

Travis St.Clair

New York University, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
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Academic Positions

New York University

2020- Associate Professor, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service
2017-20 Assistant Professor, Wagner Graduate School of Public Service

University of Maryland

2013-17 Assistant Professor, School of Public Policy
2015-17 Faculty Affiliate, Center for Philanthropy and Nonprofit Leadership

Northwestern University

2012-13 Post-doctoral Fellow, Institute for Policy Research

Education

George Washington University

2012 PhD, Public Policy and Public Administration

Harvard University

2007 EdM, Graduate School of Education
2001 BA, Chemistry, *Magna Cum Laude*

Research Interests

Public financial management, state and local finance, government and nonprofit accounting, government budgeting, public pensions, program evaluation.

Journal Articles

1. “Fiscal Stimulus or Debt Relief: The Effect of Federal Pandemic Aid on State and Local Pensions,” with Grace Brang and Sewin Chan. Forthcoming, *National Tax Journal*.
2. “Tax Expenditures as Tools for State-Level Climate Action in the U.S.,” with Elisabeth Gilmore. Forthcoming, *Climate Policy*.
3. “Nonprofit Revenue Portfolios and Exposure to Business Cycle Risk,” with Elizabeth Searing. *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly*, 2025, 54(6), 1397-1419.

4. "The Fiscal Effects of Immigration on Local Governments: Revisiting the Mariel Boatlift." *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 2024, 109: 104053.
 - ▷ Coverage: NYU News
5. "The Supply Elasticity of Municipal Debt: Evidence from Bank-Qualified Bonds." *National Tax Journal*, 2024, 77(1): 111-139.
6. "Climate Change Will Increase Local Government Fiscal Stress in the U.S.," with Elisabeth Gilmore and Carolyn Kousky. *Nature Climate Change*, Comment, 2022, 12: 216-218.
7. "Pension Reform and Self-Employment in Latin America," with Juan Pablo Martinez Guzman. *Review of Development Economics*, 2021, 25(4): 2230-2254.
8. "Balance Sheet Insolvency and Contribution Revenue in Public Charities," with Tatiana Homonoff and Luke Spreen. *Journal of Public Economics*, 2020, 186: 104177. Earlier version available as NBER Working Paper No. 26546.
9. "Beyond Spending Levels: Revenue Uncertainty and the Performance of Local Governments," with Stephane Lavertu. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 2018, 106: 59-80.
10. "Contribution Volatility and Public Pension Reform," with Juan Pablo Martinez Guzman. *Journal of Pension Economics and Finance*, 2018, 17(4): 513-533.
11. "Budgeting for Climate Change: Obstacles and Opportunities at the US State Level," with Elisabeth Gilmore. *Climate Policy*, 2018, 18(6): 729-741.
 - ▷ Coverage: Fivethirtyeight
12. "How Do Nonprofits Respond to Regulatory Thresholds: Evidence from New York's Audit Requirements." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2016, 35(4): 772-790.
13. "The Validity and Precision of the Comparative Interrupted Time Series Design: Three Within-Study Comparisons," with Kelly Hallberg and Thomas D. Cook. *Journal of Educational and Behavioral Statistics*, 2016, 41(3): 269-299.
14. "Difference-in-Differences Methods in Public Finance," with Thomas D. Cook. *National Tax Journal*, 2015, 68(2): 319-338.
15. "Examining the Internal Validity and Statistical Precision of the Comparative Interrupted Time Series Design by Comparison with a Randomized Experiment," with Kelly Hallberg and Thomas D. Cook. *American Journal of Evaluation*, 2014, 35(3): 311-327.

16. "The Impact of Budget Stabilization Funds on State Pension Contributions." *Public Budgeting & Finance*, 2013, 33(3), 55-74.
17. "The 'Own Children' Fertility Estimation Procedure: A Reappraisal," with Chris Avery, Michael Levin, and Kenneth Hill. *Population Studies*, 2013, 67(2): 171-183.
18. "The Effect of Tax and Expenditure Limitations on Revenue Volatility: Evidence from Colorado." *Public Budgeting & Finance*, 2012, 32(3), 61-78.

Working Papers

19. "The Fiscal Consequences of Special District Consolidation: Evidence from California."
20. "Determinants of State and Local Capital Investment."

Work-in-Progress

21. "Retirement Benefits and the Heterogeneous Impacts of Health Shocks On Older Workers," with Grace Brang and Sewin Chan.

Books

22. *Coping with Economic Adversity: Regional Economic Resilience and Public Policy*, with Hal Wolman, Howard Wial, and Ned Hill. Cornell University Press, 2017.
 - ▷ Coverage: New York Times (Economic Scene), Journal of the American Planning Association, Journal of Urban Affairs, Planning magazine, Choice, SSTI

Book Chapters

23. "Future Directions for Research in Public Expenditure Management." In Dzigbede & Hildreth (eds.), *Research Handbook in Public Financial Management*, 2023, Edward Elgar Publishing: London, United Kingdom.
24. "Economic Shocks and Regional Economic Resilience," with Edward Hill, Howard Wial, Harold Wolman, Patricia Atkins, Pamela Blumenthal, Sarah Ficenec, and Alec Friedhof. In Weir, Pindus, Wial, & Wolman (eds.) *Urban and Regional Policy and Its Effects*, Vol. 4, 2012, Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.

25. "Forces Affecting City Population Growth or Decline: The Effects of Inter-Regional and Inter-Municipal Competition," with Edward Hill, Harold Wolman, and Katherine Kowalczyk. In Alan Mallach (ed.) *Rebuilding America's Legacy Cities: New Directions for the Industrial Heartland*, 2012, New York: American Assembly.

Other Publications

26. "What Prevents Local Governments from Managing Their Finances More Effectively?" Pro-Market Municipal Finance Series, June 2024,
www.promarket.org/2024/06/03/what-prevents-local-governments-from-managing-their-finances-more-effectively/
27. "Climate Change Risk and the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System," with Matthew Binsted, Nathan Hultman, Wes L. Hanson, and Alan Miller. Center for Global Sustainability, 2017.
 - ▷ Coverage: Maryland Daily Record, Acclimatise
28. "Responding to Manufacturing Job Loss: What Can Economic Development Policy Do?" with Patricia Atkins, Pamela Blumenthal, Leah Curran, Adrienne Edisis, Alec Friedhoff, Lisa Lowry, Howard Wial, and Harold Wolman. Brookings Institution, Metro Economy Series for the Metropolitan Policy Program, 2011.

Conferences and Presentations (Last Five Years)

- 2025 National Tax Association, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management
- 2024 University of Kentucky Martin School, Public Finance and Budgeting Northeast Workshop, National Tax Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management
- 2023 National Tax Association, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management, Spring Public Finance (ABFM)
- 2022 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management
- 2021 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Association for Budgeting and Financial Management

Professional Activities

Affiliations

Association for Budgeting and Financial Management (ABFM)
National Tax Association (NTA)
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

Manuscript Review

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics; American Educational Research Journal; Applied Economics Letters; Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory; B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy; Cities; Climate Policy; CQ Press/Sage; Economic Development Quarterly; Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; Educational Researcher; Evaluation Review; Journal of Environmental Policy & Planning; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting, & Financial Management; Municipal Finance Journal; National Tax Journal; Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly; Public Administration Review; Public Budgeting & Finance; Public Finance Review; Public Management Review; Publius: The Journal of Federalism; Review of Development Economics; Routledge; Scientific Reports; Urban Affairs Review

Committees (External)

APPAM Kershaw Award Nomination Committee, 2024-2025
ABFM Curro Award Selection Committee, 2022
Advisory Committee to ABFM's GASB/GASAC representative, 2018
APPAM Conference, Public Management subcommittee, 2018-2019, 2020-2021 (Co-chair)
National Tax Association (NTA) Conference, Program committee, 2021

Advising

Dissertation Committees

(First placement in parentheses)
Kaitlyn O'Hagan (NYC Independent Budget Office)
Anu Gupta (National University of Singapore)
Sally Abd El-Moez (Cairo University)
Juan Pablo Martinez Guzman (Univ. of Maryland)

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

2018 Wagner New Research Support Grant
2012-13 Northwestern University, Post-Doctoral Fellowship
2008-12 George Washington University, Selective Excellence Graduate Student Fellowship

Other Professional Employment

2016-17 Mathematica, Consultant
2009 World Bank, Consultant

Teaching

New York University

Financial Management (MPA)
Financial Management II (MPA)
Government Budgeting (MPA)
Cost-Benefit Analysis (MPA)

University of Maryland

Public Budgeting & Financial Management (MPP)
State, Local, and Nonprofit Financial Management (MPP)
Advanced Quantitative Methods (PhD)