

John H. Billings

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Research Fields: Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics, Microeconomic Theory, Urban Economics

ACADEMICS

University of East Anglia

Norwich, England

PhD in Economics

October 2020 - Anticipated 2026

PhD Dissertation: “Context Dependent Preferences in the Social Domain” (submitted Jan 2026)

Dissertation Chapters:

- “Experimental Study of Context Effects in Social Preferences using the Dictator Game” (JMP; *with Anders Poulsen*)
- “Identifying Opposing Context Effects with Hierarchical Clustering and the McNemar Test”
- “Understanding Context Effects in the Social Domain: Bi- and Uni-directionality”

The University of Arizona

Tucson, Arizona

Graduate studies in Economics

August 2018 - January 2020

First Year Paper: “An Experimental Study of Social Dominance Orientation, Right Wing Authoritarianism, and the Public Goods Game”

Universität Kassel

Kassel, Germany

Master of Science: Economic Behaviour and Governance

October 2016 - July 2018

Master’s Thesis: “Behavioral Consistency Across the Envy and Generosity Games”

Harvard Extension School

Cambridge, MA

Individual Math Courses: MATH 101: Groups, Sets, and Topology

Spring 2016

MATH S-322: Real Analysis for Calculus Teachers

Summer 2016

University of Rochester

Rochester, NY

Bachelor of Arts: Economics and Brain & Cognitive Science; Minor in Mathematics

September 2009-May 2014

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Pro-Housing Pittsburgh

Pittsburgh, PA

Research Chair

January 2025 - present

- Organized Pro-Housing Pittsburgh’s Research Committee to develop reproducible data pipelines for housing policy analysis
- Led data collection, cleaning, and analysis for policy reports using administrative and observational data
- Presented technical research briefings on land value taxation and housing supply constraints
- Coordinated research workflows across a multi-member team, including task assignment, version control, and quality control

Volunteer Researcher

August 2023 - December 2024

- Co-authored “[The Effects of Inclusionary Zoning on New Housing Construction in Pittsburgh](#)” (with David Vatz); led volunteer team that collected and analyzed data for the report
- Authored “[You Can’t Build That Here](#)”, a 15 part series on how zoning constrains housing production in Pittsburgh
- Presented “*Land Value Taxes in Pittsburgh*” - a lecture on the history of tax assessments and Land Value Taxes in Pittsburgh
- Authored blogposts “[Does Pittsburgh really need more housing?](#)”, “[Does ‘filtering’ make housing more affordable?](#)”, “[Houses can touch each other!](#)” and “[Book Review - The Color of Law](#)”
- Co-authored the 7 [policy solutions](#) suggested by Pro-Housing Pittsburgh

Universität Kassel - International Centre for Higher Education Research

Kassel, Germany

Research Assistant in the Economic Policy, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship Group

March 2017 - March 2018

- Conducted literature review on educational impact on employment and wages in Germany; higher education resulted in higher employment and wages, little research conducted on wage and employment effects of post-bachelor degrees
- Wrote R-code scraping German PhD dissertations published online as part of a study on German PhD graduates

Stanford University

Palo Alto, CA

Research Assistant to Professor John Taylor, Hoover Institution

June - August 2013

- Reworked Taylor and Cogan’s 2011 paper on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act using new data
- Collected and analyzed data for work on US cities police pension budgets

University of Rochester

Rochester, NY

Research Assistant to Professor Ben Hayden, Hayden Lab

July 2011 - August 2012

- Experimented on human behavior and neural actions of the ventral medial prefrontal cortex in primates

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching experience includes econometrics labs, mathematical methods for economists, and applied economics courses.

University of East Anglia - Economics Department

Norwich, England

Teaching Assistant

October 2022 - January 2023

- Taught STATA lab sessions for Introductory Econometrics

Teaching Assistant

October 2021 - January 2022

- Held office hours and gave lectures for Introductory Mathematics for Economists

The University of Arizona - Economics Department

Tucson, AZ

Teaching Assistant

August 2018 - December 2019

- Held offices hours for economics courses on Public Finance, Labor Economics
- Grading for Intermediate Macroeconomics, Introduction to Econometrics, Basic Economic Issues
- Head TA for Basic Economic Issues, including overseeing four other TAs and several undergrad preceptors

Finer English

Kassel, Germany

English Tutor

November 2016 - March 2017

- Tutored Germans in English for business applications and formal settings

WORK EXPERIENCE

Heading Home, INC

Boston, MA

Data Associate

December 2015 - August 2016

- Maintain and troubleshoot the ETO database for the family side programs; train employees on how to use ETO
- Analyze data in Excel; write macros to automate most functions; develop efficiency solutions

Research Assistant to Director of Data and Research

October – December 2015

- Performed an economic literature review and comparison of Section 8 and rapid rehousing initiatives
- Worked on a script for ETO data analysis in Python, and another script to search Craigslist for available housing

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Experimental software: oTree

Programming & data: R, Python, Stata, Matlab

Reproducibility: Git, LaTeX, structured data workflows

Data practices: human subjects research, anonymization, IRB-style compliance

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

University of Essex Behavioural Research Workshop - 2025 - "Context Effects in Dictator Games"

Economics Science Association North America - 2024 - "Context Effects in Dictator Games"

CCC - 2023 - "Identifying Opposing Contexts with Hierarchical Clustering and the McNemar Test"

CCC - 2022 - "Context Effects in Dictator Game Giving"

PUBLISHED PAPER (Interdisciplinary)

Billings III, F.T., **Billings, J.H.** and Johnson, M.S. 2019. Climatological Honorary Membership: From Abolition to Immigration.

Transactions of the American Clinical and Climatological Association, 130, p.173.

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6736017/>

REFeree SERVICE

Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics