

**Brendan O'Flaherty**  
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### Employment

2005-now                      Professor of economics, Columbia University

Summer 2006                Acting Director of Finance/Treasurer/Chief Financial Officer, City of Newark, New Jersey. Responsible for the financial affairs of the largest city in New Jersey with an annual budget of about \$900 million.

2002-05, 1993-96        Associate professor, Department of Economics.

1996-2002                Associate professor, Department of Economics and Department of International and Public Affairs.

1987-1992                Assistant professor, Department of Economics

1987                        Associate research scholar, Department of Economics

1979-1986                Legislative aide, State Senator John P. Caufield

1986                        Adjunct instructor, New Jersey Institute of Technology

1985-1986                Aide to mayor, Newark. Assisted mayor in all areas of city government, with particular emphasis on financial, regulatory, and economic areas. Responsible for University Heights plan and negotiations on reform of city pension system. Handled constituent problems. Established property tax revaluation advisory committee. Served as acting zoning officer.

1983-1985                Consultant, Newark Police Department. Devised schedules of duty tours.

1982-1983                Special lecturer, New Jersey Institute of Technology

1971-1981                Assistant to director, Newark employment and training programs. Devised financial and program plans. Acted as liaison with federal officials and municipal council. Served at times as acting director. Prepared grant documents and state and municipal legislation. Established management information system. Wrote bidding specifications and contracts and chaired contract review committee.

### Other experience

Adviser, Newark Water Group, 2010-now.

Member, Newark City Council Budget Working Group, 2010.

Weimer fellow, Homer Hoyt Institute for Advanced Studies, 2006.

Research Advisory Board, New York City Department of Homeless Services, since 2004.

Board of Directors, Newark Emergency Services for Families, since 2000.  
Executive committee, since 2004; vice president since 2007.

Board of trustees, Newark History Society, since 2001.

Technical advisory committee, New York City Department of City Planning, Division of Transportation, 1998.

Best adviser award, Columbia Association of Graduate Economics Students, 1998 and 2007.

Board of directors, Unified Vailsburg Services Organization, since 1991.  
Secretary of corporation since 2003.

President, Vailsburg Block Association Council, 1991-1993.

Co-founder and newsletter editor, Newark Fair Taxation Committee, 1986-1994. A citizens organization that opposed tax abatement extensions and use of public funds for private projects, sometimes successfully.

Winner, Columbia economics department T-shirt design contest, 1989.

Co-chair, West Ward Democratic Committee and member, executive committee, Essex County Democratic Committee, 1980-1987. Organized campaigns and elections in the West Ward of Newark; recommended members of district boards of elections; recruited and managed election campaigns for between 78 and 84 district leaders each year; re-elected six times; retired undefeated.

Unsuccessful candidate for State Senate, district 28, 1986.

New Jersey Property Tax Assessment Study Commission, 1984-1986.

Campaign manager and campaign treasurer for State Senator John P. Caufield, 1979-1986.

Experienced ultramarathon runner with best times of 17:27 (100 miles) and 6:50 (50 miles).

## Education

Harvard University, Ph.D., 1980; A.B., 1973.

## Publications

### *Homelessness and housing policy*

"How New York and Los Angeles housing policies are different—and maybe why," with Ingrid Gould Ellen, 2013. In: David Halle and Andrew A. Beveridge, editors, *New York and Los Angeles: The Uncertain Future*, pp. 286-309. New York: Oxford University Press.

"Individual homelessness: Entries, exits, and policy," 2012, *Journal of Housing Economics* 21(2): 77-100.

"Housing allowances and homelessness: A simple idea," 2012, University of Calgary, School of Public Policy Research Papers, volume 5, issue 2.

Review of *Homelessness, Housing, and Mental Illness*, by Russell K. Schutt, 2012, in *Political Science Quarterly* 127(1): 169-71.

"Homelessness: Economic perspectives," 2012. In: Susan J. Smith, Marja Elsinga, Lorna Fox O'Mahony, Ong Seow Eng, Susan Wachter, editors. *International Encyclopedia of Housing and Home*, Volume 2, pp. 37-41. Oxford: Elsevier.

"Rental housing assistance for the 21<sup>st</sup> century," 2011, *Cityscape* 13(2): 127-146.

*How to House the Homeless*. Co-editor, with Ingrid Gould Ellen. 2010. New York: Russell Sage.

Within this book:

"Introduction," with Ingrid Gould Ellen.

"Homelessness as bad luck: Implications for research and practice."

"Is shared housing a way to reduce homelessness? The effect of household arrangements on formerly homeless people," 2010, with Yinghua He and Robert Rosenheck, *Journal of Housing Economics* 19 (1): 1-12.

"Homeless prevention," with Jocelyn Apicello and William McAllister, forthcoming, *Encyclopedia of Housing and Home*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

"Homelessness in the United States," 2011, *Handbook of Urban Economics and Planning*, Oxford University Press.

"When should homeless families get subsidized apartments?" 2009, *Journal of Housing Economics* 18 (2): 69-80.

"Homeless shelters for single adults: Why does their population change?" with Ting Wu, 2008, *Social Service Review* 82 (3): 511-50.

"Do government programs make households too small? Evidence from New York City," with Ingrid Gould Ellen, 2007, *Population Research and Policy Review* 26 (4): 387-409.

"Fewer subsidized exits and a recession: How New York City's family homeless shelter population became immense," with Ting Wu, 2006, *Journal of Housing Economics* 15 (2): 99-125.

"Wrong person and wrong place: For homelessness, the conjunction is what matters," 2004, *Journal of Housing Economics* 13 (1): 1-15.

"Need and generosity: How markets for free goods equilibrate," 2003, *Journal of Urban Economics* 54 (1): 157-72

"Do homeless shelter conditions determine shelter population? The case of the Dinkins deluge," 1999, with Michael Cragg, *Journal of Urban Economics* 46: 377-415.

"The form of U.S. in-kind programs," 1999, *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 15: 401-17.

*Making Room: The Economics of Homelessness.* Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1996. Chosen by Association of American Publishers as the best economics book of 1996.

"An economic theory of housing and homelessness," 1995, *Journal of Housing Economics* 4: 13-49.

"Measuring the economics of homelessness," *SIPA News* 7: 3.

### *Crime*

"Homicide in black and white," 2010, with Rajiv Sethi, *Journal of Urban Economics* 68 (3): 215-30.

"The racial geography of street vice," 2010, with Rajiv Sethi, *Journal of Urban Economics* 67 (3): 270-86.

"Peaceable kingdoms and war zones: Preemption, ballistics, and murder in Newark," with Rajiv Sethi, 2010, in *Crime Economics: Lessons for Latin America*, edited by Rafael Di Tella, Sebastian Edwards and Ernesto Schargrodsky. NBER and University of Chicago Press.

"Witness intimidation," with Rajiv Sethi, 2010, *Journal of Legal Studies* 39 (2): 399-432.

"Why have robberies become less frequent but more violent?" with Rajiv Sethi, 2009, *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization* 25 (2): 518-34.

"Public outrage and criminal justice: Lessons from the Jessica Lal case," with Rajiv Sethi, 2009, in Bhaskar Dutta, Tridip Ray, and E. Somanathan, eds., *New and Enduring Themes in Development Economics*, World Scientific.

"Racial stereotypes and robbery," with Rajiv Sethi, 2008, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 68 (3-4): 511-524.

"Crime and segregation," with Rajiv Sethi, 2007, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 64 (3-4): 391-405.

"Drugs, race, and technology: Winning the war on bad drugs," with Vanita Gowda, 2004. In David Colander, Robert Prasch, and Falguni Sheth, editors, *Racism, Liberalism, and Economics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

"Why repeated criminal opportunities matter: A dynamic stochastic analysis of criminal decision-making," 1998, *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 14: 232-55.

### *Other urban economics*

*City Economics*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2005.

"Sprawl in New Jersey: A comprehensive approach," 2005, Hall Institute for Public Policy white paper. Reprinted in Michael P. Riccards, editor, *The State of the Garden State*. Trenton: Hall Institute.

"Land assembly and urban renewal," 1994, *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 24: 287-300.

"Abandoned buildings: A stochastic analysis," 1993, *Journal of Urban Economics* 34: 43-74.

"The option value of tax delinquency: Theory," 1990, *Journal of Urban Economics* 28: 287-317.

### *Political economy*

"Representatives and districts," 2000, *Social Choice and Welfare* 17: 157-78.

"Special districts: Federalism as soap opera," 1999. In Eamon O'Shea and Michael Keane, editors, *Core Issues in European Integration*, 227-44. Dublin: Oak Tree Press.

"Does free trade with political science put normative economists out of work?" with Jagdish Bhagwati, 1997, *Economics and Politics* 9. Reprinted in Kaushik Basu, editor, *Readings in Political Economy*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.

Review of *Of Time and Power*, 1992. In *Economics and Politics* 4: 109-115.

"Why are there democracies? A principal-agent answer," 1990, *Economics and Politics* 2: 133-55.

"The care and handling of monetary authorities," 1990, *Economics and Politics* 2: 25-44.

### *Labor*

"Turnover reflects specific training better than wages do," with Lalith Munasinghe, 2005, *Journal of Labor Economics* (April).

"Up-or-out rules in the market for lawyers," with Aloysius Siow, 1995, *Journal of Labor Economics* 13: 709-35.

"On-the-job screening, up-or-out rules, and firm growth," with Aloysius Siow, 1992, *Canadian Journal of Economics* 25: 346-68.

"Promotion lotteries," with Aloysius Siow, 1991, *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 7: 401-09.

### *Newark*

"Booker's water plans have dried up," 2012, op-ed, *The Star-Ledger*, March 13, page 11.

"Fixing Newark: What to Cut and What to Tax," 2012, with Robert Curvin and Richard Cammarieri, op-ed, *The Star-Ledger*, June 15.

"Hog Wild: An Analysis of the Newark Watershed Conservation and Development Corporation," 2012, Newark Water Group.

"The Newark budget debacle: What happens next?" 2010, Hall Institute white paper, Trenton.

"Eminent domain, land sales, and tax abatement: A soft-core Georgist perspective on local economic development policies," 2007, Hall Institute white paper, Trenton.

"After the first of July: Looking beyond the Newark municipal elections," 2006, white paper, Hall Institute for Public Policy. Reprinted in Michael P. Riccards, editor, *The State of the Garden State*. Trenton: Hall Institute.

"Citizens' guide to the City of Newark budget," 2002, pamphlet produced for the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Newark.

"Citizens' guide to the County of Essex budget," 2002, pamphlet produced for the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, Newark.

"Newark's failing economic policies," 2000, *The Star-Ledger*, June 4: Perspectives section, p. 3.

"A comparison of the Newark Employees' Retirement System and the Public Employees Retirement System," 1990, booklet prepared for the Newark Employees Retirement System members.

"New tax break would hurt Newark," *New York Times*, New Jersey section, September 6, 1987.

#### *Other topics*

"Preserving liberal arts education: A futile endeavor," 2009, pp. 157-162 in David Colander and KimMarie McGoldrick, eds., *Educating Economists: The Teagle Discussion on Re-Evaluating the Undergraduate Economics Major*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar.

"Needle sharing and HIV transmission: A model with markets and purposive behavior," with David Bloom and Ajay Mahal, National Bureau of Economic Research working paper 14823, 2009.

"Economic perspectives on injecting drug use," 2005, with David Bloom and Ajay Mahal. In Bjorn Lindgren and Michael Grossman, editors, *Substance Use: Individual Behaviour, Social Interactions, Markets and Politics*. Amsterdam: Elsevier.

"Apes, essences, and races: What natural scientists believed about human variation, 1700-1900," with Jill Shapiro, 2004. In David Colander, Robert Prasch, and Falguni Sheth, editors, *Racism, Liberalism, and Economics*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

"Professors who defend tenure: Are they hypocrites?" with Jagdish Bhagwati, 2001, *Chronicle of Higher Education* (October 5): B24.

"Technical progress, globalization, and speed of change: What track and field records show," with Lalith Munasinghe and Stephen Danninger, 2001, *Journal of Political Economy* 109: 1132-49.

"Queens ultra endurance street tour," 1996, *Ultrarunning*: March.

"Comment on chapter 7," 1994. In Michael A.S. Guth, *Speculative Behavior and the Operation of Competitive Markets under Uncertainty*. Aldershot, U.K.: Avebury.

"A game-theoretic rendering of threats and promises," with Daniel Klein, 1993, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 21: 295-314.

"Going beyond with Bayesian updating," with Judith Komaki, 1992, *Journal of Applied Behavioral Analysis* 25: 585-97.

"The Brooklyn-Queens experience," 1989, *Ultrarunning*: December.

"Some results on two-armed bandits when both projects vary," 1989, *Journal of Applied Probability* 26: 655-58.

"Potential Pareto optimality of risky projects," 1986, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 51: 648-52.

*Rational Commitment: A Foundation for Macroeconomics*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1985.

### **Works in progress and working papers**

"Does homelessness prevention work? An evaluation of New York City's HomeBase Program," with Peter Messeri and Sarena Goodman, revise and resubmit at *American Journal of Public Health*."

"Nonparametric analysis of nonstationary distributions using rank-order information," with Tackseung Jun and Lalith Munasinghe.

"Using rank-order information to measure changes in the frequency of extreme events," with Tackseung Jun and Lalith Munasinghe, submitted to *Journal of Nonparametric Statistics*.



Economics of Race in the United States. Monograph under contract with Harvard University Press.

"Urban crime," with Rajiv Sethi, chapter in Handbook of Urban and Regional Economics.

"Troubled transactions and their consequences: Race in the United States."

"Drugs, race, and American neighborhoods," with Rajiv Sethi.

### **Courses taught**

#### *Undergraduate:*

- Principles of economics
- Urban economics
- Economics of race in the United States
- Public economics

#### *Masters in Public Administration*

- Microeconomics
- Microeconomics and policy analysis
- Policy analysis (part semester, Tsinghua University, Beijing)

#### *Program in Economic Policy Management*

- Microeconomics
- Urban economic development (co-taught with Professor Kenneth T. Jackson)

#### *Ph.D.*

- Economics of information
- Urban economics
- Public finance

### **Academic activities**

Director of graduate studies, Economics Department, 2003-2006, 2009 to now.

Vice chair, Economics Department, 2010 to 2012.

Placement chair, Economics Department, 1996, 1997, 1999, 2002.

Director, Graduate Program in Public Policy and Administration, 1998-2001.

Chair, SIPA Committee on Instruction, 2000-2001.

Member, Educational Policy and Planning Committee, Arts and Sciences, 2012 to now. Subcommittee on Frontiers of Science review.

Elected member, University Senate, 2011 to now. Smoking Task Force and Honors and Prizes Committee.

Elected member, Executive Committee of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences, 1997-2000.

Chair, Economics Graduate Admissions Committee, 1990, 1992, 1993.

Departmental representative, economics and philosophy, 1991-2001.

Co-editor, *Economics and Politics*, 1993-98; managing editor, 1991-93. Member of editorial board, *Journal of Housing Economics*, 2009 to now.

Referee for many journals including: *American Economic Review*; *American Journal of Psychiatry*; *Agenda: A Journal of Policy and Reform*; *American Political Science Review*; *China Economic Review*; *Econometrica*; *Economic Inquiry*; *Economic Journal*; *Economics and Politics*; *European Economic Review*; *Housing Policy Debate*; *International Economic Review*; *Journal of Actuarial Practice*; *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*; *Journal of Economic Geography*; *Journal of Housing Economics*; *Journal of Japanese and International Economics*; *Journal of Labor Economics*; *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*; *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*; *Journal of Political Economy*; *Journal of Public Economics*; *Journal of Regional Science*; *Journal of the American Planning Association*; *Journal of Urban Economics*; *National Tax Journal*; *Quarterly Journal of Economics*; *Regional Science and Urban Economics*; *Review of Economic Studies*; *State and Local Government Review*; *Urban Studies*.

Referee for Columbia University Press, Harvard University Press, Princeton University Press, and Russell Sage Foundation Press.