

Michah W. Rothbart

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

- 2016- Assistant Professor, Department of Public Administration and International Affairs, *Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University*
- 2016- Senior Research Associate with the Center for Policy Research
- 2016-2018 Fellow with the Institute for Education and Social Policy at New York University

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Public Administration and Policy, New York University, 2016
Fields of Study: Financial Management, Public Finance, Public Policy, Education Policy, and Quantitative Research Methods
- MPA, Public Administration, Cornell University, 2010
Field of Study: Finance and Fiscal Policy
- BS, Industrial and Labor Relations, Cornell University, 2009

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Michah W. Rothbart and Nara Yoon*. (2022). “Do Minimum Charity Care Provision Requirements Increase Nonprofit Hospital Performance? Examining Hospitals’ Responses to Regulatory Changes.” *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 32(1): 58-74.

William C. Horrace, **Michah W. Rothbart**, Yi Yang*. (2022). “Technical Efficiency of Public Middle Schools in New York City.” *Economics of Education Review* 86: 102216.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econedurev.2021.102216>.

Michah W. Rothbart, David Schwegman*, and Iuliia Shybalkina*. (2021). “The Impact of Pork-Barrel Capital Funding in Schools.” *Public Budgeting & Finance*. OnlineFirst:
<https://doi.org/10.1111/pbaf.12307>.

Diana Silver, **Michah W. Rothbart**, and Jin Yung Bae. (2021). “By the Letter of Law? The Effects of Administrative Adjudication for Resolving Disputes in NYC’s Restaurant Grading Initiative.” *The American Review of Public Administration* 51(8): 619-635.

Colleen Heflin, **Michah W. Rothbart**, and Mattie Mackenzie-Liu*. (2021). “Below the tip of the iceberg: Examining early childhood participation in SNAP and TANF from birth to age six.” *Population Research and Policy Review*. OnlineFirst: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-021-09660-9>.

Michah W. Rothbart. (2020). “The Impact of School Choice on Public School Budgets: Evidence from Open Enrollment in New York City.” *Public Budgeting & Finance* 40(4): 3-37.

Michah W. Rothbart. (2020). “Does School Finance Reform Reduce the Race Gap in School Funding?” *Education Finance and Policy* 15(4): 675-707.

Amy Ellen Schwartz and **Michah W. Rothbart**. (2020). "Let Them Eat Lunch: The Impact of Universal Free Meals on School Meal Participation, Obesity and Academic Achievement." *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 39(2): 376-410.

Michah W. Rothbart, Amy Ellen Schwartz, Thad Calabrese, Zachary Papper, Tod Mijanovich, Rachel Meltzer, and Diana Silver. (2019). "What a Difference A Grade Makes: Evidence From New York City's Restaurant Grading Policy." *Public Administration Review* 79(5): 651-665.

Rachel Meltzer, **Michah W. Rothbart**, Amy Ellen Schwartz, Thad Calabrese, Diana Silver, Tod Mijanovich, and Meryle Weinstein. (2019). "What are the Financial Implications of Public Quality Disclosure? Evidence from New York City's Restaurant Food Safety Grading Policy." *Public Finance Review* 47(1): 170-201.

Amy Ellen Schwartz, Leanna Stiefel, and **Michah W. Rothbart**. (2016). "Do Top Dogs Rule in Middle School? Evidence on Bullying, Safety, and Belonging." *American Educational Research Journal* 53(5): 1450-1484.

* Student co-author

BOOK CHAPTERS

Michah W. Rothbart. (2022). "Cutting Back State Aid to School Districts in the COVID Era: Consequences for Racial Funding Equity in New York State." Book chapter in *Recent Advancements in Education Finance and Policy*, Eds. Thomas Downes and Kieran Killeen.

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

Michah W. Rothbart, Amy Ellen Schwartz, and Emily Gutierrez*. (Revise & Resubmit). "Paying for Free Lunch: The Impact of the Universal Free Meals on Revenues, Spending, and Student Health." *Education Finance and Policy*.

Center for Policy Research Working Paper #227, Maxwell School, Syracuse University.

https://www.maxwell.syr.edu/uploadedFiles/cpr/publications/working_papers2/wp227.pdf

Michah W. Rothbart. (Revise & Resubmit) "What Schools Buy When They Don't Buy Instruction: Evidence on Noninstructional Expenditures in Schools." *Journal of Education Finance*.

Michah W. Rothbart and Colleen Heflin. (Under Review). "Inequality in Literacy Skills at Kindergarten Entry at the Intersections of Social Welfare and Race." *Children and Youth Services Review*.

* Student co-author

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"Public Pre-Kindergarten Availability and Children's School Readiness: Which Students Benefit?" with Taryn Morrissey.

"Stretched to the limit? Overcrowded schools, shared buildings, and underserved students" with Jeehee Han and Amy Ellen Schwartz.

"The Longer-Term Effects of Exposure to Universal Free Meals in the Early Childhood Grades" with Amy Ellen Schwartz and Samantha Trajkovski.

"The Relationship Between Prekindergarten Setting and SNAP and the Child Subsidy Program Utilization" with Colleen Heflin, Xiaohan Sun, and Taryn Morrissey.

FUNDING RECEIVED

External

Co-Investigator. “COVID-19, vaccinations and school/community resources: Children's longitudinal health and education outcomes using linked administrative data.” NIH, National Institute of Nursing Research NU01 NR020443. (September 2021 – June 2026; \$3,525,000).

Co-Investigator. “SNAP Uptake and School Readiness in Virginia.” Economic Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture. (August 2018 – September 2020; \$100,000).

Principal Investigator. “Does Universal Free School Meals Reduce Childhood Obesity?” The Tufts/UConn RIDGE Center. (July 2017 – January 2019; \$50,000).

Honorarium. “Impact of the Food Environment on Child Body Mass Index.” NIH, R01 DK097347. (September 2013 – June 2017; \$1,677,543).

Internal

Co-PI. “Access to Early Childhood Education and Human Capital Development: Which Students Benefit?.” CPR Summer Research Project Assistantship (June 2021 – August 2021; \$2,000).

Co-PI. “Statewide, longitudinal analysis of malleable factors related to high school completion outcomes for students with disabilities.” CPR Summer Research Project Assistantship (June 2020 – August 2020; \$2,000).

Investigator. “Statewide, longitudinal analysis of malleable factors related to high school completion outcomes for students with disabilities.” Maxwell School Summer Project Assistantship Program (June 2019 – August 2019; \$2,000).

Investigator. “Social Program Participation and School Readiness” Maxwell School Appleby-Mosher Fund (June 2018 – August 2018; \$1,203).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Financial Management in State and Local Governments (Syracuse University)

Public Budgeting (Syracuse University)

Financial Management in Nonprofit Organizations (Syracuse University)

Financial Management for Public, Nonprofit and Health Organizations (NYU)

Introductory Statistics (Cornell University ILR School), Teaching Assistant

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

- 2019 Birkhead-Burkhead Teaching Excellence Award and Professorship, Department of Public Administration and International Affairs, The Maxwell School, Syracuse University
- 2016 Institute of Education Sciences Outstanding Predoctoral Fellow Award Nominee, New York University
- 2011 - 2016 Institute of Education Sciences Predoctoral Interdisciplinary Research Training Fellow, New York University
- 2009 Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education Postsecondary Research Fellow

POLICY BRIEFS AND NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Amy Ellen Schwartz and **Michah W. Rothbart**. (2022). “Let More Schools Offer Free Lunch for All.” *Education Next: Forum*. <https://www.educationnext.org/let-more-schools-offer-free-lunch-for-all-forum-expand-access-free-school-food/>

Michah W. Rothbart and Nara Yoon. (2021). “Do Minimum Charity Care Provision Requirements Increase Provision of Charity Care in Nonprofit Hospitals?” *Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion: Population Health Research Brief Series #156*. <https://surface.syr.edu/lerner/156/>

Colleen Heflin, **Michah W. Rothbart**, and Mattie Mackenzie-Liu. (2021). “Strengthening SNAP and TANF is Essential to Support Children in Early Childhood.” *Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion: Population Health Research Brief Series #150*. <https://surface.syr.edu/lerner/150/>

Amy Ellen Schwartz and **Michah W. Rothbart**. (2020). “Let Them Eat Lunch: The Impact of Universal Free Meals on Student Performance.” *Lerner Center for Public Health Promotion: Population Health Research Brief Series #49*. <https://surface.syr.edu/lerner/49/>.

Michah W. Rothbart. (2020). “If we're fighting a war, then we need a new GI Bill.” *The Hill*. <https://thehill.com/opinion/finance/498056-if-were-fighting-a-war-then-we-need-a-new-gi-bill>.

Michah W. Rothbart and Amy Ellen Schwartz. (2019). “Universal Free Meals (UFM) raises student test scores in New York.” *Ridge Program Spotlight*. https://ridge.nutrition.tufts.edu/sites/default/files/research-projects/files/ridge_spotlight_rothbart.pdf

SELECT PRESS COVERAGE OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Reema, Amin. “Universal free lunch is linked to better test scores in New York City, new report finds.” *Chalkbeat New York*. October 15, 2019. <https://ny.chalkbeat.org/2019/10/15/21121847/universal-free-lunch-is-linked-to-better-test-scores-in-new-york-city-new-report-finds>.

The Today Show. “Is it time to get rid of middle school?” NBC. September 23, 2016. <https://www.today.com/video/is-it-time-to-get-rid-of-middle-school-771740739670>

Dahl, Melissa. “An Idea: Let’s Get Rid of Middle School.” *New York Magazine*. September 22, 2016. <https://www.thecut.com/2016/09/an-idea-lets-get-rid-of-middle-school.html>.

Hacker, Holly K. “Middle school can be hell; one idea is to get rid of it.” *The Dallas Morning News*. September 26, 2016. <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/education/2016/09/26/middle-school-can-be-hell-one-idea-is-to-get-rid-of-it/>

Kamenetz, Anya. “6th Grade Is Tough; It Helps To Be 'Top Dog.'” NPR. September 19, 2016. https://www.npr.org/sections/ed/2016/09/19/494232646/sixth-grade-is-tough-it-helps-to-be-top-dog?utm_campaign=storyshare&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_medium=social

Cramer, Philissa. “The Benefit of Being the Big Kid on the Playground.” *The Atlantic*. September 22, 2016. <https://www.theatlantic.com/education/archive/2016/09/the-case-for-more-ages-under-the-same-roof/500945/>.

Sparks, Sarah D. “Schools With Wider Grade Spans Have Less Bullying, N.Y.C. Study Finds.” Education Week. September 20, 2016. <https://www.edweek.org/leadership/schools-with-wider-grade-spans-have-less-bullying-n-y-c-study-finds/2016/09>.

Finn, Heather. “Traditional Middle Schools Could Actually Be Hurting Your Kids, Study Finds.” Good Housekeeping. September 21, 2016. <https://www.goodhousekeeping.com/life/parenting/news/a40551/study-shows-benefits-of-k-8-schools/>

Anderson, Jenny. “As if being 12-years-old wasn’t hard enough, a new study confirms many schools make it even harder.” Quartz. September 20, 2016. <https://qz.com/785653/as-if-being-12-years-old-wasnt-hard-enough-a-new-study-confirms-many-schools-make-it-even-harder/>

Suval, Marika. “Is Middle School Helping Or Harming Kids?” Wisconsin Public Radio. October 4, 2016. <https://www.wpr.org/middle-school-helping-or-harming-kids>.

Walker, Tim. “Is Middle School Too Early for Students to Lose 'Top Dog' Status?” NEA Today. September 27, 2016. <https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/middle-school-too-early-students-lose-top-dog-status>.

CONFERENCES AND OTHER INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“Public Pre-Kindergarten Availability and School Readiness: Which Students Benefit?”

- Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, 2021

“Inequality in Literacy Skills at the Intersections of Social Welfare Participation and Race.”

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference, 2020
- Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, 2020
- The Maxwell School of Syracuse University Critical Issues for Food Policy Research Conference, 2019

“The Impact of Pork-Barrel Capital Funding in Schools.”

- Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, 2020
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference, 2019

“What Schools Buy When They Don’t Buy Instruction: Evidence on Noninstructional Expenditures in Schools”

- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management Conference, 2019

“Paying for Free Lunch: The Impact of the Universal Free Meals on Revenues, Spending, and Student Health”

- University at Albany Department of Public Administration and Policy, 2020
- Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, 2019
- NYU/Federal Reserve Bank of New York Fiscal Policy Breakfast Series, 2019
- Tufts/UConn RIDGE Grantee Meeting, 2018
- Syracuse University Daniel Patrick Moynihan Conference, 2018

“Implications of Food Safety Inspections for Public Policy and Finance”

- NYU Food Studies Program, 2020 and 2021

“Stretched to the limit? Overcrowded schools, shared buildings, and underserved students”

- Association for Education Finance and Policy Conference, 2019
- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management Conference, 2018

“Schools Provide a Lot More than Instruction”

- IHDSC's 10th Anniversary: Imagining the Future of Urban Education and Mental Health, 2018

“Holding Hospitals Accountable? Evidence on the Effectiveness of Minimum Charity Care Provision Laws”

- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management Conference, 2017
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference, 2017

“Let Them Eat Lunch: The Impact of Universal Free Meals on School Meal Participation, Obesity and Academic Achievement”

- University of Hong Kong Department of Politics and Public Administration, 2018
- Syracuse University Maxwell School Social Policy Seminar, 2017
- National Tax Association Annual Conference on Taxation, 2016

“The Impact of School Choice on Public School Budgets: Evidence from Open Enrollment in New York City”

- NYU-Federal Reserve Bank of New York Fiscal Policy Breakfast Series, 2016
- Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, 2016
- Association for Budgeting and Financial Management Conference, 2015
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference, 2015

“Does School Finance Reform Reduce the Race Gap in School Funding?”

- Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, 2015
- Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, 2014 (*poster*)

“What a Difference A Grade Makes: Evidence From NYC’s Restaurant Grading Policy”

- NYU-Federal Reserve Bank of New York Fiscal Policy Breakfast Series, 2015
- National Tax Association Annual Conference on Taxation, 2014
- N.Y.C. Department of Health and Mental Hygiene Epidemiology Grand Grounds, 2014
- Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Public Health Law Research Annual Meeting, 2014
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference, 2013

“Do Top Dogs Rule in Middle School? Evidence on Bullying, Safety, and Belonging”

- Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, 2013

OTHER PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant, Institute for Education and Social Policy, New York University Steinhardt

Director of Research and Evaluation, Office of Postsecondary Readiness, N.Y.C. Department of Education

Senior Analyst, Office of Postsecondary Readiness, N.Y.C. Department of Education

Oak Ridge Postsecondary Research Fellow and Policy Analyst, Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce

Research Assistant, Department of Labor Economics, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations

Research Assistant, Department of Human Resource Studies, Cornell University School of Industrial and Labor Relations

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES:

Michelle Lofton (Assistant Professor, School of Public & International Affairs, University of Georgia)

Iuliia Shybalkina (Assistant Professor, Martin School of Public Policy and Administration, University of Kentucky)

Yusun Kim (Assistant Professor, Department of Public Policy, University of Connecticut)

Emily Gutierrez (Research Associate, Center on Education Data and Policy, Urban Institute)

David Schwegman (Assistant Professor, School of Public Affairs, American University)

Saied Toossi (Research Agricultural Economist, USDA Economic Research Service)

Jeehee Han (Visiting Assistant Professor and ACES Fellow, Department of Public Service and Administration, Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University)

Yi Yang (Economist, Amazon.com, Inc.)

Yoon Jung Choi (Doctoral Candidate, The Maxwell School of Syracuse University)

Christopher Rick (Doctoral Candidate, The Maxwell School of Syracuse University)

Mattie Mackenzie-Liu (Doctoral Candidate, The Maxwell School of Syracuse University)

OTHER SERVICE (INTERNAL)

Master of Public Administration (MPA) Committee, 2018-2020

Birkhead-Burkhead Teaching Excellence Award and Professorship Committee, 2019-

Dissertation Defense Chair: Jonathan Presler, The Maxwell School of Syracuse University, Economics Department (2020)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee: Daniel McMurray, The Maxwell School of Syracuse University, Political Science (2019)

SERVICE (EXTERNAL)

Conference Program Committees: *Association for Education Finance and Policy* (2020)

APPAM Mentor: Youngwan Song (Doctoral Student, The Andrew Young School at Georgia State University)

Reviewer for: *Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; Journal of Public Economics Plus; Public Finance Review; Educational Researcher; Educational Policy; Public Budgeting & Finance; Education Finance and Policy; AERA Open; Journal of Population Economics; American Journal of Health Economics; Population Research and Policy Review; International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health; Preventive Medicine; Nature Human Behavior; Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis; Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management; Leadership and Policy in Schools; Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs; • The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science; Healthy Eating Research; University of Missouri Strategic Investment Program*