

Megan J. Austin

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EDUCATION

- 2017 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Notre Dame
Dissertation: *High School Curricular Intensity: Inequalities in Access and Returns Over Three Decades*
Committee: Mark Berends (chair), Megan Andrew, Sarah Mustillo, Barbara Schneider
Exams: Social Stratification, Sociology of Education (with distinction)
- 2013 M.A., Sociology, University of Notre Dame
Thesis: *A School-Based Perspective on how School Choice Affects Student Outcomes*
Committee: Mark Berends (chair), Amy Langenkamp, Erin McDonnell
- 2008 A.M., University of Chicago, Master of Arts Program in the Humanities
- 2007 B.A., University of Notre Dame, English and American Studies
cum laude, English Department Honors Program

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2017- Researcher, American Institutes for Research
2016- Visiting Scholar, Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Education, Policy, Statistics & Methods, Social Stratification, Organizations

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 **Austin, Megan J.** (Forthcoming). "Organizational and Social Costs of Participating in a Voucher Program." In *School Choice at the Crossroads*, edited by Mark Berends. New York: Routledge.
- 2018 **Austin, Megan J.** and Mark Berends. (Forthcoming). "School Choice and Learning Opportunities." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Education*, edited by Barbara Schneider. New York: Springer.
- 2018 Berends, Mark, R. Joseph Waddington, and **Megan J. Austin**. "Taking Stock of Private School Choice: Lessons Learned from Indiana." *EducationNext* 18(2): Retrieved from <http://educationnext.org/lessons-learned-from-indiana-forum-private-school-choice/>.

- 2017 Berends, Mark and **Megan J. Austin**. "The Promises and Pitfalls of Research-Practice Partnerships." In *Toward a More Perfect Psychology: Improving Trust, Accuracy, and Transparency in Research*, edited by Jonathan Plucker and Matt Makel. Washington, D.C.: American Psychological Association.
- 2015 **Austin, Megan J.** "Schools' Responses to Voucher Policy: Participation Decisions and Early Implementation Experiences in the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program." *Journal of School Choice* 9(3):354-379.
- 2014 Stuit, David, Mark Berends, **Megan J. Austin** and R.D. Gerdeman. "Comparing Estimates of Teacher Value Added Based on Criterion- and Norm-Referenced Tests." Washington, D.C.: National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Institute of Education Sciences, U.S. Dept. of Education.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2014 **Austin, Megan J.** "Why We Need to Consider Variation among Voucher Schools." *AJE Forum*. Retrieved from <http://www.ajeforum.com/?p=654>.
- 2013 Langenkamp, Amy and **Megan J. Austin**. 2013. "Magnet Schools." In *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of Sociology*, Vol. 8. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

*indicates alphabetical or equal authorship

Austin, Megan J., R. Joseph Waddington, and Mark Berends.* "Voucher Pathways and Student Achievement in the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program." *RSF: Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*. Special Issue, "Using Administrative Data for Science and Policy."

Austin, Megan J. and Bryan Mann.* "School Choice and Strategic Action Fields: A New Approach to Theory and Research."

Austin, Megan J. "Measuring High School Curricular Intensity Over Three Decades."

MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

*indicates alphabetical or equal authorship

Austin, Megan J. "Sector Effects and Changes in School Composition."

- **Winner**, 2015 Maureen T. Hallinan Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, Sociology of Education SIG, American Educational Research Association

Austin, Megan J. and Julie Dallavis. "Status Differentiation through Student Track Placement: Race and SES Differences in STEM Identity Formation."

Austin, Megan J. "Maintained Inequality in High School Curricular Intensity during an Era of Educational Expansion."

Austin, Megan J. "Returns to High School Curricular Intensity at Postsecondary Entry: Trends over Three Decades."

Berends, Mark, **Megan J. Austin**, John Schoenig, and R.J. Waddington. *Reforming Education with Vouchers: Early Implementation and Effects in Indiana.*

Berends, Mark, **Megan J. Austin**, and David Stuit. "Comparing Estimates of Teacher Value-Added from Different Test Timing Intervals."

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

2016-17	American Educational Research Association/National Science Foundation Dissertation Grant, \$20,000
2016	National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, Semi-Finalist
2011-16	University Presidential Fellowship, University of Notre Dame, \$129,000
2016	American Dream Summer Grant, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, \$3,500
2015	Conference Presentation Grant, Notre Dame Graduate Student Union
2013	AERA Division G Graduate Student Conference Travel Award
2013	Conference Presentation Grant, Notre Dame Graduate Student Union
2012	Graduate Student Professional Development Award, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts
2012	Notebaert Professional Development Award, University of Notre Dame
2012	Henkels Grant, University of Notre Dame (with Mark Berends), \$15,000
2007	Karla Scherer Scholar, University of Chicago
2003	Notre Dame Scholar, University of Notre Dame
2003	National Merit Scholar

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2016 David L. Clark Fellow and Participant in the 36th Annual David L. Clark National Graduate Student Research Seminar in K-12 Educational Administration and Policy, Washington, D.C., April 7-8, 2016
- 2015 Maureen T. Hallinan Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, AERA Sociology of Education SIG
- 2012-16 Outstanding progress toward degree, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame; Special commendation 2014, 2016

CONFERENCE PAPERS

*indicates alphabetical or equal authorship

- 2018 **Austin, Megan J.** "Maintained and Increasing Inequality in High School Curricular Intensity." Paper to be presented at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, New York, NY, April.
- 2017 **Austin, Megan J.** "Trends in High School Curricular Intensity." Poster presentation in special session, "Promising Research in Education: Dissertation Fellows and their Research," at the American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX, April.
- 2016 **Austin, Megan J.** and Julie Dallavis. "Status Differentiation through Student Track Placement: Race and SES Differences in STEM Identity Formation." Regular Session, American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, August.
- 2016 **Austin, Megan J.** "Changes in High School Curricular Intensity over Time: Measurement, Access, and Returns." Sociology of Education Association Annual Meeting, Asilomar, CA, February.
- 2015 **Austin, Megan J.** "Status Differentiation through Student Track Placement: STEM Identity Formation in Schools with Different Socioeconomic Compositions." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August.
- 2015 McDonnell, Erin, and **Megan J. Austin.** "Death and Taxes: Ethnicity and State Capacities in Health and Revenue." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August.
- 2015 **Austin, Megan J.** and Mark Berends. "Change and Stability in the Curriculum: School Responses to Participating in a Publicly-Funded Voucher Program." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, April.
- 2015 **Austin, Megan J.** "Patterns of School Participation in the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program." International Conference on School Choice and School Reform, Fort Lauderdale, Florida, January.

*Recognized as one of the top papers at the conference

- 2014 **Austin, Megan J.** "Sector Effects Following Changes in Student Composition: The Case of School Vouchers." Midwest Sociology of Education Conference, October.
- 2014 **Austin, Megan J.** "The Role of Schools in Publicly Funded Voucher Programs: Early Implementation Experiences." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, April.
*Paper and symposium received press coverage in *Education Week*
- 2013 **Austin, Megan J.** "A School-Based Perspective on How School Choice Programs Affect Student Outcomes." American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, New York City, August.
- 2013 **Austin, Megan J.,** Mark Berends, and David Stuit.* "School Vouchers in Indiana: A School-Based Perspective on Participation in Indiana's Choice Scholarship Program." American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, April.

INVITED PAPERS/PRESENTATIONS

*indicates alphabetical or equal authorship

- 2018 **Austin, Megan J.,** R. Joseph Waddington, and Mark Berends.* "Voucher Pathways and Student Achievement in the Indiana Choice Scholarship Program." Russell Sage Foundation Conference on Using Administrative Data for Science and Policy, New York, NY, February.
- 2017 Baron, Juliane, **Megan J. Austin,** Amy Li, and Federick Ngo. "Engaging Graduate Students in Education Research Advocacy." AERA Webinar, July.
- 2017 Berends, Mark, R. Joseph Waddington, and **Megan J. Austin.*** "The Indiana Choice Scholarship Program: Participation, Implementation and Impact on Achievement." U.S. Department of Education, Secretary DeVos' staff, Washington, D.C., July.
- 2017 Berends, Mark, R. Joseph Waddington, and **Megan J. Austin.*** "The Indiana Choice Scholarship Program: Participation, Implementation and Impact on Achievement." American Federation for Children Summit, Indianapolis, IN, July.
- 2014 **Austin, Megan J.** "The Role of Schools in Publicly Funded Voucher Programs: Participation Decisions and Early Implementation Experiences." Crossroads of America: The Intersection of Research and Policy in the Indiana School Choice Ecosystem Conference, University of Notre Dame, June.
- 2013 McDonnell, Erin and **Megan J. Austin.** "Of Death and Taxes: Ethnicity and State Capacities in Health and Revenue." Ethnicity and State Capacity Workshop, Harvard University, October.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Mark Berends, Center for Research on Educational Opportunity, University of Notre Dame, 2011-2017

- “School Choice in Indiana: An Examination of Impacts and the Conditions Under Which Choice is Effective.” Funded by the Spencer Foundation at \$999,024 over 3 years (October 2015-September 2018).
- “Complexities of High School Tracking Effects on Inequality across Four Decades of Education Policy Change.”
- “Effects of School Choice in Indiana.” Funded by the Walton Family Foundation at \$299,423 over 2 years (October 2014-September 2016).
- “Examining Catholic School Achievement in Cities Across the United States.” Funded by the Walton Family Foundation at \$1,340,000 over 6 years (June 2009-May 2015).
- “Sensitivity of Teacher Value-Added Results to Different Measures of Student Growth.” Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences at \$250,000 (June 2011-September 2011).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Spring 2016 Instructor, Statistics for Sociological Research (undergraduate major course)
Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame

Fall 2013 Instructor, Graduate Social Statistics Boot Camp
Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame

Fall 2013 Teaching Assistant, Graduate Statistics I, Statistics I Lab (using Stata)
Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame

Guest Lecturer

Senior Honors Research Workshop, Department of Sociology, Notre Dame
Social Inequality in American Education, Department of Sociology, Notre Dame
Education and Society, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota

Training

Striving for Excellence in Teaching Certificate
Advanced Teaching Scholar Certificate (in progress)
Teaching Well Using Technology Certificate (in progress)
Effective and Exciting Teaching in the Humanities and Social Sciences (1 credit hr. course)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Graduate Student Representative, AERA Division L 2015-2017

Student Editorial Board, *American Journal of Education* 2013-2017

Invited Participant, American Academy for the Advancement of Science *Catalyzing Advocacy in Science and Engineering* Workshop

2017

Reviewer, *American Sociological Review*, *American Educational Research Journal*, *Social Forces*, *Sociological Focus*

Reviewer, AERA Annual Meeting: Division L, Division G, Sociology of Education SIG

Reviewer, Maureen T. Hallinan Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, AERA

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE

IRB Consultant for Undergraduate Research, Inst. for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts

Faculty Representative, Department of Sociology

First-Year Graduate Student Mentor, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame

Visit Day Host and Panelist, Department of Sociology, University of Notre Dame

Panelist, Graduate School Information Night, Sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Sociological Association

American Educational Research Association

Alpha Kappa Delta

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Field Experimental Methods

Methods for Causal Inference

Analyzing Longitudinal Data

Survey Design and Implementation

Social Network Analysis