

Colleen O'Briant

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Department of Economics
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FIELDS OF INTEREST	Applied Econometrics, Machine Learning, Industrial Organization	
CURRENT POSITION	University of Arkansas Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics	Fayetteville, Arkansas Fall 2024-present
EDUCATION	University of Oregon Ph.D. in Economics Committee: Keaton Miller (Chair), Mark Colas, David Evans, Brittany Erickson	Eugene, Oregon June 2024
	Virginia Commonwealth University BFA in Painting, Printmaking, Drawing, and Extended Media	Richmond, Virginia 2009 – 2013
AWARDS	Graduate Teaching Award (University of Oregon Economics Dpt) First-Year Graduate Fellowship (University of Oregon Economics Dpt)	2023 2018
WORKING PAPERS	The Econometrics of Inverse Reinforcement Learning I bridge the gap between the Nested Fixed Point algorithm (Rust, 1987) and two Max-Margin Inverse Reinforcement Learning algorithms (Ng and Russell, 2000 and Abbeel and Ng, 2004) to estimate models of dynamic discrete choice on a GridWorld environment.	
	Comparing Inverse Reinforcement Learning to Rust's Estimator I analyze publicly available 2013 taxi data to compare the practical capabilities of Inverse Reinforcement Learning (IRL) and Nested Fixed Point (NFXP) methods in estimating payoffs for New York City taxi drivers during the morning commute.	
	Limited Attention and New Product Adoption for Marijuana Dispensaries I use an instrumental variables approach to measure how small business owners may misattribute noise for profit signals.	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Visiting Assistant Professor (University of Arkansas) ECON 30303 Microeconomic Theory ECON 43303 Economics of Organizations ECON 47603 Economic Analytics (Machine Learning) ECON 52403 Managerial Economics	2024 2024 2025 (Scheduled) 2025 (Scheduled)

Independent Instructor (University of Oregon)

EC 201 Principles of Microeconomics 2021, 2022
EC 320 Introduction to Econometrics I 2023
EC 421 Introduction to Econometrics II 2 x 2021, 2 x 2022, 2024

TALKS

Teaching Programming with Tidyverse Koans August 2023
Cascadia R Conf (Seattle, WA)

Doing Research using Org mode for Emacs October 2021
University of Oregon Economics Department Micro Group

SKILLS

Programming
Proficient in R, Rust, and SQL
Taught R to students in eleven different Economics courses at the University of Oregon and at the University of Arkansas

SERVICE

Co-President: UO Women in Economics Group 2021 – 2022
Organizer: UO Microeconomics Brown Bag Group 2020 – 2021

REFERENCES

Prof. Keaton Miller (Chair)
Associate Professor
University of Oregon
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Prof. David Evans
Associate Professor
University of Oregon
Email: devans@uoregon.edu

Prof. Mark Colas
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Sharon Kaplan
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