

**Paul S. Niekamp**  
*Curriculum Vitae, January 2019*

Email: paul.s.niekamp@vanderbilt.edu  
Cell phone: 419-953-6543  
Website: <https://www.paulniekamp.com>  
Citizenship: USA

Vanderbilt University  
Department of Economics  
VU Station B 351819, 2301 Vanderbilt Place  
Nashville, TN 37235-1819

---

### **Graduate Education**

Vanderbilt University, Department of Economics  
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics  
Expected completion date: May 2019  
M.A. in Economics, 2016

Dissertation Title: *Applied Microeconomic Issues for Rural America*

### **References**

Professor Christopher (Kitt) Carpenter (Primary Advisor): christopher.s.carpenter@vanderbilt.edu, 615-322-0174  
Professor Andrew Goodman-Bacon: andrew.j.goodman-bacon@vanderbilt.edu, 615-875-8431  
Professor Michelle Marcus: michelle.marcus@vanderbilt.edu, 615-322-2482  
Professor Mattias Polborn (Placement Director): mattias.polborn@vanderbilt.edu, 615-875-8113

### **Undergraduate Education**

Miami University of Ohio  
B.S. in Business Economics, *summa cum laude*, 2014

### **Research and Teaching Fields**

Primary: Health Economics, Labor Economics  
Secondary: Development, Applied Microeconomics

### **Honors and Fellowships**

Council for Economic Graduate Students Research Grant, 2018 and 2017  
Household International Best Paper Award, Vanderbilt University, 2017  
Vanderbilt University Economics Fellowship, 2014-present  
George W. Thatcher Prize for Distinguished Economics Undergraduate, 2014  
James E. Rees Memorial Economics Scholarship, 2014  
Miami University Economics Department Junior Scholar, 2013-2014  
Miami University President's List, 2010-2014

### **Teaching Experience**

Vanderbilt University, Teaching Assistant  
Health Care Policy (2018)  
Intermediate Microeconomics (2016, 2017, 2018)  
Intermediate Macroeconomics (2018)  
Economic Statistics (2016)  
Introductory Macroeconomics (2015)

Miami University of Ohio, Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Microeconomics (2013)

## Publications

“Economic Conditions and Sleep.” *Health Economics*. 2018;1–6.

This paper uses the American Time Use Survey (ATUS) from 2003-2015 to analyze the effect of economic conditions on sleep duration. Prior work has found that increases in the employment rate cause sleep duration of individuals to fall. No previous research considers that weekday sleep behavior and weekend sleep behavior may be differentially related to economic conditions. Estimates suggest that weekday sleep duration is indeed countercyclical while weekend sleep duration is procyclical. Results are driven by individuals most susceptible to economic fluctuations: minorities, single adults, and individuals with less education. Differential results concerning economic conditions and sleep by day type may be one mechanism for which to expect economic conditions to impact other sleep-related outcomes diversely depending on day of the week.

## Research Papers

“Good Bang for the Buck: Effects of Rural Gun Use on Crime” [[Job Market Paper](#)]

This paper provides the first estimates of the effect of rural recreational gun use on crime. Each year, more than 10 million Americans, comprising 18% of American gun owners, use firearms to hunt deer during restricted dates. Hunting proponents argue that long guns are not positively associated with violent crime, while the sheer magnitude of hunter activity requires this hypothesis be tested to inform gun policy design. My empirical strategy exploits variation across states in opening dates of firearm-based deer hunting seasons, which create larger increases in gun use than any other policy in existence. Combining daily crime data with deer hunting seasons spanning 20 years and 21 states, I estimate that the start of firearm season is associated with a 300% increase in long gun prevalence. Despite this enormous increase in gun use, I find no evidence of an increase in violent crime. I estimate the elasticity of violent crime with respect to recreational long gun use to be between -0.01 and +0.0003. Moreover, I estimate that alcohol-related arrests of juvenile males fall by 22% and narcotic offenses fall by 15% at the start of hunting season, suggesting that firearm hunting may have positive externalities via reducing risky juvenile male behavior.

“Bakken Out of Education to Toil in Oil”

Using novel datasets from the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction (NDDPI) and North Dakota University System (NDUS), I study the effects of the North Dakota oil boom on high school graduation rates and post-graduation outcomes of seniors in North Dakota high schools using an event-study design. The oil boom sharply increased wages and employment in core-oil counties. Surprisingly, high school graduation rates of schools in core-oil counties did not decrease relative to schools in non-oil counties for either males or females. However, high school seniors responded to the oil boom by decreasing 4-year college enrollment rates by 23%. Notably, college enrollment rates also decreased for females. Estimates suggest that males and females became more likely to enter the workforce while male military enrollment rates decreased.

## Work in Progress

“Deer in the Headlights: The Consequences of Hunting Regulations on Motor Vehicle Accidents”

“Effects of Recreational Deer Hunting Season on Alcohol Use and Abuse: Evidence from Canada” with Christopher S. (Kitt) Carpenter and Casey Warman

## Other Work Experience

Dunnhumby USA, Analyst Intern (2013, 2014)

Employ SAS, Excel, SQL, JMP, and clustering analysis to optimize prices of retail products. Leverage SAS to improve data-driven targeting of personalized customer communications.

## Skills

Stata, Python, QGIS, Mapbox GL JS, Matlab, LaTeX, R, SAS, SQL

## **Professional Activities**

### Referee

Journal of Economic History  
Journal of Health Economics

### Presentations of Research

“Good Bang for the Buck: Effects of Rural Gun Use on Crime”

Missouri Valley Economic Association (2018)  
Vanderbilt University Health Policy Work-in-Progress Lunch (2018)  
Vanderbilt University Empirical Applied Microeconomics Work-in-Progress Lunch (2018)

“Bakken Out of Education to Toil in Oil”

Missouri Valley Economic Association (2018)  
Vanderbilt University Empirical Applied Microeconomics Work-in-Progress Lunch (2017)  
Graduate Research Day, Vanderbilt University (2017)  
Economics Departmental Honors Conference, Miami University (2014)

### Workshop and Conference Attendance

Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (2018)  
NBER Summer Institute (2018)  
Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (2018)  
Tennessee Empirical Applied Microeconomics Festival, University of Tennessee (2018)  
Southeastern Health Economics Study Group, Vanderbilt University (2017)  
Tennessee Empirical Applied Microeconomics Festival, Vanderbilt University (2017)  
27th Annual Health Economics Conference, Vanderbilt University (2016)  
Tennessee Empirical Applied Microeconomics Festival, University of Tennessee (2016)