

Christopher Erwin

Address: 3 Half Moon Rise, Half Moon Bay, Auckland 2012, New Zealand

Phone: +64 027 545 7774

Email: chrisperwin@gmail.com

Online: www.christophererwin.com

Citizenship: United States; Permanent Resident: New Zealand

Employment (Previous 10 Years)

Fellow, Koi Tū Centre for Informed Futures, 2025 - Present

Research Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico (UNM), 2024 - Present

Analyst, Workforce Development Council (Muka Tangata), 2024 - 2025

Lecturer, School of Economics, Auckland University of Technology (AUT), 2022 – 2023

Research Fellow, New Zealand Work Research Institute, AUT, 2018 – 2023

Analyst, Center for Education Policy Research, UNM, 2012 – 2018

Analyst, Labor and Economic Dev. Committee, NM House of Representatives, 2017 – 18

Statistician, Robert Wood Johnson Center for Health Policy, UNM, 2013 – 2016

Volunteerism

Auckland Land Search and Rescue, Inc. (LandSAR), 2023 – Present

Education

Ph.D. Economics, UNM, 2018

M.A. Economics, UNM, 2014

M.A. Economics, California State University, Fullerton, 2011

B.S. (Honors) Economics, Arizona State University, 2006

Certificate: AI Software Development, IBM, 2025

Research Fields

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education

Working Papers

“The dynamic victim-offender overlap: Evidence from administrative data,” *under review*, with Juliane Hennecke, Lisa Meehan, and Gail Pacheco.

Using population-level New Zealand police data, this paper examines whether victim–offender overlap reflects stable individual differences or short-run state dependence.

Distributed-lag panel models reveal bidirectional effects: offending raises near-term victimization risk and victimization raises subsequent offending, with effects strongest contemporaneously and decaying over time.

“Do cross-sectional estimates measure migrant earnings assimilation? Evidence from linked longitudinal data,” with Marco Paccagnella.

How well do cross-sectional estimates recover immigrants’ actual earnings trajectories? Combining international PIAAC data with longitudinal New Zealand administrative records, we show that recent immigrants’ earnings grow substantially faster than cross-sectional profiles imply. Selective emigration, observable composition, and measured literacy and numeracy do not account for the gap.

“Wage effects of baccalaureate time to degree in the United States,” with Xiaoxue Li and Melissa Binder.

Using nationally representative U.S. longitudinal data, this paper examines whether delayed bachelor’s degree completion depresses early-career wages. Instrumental-variable estimates addressing endogenous time to degree find no wage penalty, challenging signaling-based interpretations and suggesting that longer completion paths can be consistent with rational human-capital investment.

“Education and the returns to work experience,” with Ishari Madukala.

Using population-scale New Zealand administrative data, this paper examines how actual work experience shapes education-related earnings gaps. Linked worker–firm histories distinguish human-capital accumulation from employer tenure, industry tenure, employment continuity, job mobility, and firm sorting, revealing whether experience substitutes for formal education or instead amplifies its labor-market returns.

“When violence becomes visible: Family and sexual violence around pregnancy across New Zealand’s administrative systems,” with Felicia Low and Annalise Higgins.

This paper examines how family and sexual violence around pregnancy becomes visible across health, justice, and family-service systems using linked administrative data. It maps timing and cross-system overlap in recorded victimization and shows how administrative visibility varies across intersecting age, ethnicity, and socioeconomic social locations.

Journal Articles

“Structural Inequities in Adult Literacy and Numeracy Through an Intersectional Lens,” *forthcoming*, with Gemma Piercy, William Cochran, Arianna Nisa-Waller, and Nancy López.

“Understanding Inequity in Graduation Rates at Hispanic-Serving Institutions (HSIs): An Intersectional Analysis by Race, Gender, and First-Generation College Status,” with Nancy López, E. Diane Torres-Velásquez, and Cynthia Wise, *Social Sciences*, 2026.

“Dynamic relationships between criminal offending and victimization,” with Juliane Hennecke, Lisa Meehan, and Gail Pacheco, *IZA Discussion Paper 15757*, 2022.

“Devil in the details: identifying the unbiased link between access to alcohol and criminal behavior,” with Kabir Dasgupta and Alexander Plum, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 2022.

- “The effectiveness of sinking lid policies in reducing problem gambling expenditure,” with Gail Pacheco and Alexandra Turcu, *Journal of Gambling Studies*, 2022.
- “Performance-based aid, enhanced advising, and the income gap in college graduation: evidence from a randomized controlled trial.” with Melissa Binder, Cynthia Miller, and Kate Krause, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 2021.
- “Does broad-based merit aid improve college completion? Evidence from New Mexico’s lottery scholarship,” with Melissa Binder, *Education Finance and Policy*, 2020.
- “Making the invisible visible: advancing quantitative methods in higher education using critical race theory and intersectionality,” with Nancy López, Melissa Binder, and Mario Chavez, *Race Ethnicity and Education*, 2018.

Books and Book Chapters

- “Quantitative Intersectionality: A Guide to Using Quant Research for Justice and Systemic Change,” Routledge, *under contract*.
- Quantitative Intersectionality* translates Critical Race Theory and intersectionality into applied quantitative research. Using reproducible R and Stata examples, the book integrates critical reflexivity with measurement, modeling, interpretation, and visualization to examine structural inequality and develop transparent, accountable, and policy-relevant quantitative practice.
- “Making the invisible visible: advancing quantitative methods in higher education using critical race theory and intersectionality,” in “QuantCrit: An Antiracist Quantitative Approach to Educational Inquiry,” edited by N. Garcia, N. López, and V. Vélez, Taylor & Francis, 2023.

Other Publications

- Lala, G., Erwin, C., & Gluckman, P. (2026). Moving in parallel: Data, AI and governance, *Koi Tū Centre for Informed Futures*.
- Gluckman, P. & Erwin, C. (2026) Shortsightedness has had a productivity cost, *Koi Tū Centre for Informed Futures*.
- Erwin, C. (2026). In an unsettled world, boring might be brilliant, *Koi Tū Centre for Informed Futures*.
- Lala, G., Erwin, C., Spoonley, P., & Gluckman, P. (2026). Submission for Data and Statistics (Census Amendment Bill), *Justice Committee, New Zealand Parliament*.
- Gluckman, P. & Erwin, C. (2026). Staying an advanced nation: foresight, not hindsight, is needed, *Koi Tū Centre for Informed Futures*.
- Erwin, C. (2026). Productivity– there is a solution, *Koi Tū Centre for Informed Futures*.
- Gluckman, P. & Erwin, C. (2026). Govt must look beyond political gains in R&D reform, *BusinessDesk*.
- Plum, A., Erwin, C., & Dasgupta, K. (2022). Has lowering the drinking age caused more crime? Despite ongoing concern, the evidence isn’t clear cut, *The Conversation*.
- Erwin, C., Pacheco, G., & Turcu, A. (2022). A comparison of sinking lid policies and other

policy responses in reducing gambling availability and spending. Snapshot Summaries. Gambling Research Exchange Ontario.

Cochrane, W., Erwin, C., Furness, J., Hedges, M., Masters-Awatere, B., Meehan, L., Ofe-Grant, B., Piercy-Cameron, G., & Rua, M. (2020). Adult literacy and numeracy in Aotearoa New Zealand: Context, conceptual issues and existing evidence. NZ Work Research Institute. Auckland, NZ.

Erwin, C., Meehan, L., Pacheco, G. & Turcu, A.. (2020). An empirical portrait of New Zealand adults living with low literacy and numeracy skills. NZ Work Research Institute. Auckland, NZ.

Erwin, C., Lees, K., Pacheco, G. & Turcu, A. (2020) Capping gambling in NZ: The effectiveness of local government policy intervention. Prepared for the Ministry of Health.

Erwin, C., Dasgupta, K., & Pacheco, G. (2019). Characterising New Zealand's underutilised workforce: Evidence from the Household Labour Force Survey. Prepared for the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment.

Teaching Experience

Lecturer, Economics for Business Managers, AUT, Spring 2023

Lecturer, Economic Policy Evaluation, AUT, Spring 2023

Lecturer, Economics for Business Managers, AUT, Fall 2023

Lecturer, Capstone in Economics, AUT, Summer 2022

Lecturer, Economic Policy Evaluation, AUT, Spring 2022

Instructor of Record, Mathematics for Economists, UNM, Fall 2015

Instructor of Record, Intermediate Microeconomics, UNM, Summer 2015

Instructor of Record, Mathematics for Economists, UNM, Spring 2015

Supervision / Examiner

F. Hazri, BBus (Hons), Economics, AUT, 2023

P. Hunter, MBus, Economics, AUT, 2023

I. Madukala, Ph.D., Economics, AUT, 2022 - 2026

A. Turcu, MBus. Economics, AUT, 2021

K. Chandradevan, BBus (Hons), Economics, AUT, 2020

Awards

Falling Walls Lab New Zealand, Finalist, Royal Society, 2023

Business Research Translation Award, Overall Runner-Up, AUT, 2022

Research Team Excellence, AUT, 2020

Graduate Student Excellence Award, UNM, 2018

Gerald Boyle Memorial Prize in Public Economics, UNM, 2016

Conferences and Seminar Presentations (Previous 5 Years)

New Zealand Treasury 2026, 2024 Oceania Stata Conference; 2023 U.S. Census Bureau Workshop on Advancing Research on Race, Ethnicity and Inequality; New Zealand Association of Economists (NZAE) 2023; National Science Foundation HSI Intersectionality Series 2023; Western Economic Association International (WEAI) 2022; NZAE 2022; Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) 2022; American Educational Research Association

(AERA) 2022; Programme for the Internal Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIAAC) 2022; AEF 2022; American Economic Association (AEA) 2022; NZAE 2021; AERA 2021; WEAI 2021; AEF 2021; Labor Econometrics Workshop (LEW) 2021; AEA 2021.

Grant Funding

National Science Foundation (\$3M USD), *Collaborative Research: HSI-Hubs: Intersectionality as Inquiry and Praxis: Race, Class, Gender & Ethnicity for Student Success in STEM*, Investigator, 2023 – 2028.

Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment Endeavor Fund (\$4.7M NZD), *The expression, experience, and transcendence of low-skill in Aotearoa New Zealand*, Investigator, 2020 - 2025

Auckland University of Technology Contestable Research Grant (\$3,028 NZD), *Be kind: domestic violence and mental health during a strict COVID-19 lockdown*, co-Principal Investigator, 2021

Manuscript and Conference Proposal Reviews

Adult Education Quarterly; AERA Annual Meeting, 2021 - 2025; *AERA Open*; *Economics of Education Review*; *Education Economics*; *Education Finance and Policy*; *Educational Assessment*; *Higher Education*; *International Journal of Manpower*; *International Migration Review*; *Journal of Gambling Studies*; *Journal of Happiness Studies*; *New Zealand Economic Papers*; *Policy Quarterly*; *Social Science and Medicine*

Media

Television New Zealand (TVNZ), *Breakfast*, “Local councils not going far enough to curb ‘scourge on society’ that is problem gambling — report,” live interview, 13 April 2021.

Radio New Zealand (RNZ), *News Brief*, 13 April 2021.

95bFM Radio, *The Wire*, “Local Policies and Problem Gambling w/ Dr. Christopher Erwin,” live interview, aired 13 April 2021.

References

Sir Peter Gluckman
Co-Director, Kōi Tū Centre for Informed Futures
President, International Science Council
Distinguished Professor Emeritus, University of Auckland
+64 021 983 034
peter.gluckman@informedfutures.org

Hema Sridhar
Co-Director, Kōi Tū Centre for Informed Futures
+64 021 436 211
hema.sridhar@informedfutures.org

Dr. Melissa Binder
Associate Professor of Economics
+1 (505) 277-3548
mbinder@unm.edu

Dr. Nancy López
Professor of Sociology
+1 (505) 277-2501
nlopez@unm.edu

Dr. Alok Bohara
Distinguished Professor of Economics
+1 (505) 277-5304
bohara@unm.edu