

Megan J. Austin

Ph.D. Candidate, University of Notre Dame | Visiting Scholar, University of Minnesota
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EDUCATION

2017 Ph.D., Sociology, University of Notre Dame (expected May 2017)
Dissertation: *Academic Preparation for College: Inequalities in Access and Returns to High School Curricular Intensity*
Committee: Mark Berends (chair), Megan Andrew, Sarah Mustillo, Barbara Schneider
Exams: Social Stratification, Sociology of Education (with distinction)

Visiting Scholar, Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota, 2016-17

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

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Sociology of Education, Social Stratification and Mobility, Statistics & Methods, Organizations

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

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

Training

Advanced Teaching Scholar Certificate (in progress)

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

PUBLICATIONS

- 2017 **Austin, Megan J.** and Mark Berends. (Forthcoming). "School Choice and School Partnerships." In *Handbook of the Sociology of Education*, edited by Barbara Schneider. New York: Springer.
- 2017 Berends, Mark and **Megan J. Austin.** (Forthcoming). "The Promises and Pitfalls of Research-Practice Partnerships." In *Doing Good Social Science: Trust, Accuracy, Transparency*, 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.
- 2014 **Austin, Megan J.** "Why We Need to Consider Variation among Voucher Schools." *AJE Forum*. Retrieved March 20, 2014 (<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 IN PREPARATION

*indicates alphabetical 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.** and Bryan Mann.* "School Choice and Strategic Action Fields: A New Approach to Theory and Research."
- Berends, Mark, **Megan J. Austin**, John Schoenig, and R.J. Waddington. *Reforming Education with Vouchers: Early Implementation and Effects in Indiana*.

Austin, Megan J. “The Role of Schools in Publicly Funded Voucher Programs: Participation Decisions and Early Implementation Experiences.” In *School Choice at the Crossroads*, edited by Mark Berends.

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

McDonnell, Erin and **Megan J. Austin**. “Ethnic Diversity and Fiscal State Capacity.”

McDonnell, Erin and **Megan J. Austin**. “Ethnic Diversity and Health Capacity.”

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 authorship

- 2017 **Austin, Megan J.** "Measuring High School Curricular Intensity." Paper to be presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, Montréal, Canada, August.
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

*i indicates alphabetical authorship

- 2014 **Austin, Megan J.** "The Role of Schools in Publicly Funded Voucher Programs: Participation Decisions and Early Implementation Experiences." *Invited presenter*, "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." *Invited Participant*, Ethnicity and State Capacity Workshop, Harvard University, October.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND AFFILIATIONS

Senior Graduate Student Representative, AERA Division L 2016-2017
 Junior Graduate Student Representative, AERA Division L 2015-2016

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

Reviewer, *American Sociological Review*, *Social Forces*, *American Educational Research Journal*, *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 2015-

Faculty Representative, Department of Sociology 2014-15

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

Social Science History Association

Alpha Kappa Delta

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Social Network Analysis short course, Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan, Summer 2012.

Field Experimental Methods

Methods for Causal Inference

REFERENCES

References available upon request.