

## Rhet A. Smith

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### ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, University of Texas at El Paso, Department of Economics & Finance	2023-present
Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Department of Economics & Finance	2018-2023

### EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, 2018  
M.A. Economics, Cleveland State University, Cleveland, OH, 2012  
B.S. Business Administration, Personal Finance, Central Michigan University,  
Mount Pleasant, MI, 2008

### FIELDS OF INTERESTS

Health Economics, Economics of Crime, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

### RESEARCH

#### Peer-Reviewed Publications

- (6) Cook, Amanda C., E. Tice Sirmans, and Rhet A. Smith. 2025. “**The Effects of Medical and Recreational Cannabis Laws on Prescription Drug Claims in Commercial Group Insurance Markets.**” *Health Economics*.
- (5) Johnson, Josiah and Rhet A. Smith. 2023. “**Main Street Business Initiatives and Crime in Small Towns.**” *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 209, 91-112.\*
- (4) Ellis, Cameron M., Martin F. Grace, Rhet A. Smith and Juan Zhang. 2022. “**Medical Cannabis and Automobile Accidents: Evidence from Auto Insurance.**” *Health Economics*, 31(9), 1878-1897.
- (3) Lebesmuehlbacher, Thomas and Rhet A. Smith. 2021. “**The Effect of Medical Cannabis Laws on Pharmaceutical Marketing to Physicians.**” *Health Economics*, 30(10), 2409-2436.
- (2) Cook, Amanda C., Gregory Leung, and Rhet A. Smith. 2020. “**Marijuana Decriminalization, Medical Marijuana Laws, and Fatal Traffic Crashes in U.S. Cities, 2010-2017.**” *American Journal of Public Health*, 110(3), 363-369.  
– Ohio Association of Economists and Political Scientists Best Economics Faculty Paper,  
Presented by and awarded to Amanda Cook, 2019.
- (1) Smith, Rhet A. 2020. “**The Effects of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries on Adverse Opioid Outcomes.**” *Economic Inquiry*, 58(2), 569-588.

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\*Project with undergraduate student.

## Other Publications

1. Garin, Julio, R. Vincent Pohl, and Rhet A. Smith. 2019. “**The Effect of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries on Opioid- and Heroin-Overdose Mortality.**” *CATO Institute Research Briefs in Economic Policy*, 168.

## Working Papers

“The Heterogeneous Effects of Cannabis Dispensaries on Crime: The Importance of Foot Traffic” with Thomas Lebesmuehlbacher and Justin Roush– *revisions requested*.

“The Impact of Medical Cannabis Laws on Commercial Health Insurer Individual Market Premiums, Claims, and Profitability” with Amanda C. Cook, Joshua D. Frederick and E. Tice Sirmans– *revisions requested*.

“No Smoking Guns: The Brady Act, Medical Cannabis, and Violent Gun Crime” with Cameron M. Ellis and J. Bradley Karl.

“The Effect of Medical Cannabis Dispensaries on Opioid and Heroin Overdose Mortality” with Julio Garin and R. Vincent Pohl.

## Work in Progress

“Weeding out Workplace Accidents? The Effect of Medical Marijuana Dispensaries on Workplace Safety” with Kimberly Groover.

“Is Marijuana law Reform Criminal Justice Reform? Evidence from Policing Response to Marijuana Legalization in Chicago” with Xiuming Dong and Thomas Lebesmuehlbacher.

## **Grants, Fellowships, Honors, and Awards**

UTEP Edge Champion: Research Experience	2025
UA-Little Rock CBHHS Faculty Excellence Award for Rising Faculty	2023
Association of Private Enterprise Education Young Scholars Program Award	2023
UA-Little Rock Jump Start Faculty Scholarship Award	2022
UA-Little Rock Teaching Fellow Award	2022
UA-Little Rock Faculty Research Award	2019-2022
Institute for Humane Studies Hayek Fund for Scholars	2017-2023
University of Georgia Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award	Spring, 2018
Selected to be the Advanced Graduate Student Representative of the University of Georgia to the SEA Meetings, Tampa	Fall, 2017
University of Georgia Graduate School Travel Funding	Fall, 2017
The James C. Bonbright Center Travel Funding	Summer, 2017
Swift Award for Outstanding Teaching in Undergraduate Economics	Spring, 2017

## **Conference and Seminar Presentations**

### **2025**

Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists, Nashville, TN (Scheduled, June); Annual Midwestern Economic Association Meetings, Kansas City, MO, March.

**2024**

Annual Southern Economic Association Meetings, Washington D.C., November; Annual Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference, National Harbor, MD, November; Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists, San Diego, CA, June; University of Georgia Inaugural Godfrey Conference, Athens, GA, April; Annual Midwestern Economic Association Meetings, Chicago, IL, March.

**2023**

Annual Southern Economic Association Meetings, New Orleans, LA, November; Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists, St. Louis, MO, June; Meeting for the Association of Private Enterprise Education, Cancun; Annual Midwestern Economic Association Meetings, Cleveland, OH, March; Cleveland State University, March.

**2022**

Annual Southern Economic Association Meetings, Fort Lauderdale, FL, November; Annual Midwestern Economic Association Meetings, Minneapolis, MN, March.

**2021**

Annual Southern Economic Association Meetings, Houston, TX, November; Annual Conference of the Missouri Valley Economic Association, virtual, MO, October; University of Central Arkansas; International Health Economics Association Biennial World Congress, virtual, July; Western Economic Association International Annual Conference, virtual, June; Grand Valley State University, March.

**2020**

Annual Southern Economic Association Meetings, virtual, November; Annual Conference of the Missouri Valley Economic Association, virtual, October.

**2019**

Annual Southern Economic Association Meetings, Fort Lauderdale, FL, November; Annual Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference, Denver, CO, November; Annual Meeting of Arkansas College Teachers of Economics and Business, Little Rock, AR, September; Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists, Washington D.C., June; Annual Arkansas Public Health Association Meetings, Little Rock, AR, April; Annual Midwestern Economic Association Meetings, St. Louis, MO, March.

**2018**

Annual Southern Economic Association Meetings, Washington D.C., November; Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists, Atlanta, GA, June; Annual Midwestern Economic Association Meetings, Evanston, IL, March.

**2017**

Xavier University, November; Annual Southern Economic Association Meetings, Tampa, FL, November; University of Georgia Department of Economics Seminar Series, November; Grand Valley State University, October; International Health Economics Association Biennial World Congress, Boston, MA, July; Western Economic Association International Annual Conference, San Diego, CA, June; Annual Midwestern Economic Association Meetings, Cincinnati, OH, March; Bowling Green State University, March; Integrative Research & Ideas Symposium, University of Georgia, March.

**2016**

Annual Southern Economic Association Meetings, Washington D.C., November; University of Georgia Summer Research Workshop, July.

## REFeree ACTIVITY

*American Journal of Public Health, Applied Economics, Applied Economics Letters, Contemporary Economic Policy, Criminology & Public Policy, Economic Analysis and Policy, Economic Inquiry, Economics Bulletin, Economics of Education Review, Health Economics, International Journal of Drug Policy, Journal of Drug Issues, North American Actuarial Journal, Regional Science and Urban Economics.*

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- University of Texas at El Paso
  - Introduction to Econometrics; Quantitative Methods in Business (Graduate-level);
  - Business Statistics & Analytics II; Microeconomic Principles
- University of Arkansas at Little Rock
  - Business Statistics; Survey of Economics; Microeconomic Principles;
  - Macroeconomic Principles; Quantitative Business Analysis
- University of Georgia
  - Principles of Macroeconomics

**REFERENCES:** Upon Request