein, Priyanka Singh, and Thomas C. Henry.
- 2017 Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness. What Do We Really Know about Business as Usual? How Researchers and Practitioners Can Work Together to Improve the Evaluation of Program Effectiveness. Moderator of Panel Discussion. Panelists: Kristin Klopfenstein, Adrienne Reitano, and Matthew Lenard.
- 2015 *Invited*. Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association. Session organized by Association for Cultural Economics International. Designing and Implementing Program Evaluations in Arts Education: The Case of Little Kids Rock. With Kristin Klopfenstein and Priyanka Singh.
- 2015 *Invited*. 7th Conference on Cultural and Media Economics, Paris, France. Designing and Implementing Program Evaluations in Arts Education: The Case of Little Kids Rock. With Kristin Klopfenstein and Priyanka Singh.
- 2014 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association, Arts Education and the High School Dropout Problem. With Priyanka Singh and Kristin Klopfenstein.
- 2013 *Invited*. Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta Research Seminar Series, Center for Human Capital Studies, Arts Education and the High School Dropout Problem. With Priyanka Singh and Kristin Klopfenstein.
- 2011 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association, Access to High School Arts Education: Creating an Index to Identify Arts-Rich Schools. With Priyanka Singh, Kristin Klopfenstein and Thomas Henry.
- 2010 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association, Access to High School Arts Education. With Priyanka Singh.
- 2008 *Invited*. Research Conference on Entrepreneurship among Minorities and Women, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, The Impact of Educational Histories on the Decision to Become Self-Employed: A Study of Young, Aspiring, Minority Business Owners.
- 2007 *Invited*. Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, AP Participation: Evaluating the Emerging Policies of States and Colleges. With Kristin Klopfenstein.
- 2006 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association, The Impact of Educational Histories on the Decision to Become Self-Employed: A Study of Young, Aspiring, Minority Business Owners.
- 2005 Annual Meeting of the Allied Social Sciences Association, The Advanced Placement Performance Advantage: Fact or Fiction? with Kristin Klopfenstein.

- 2004 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association The Advanced Placement Performance Advantage: Fact or Fiction? With Kristin Klopfenstein, and Do Teacher Attitudes Become More Pro-Market After Teachers Participate in Training Programs in Transition Economies?
- 2004 *Invited*. Georgia State University, Department of Economics, The Advanced Placement Performance Advantage: Fact or Fiction? With Kristin Klopfenstein.
- 2004 *Invited*. The University of Mississippi, Department of Economics, The Advanced Placement Performance Advantage: Fact or Fiction? With Kristin Klopfenstein.
- 2003 *Invited*. University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, Where College-Bound Students Send Their SAT Scores: Does Race Matter?
- 2002 Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association, Playing the Game: Do College-Bound Students Engage in Strategic Behavior When Deciding to Take the SAT, the ACT, or Both Exams?
- 2002 Annual Meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Where College-Bound Texas Students Send Their SAT and ACT Scores: Does Race Matter?

### **SELECT INTERVIEWS AND MEDIA MENTIONS**

- Fine, R. (December 18, 2018). Fine arts education matters: how shrinking budgets deepen inequalities. *Oklahoma Policy Institute*, <https://okpolicy.org/fine-arts-education-matters-how-shrinking-budgets-deepen-inequalities/>
- Baxter, A. & Wagner, T. (August 20, 2014). D’oh! FXX will air 522 episodes of The Simpsons. *Marketplace*, <https://www.marketplace.org/2014/08/20/business/doh-fxx-will-air-522-episodes-simpsons>
- Strauss, V. (April 26, 2013). AP program isn’t all it’s cracked up to be – study. *The Washington Post*, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2013/04/26/study-ap-program-isnt-all-its-cracked-up-to-be/?utm\\_term=.7a68dc184bf1](https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/answer-sheet/wp/2013/04/26/study-ap-program-isnt-all-its-cracked-up-to-be/?utm_term=.7a68dc184bf1)
- Hart, A. C. (March 30, 2011). The College Board’s AP program doesn’t make better college students. *The New Republic*, <https://newrepublic.com/article/86089/the-college-boards-ap-program-doesnt-make-better-college-students>
- Matthews, J. (February 28, 2006). As AP expands, studies disagree on its value. *The Washington Post*, <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/02/27/AR2006022701107.html>
- Matthew, J. (July 25, 2006). A teacher takes me on. *The Washington Post*, [http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/07/25/AR2006072500629\\_pf.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2006/07/25/AR2006072500629_pf.html)
- Glenn, D. (January 10, 2005). Admissions Offices Misuse AP data on student transcripts, scholars suggest. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, <https://www.chronicle.com/article/Admissions-Offices-Misuse-AP/120742>

### **SELECT TEACHING ACTIVITIES**

- 2017 Course Developer. University of Northern Colorado, Education Innovation Institute, Graduate Certificate of Applied Causal Evaluation of Policy and Innovation.
- 2017 Invited Presentation. New College at the University of Alabama. Arts Education in Public Schools: An economist’s View of Engagement, Access, and Establishing Causality.
- 2013 Invited Presentation. 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Economics Teaching Workshop at University of North Carolina

Wilmington. Using Active Learning Lessons Developed for High School Students in the College Classroom.

## COURSES TAUGHT

### **Undergraduate**

Economics of Education  
Principles of Macroeconomics (online and traditional)  
Principles of Microeconomics (online and traditional)  
Honors Principles of Microeconomics  
Honors Principles of Macroeconomics  
Economics of Social Issues  
State and Local Public Finance  
Public Finance  
True Maroon First Year Experience

### **Graduate**

Economics of Education (Masters and Ph.D.)  
Economics for Managers (MBA Program)  
State and Local Public Finance (Masters)  
Public Finance (Masters and Ph.D.)  
Economics as a Profession (Ph.D., 1-hour)

## SELECT SERVICE

Chair, Community Engagement Committee, Mississippi State University, 2019-  
Chair, Internal Review Committee, Mathematics and Statistics, Mississippi State University, 2017 - 2018.  
Chair, Strategic Oversight Committee, College of Business, Mississippi State University, 2015 - 2018.  
Institutional Review Board (Consultant). Mississippi State University, 2016 - present.  
Institutional Review Board (Full member). Mississippi State University, 2013 - 2016.  
Faculty Research Advisory Council, Mississippi State University, 2016 -2018  
Presidential Scholars Selection Committee, Mississippi State University, 2014.  
Institutional Review Board (Alternate member). Mississippi State University, 2011 - 2013.  
University Instructional Improvement Committee (Chair). Mississippi State University, 2011 - 2013.  
University Instructional Improvement Committee (Member). Mississippi State University, 2008 - 2013.  
Beta Gamma Sigma Faculty Advisor, Mississippi State University, 2010 - 2013.  
Center for Economic Education and Financial Literacy (CEEFL), Co-Director, Mississippi State University, 2009 to June 2010 Associate Director of Instruction, 2003 - 2009  
Center for Economic Education and Financial Literacy (CEEFL), Associate Director of Instruction, Mississippi State University, 2003 - 2009  
Council of Advisors, Society of Scholars in the Arts & Sciences, Mississippi State University, 2002 - 2018.  
Phi Beta Kappa Application Committee, Mississippi State University. As needed 2003 - 2018.  
Faculty Awards and Scholarship Committee, MSU College of Business, 2009 - 2011.  
Chair, Economics Undergraduate Program Committee, Department of Finance and Economics, Mississippi State University, 2009.  
United Way Committee, College of Business, Mississippi State University, 2008 - 2010.

### **Select Referee Activity**

Southern Economic Journal	Economics of Education Review
Journal of Cultural Economics	Journal of Economic Education
Social Science Quarterly	Eastern Economic Journal
Journal of Economics, Race & Policy	

## HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program Fellow, 2019-20  
Community Engaged Learning Fellow, 2019  
MSU Faculty Leadership Program – William L. Giles Class, 2018-19  
Taylor and Murphy Notable Scholar, Mississippi State University College of Business, 2013  
Coggin Notable Scholar, Mississippi State University College of Business, 2012  
Qualls and Rouse Notable Scholar, Mississippi State University College of Business, 2011  
Beta Gamma Sigma, Mississippi State University, 2010  
Honors Faculty, Mississippi State University, 2008 to present  
Participant, Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, CEMENT, 2004  
University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, Emerging Scholars Program, 2003  
George J. Malanos Economics Doctoral Scholarship, 2000  
Member, Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus, 1996-97

## REFERENCES

Sharon L. Oswald  
Dean of the College of Business  
Mississippi State University  
PO Box 9588  
Mississippi State, MS 39762  
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Dean of Gladys A. Kelce College of Business  
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Barton Institute for Philanthropy and Social Enterprise  
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