

JOHN STEVEN IRONS, PH.D.

RESUME / CURRICULUM VITAE: MARCH 2010

Economic Policy Institute
1333 H Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005
202.775.8810
jirons@epi.org

Residence
2844 Greenway Boulevard
Falls Church, VA 22042
202.713.5745
jsirons@argmax.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA. Feb. 2003.
Received National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship and Harvard/MIT Positive Political Economy Fellowship. Primary Fields: Macroeconomics, Public Economics; Secondary Fields: Positive Political Economy, Econometrics. (In residence 1994-1999)

B.A. Economics, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA. June 1992.
High Honors in the Division of Social Sciences. Major: Economics; Minor: Mathematics.

MAJOR POSITIONS

- 2007-present **Research and Policy Director, Economic Policy Institute**, Washington, DC.
Manage 15 person research and policy department (including 9 Ph.D. level researchers) with a multi-million dollar budget; including programs on labor market data collection and policy analysis, education, international trade, public investment, health care policy, and race, ethnicity and the economy. Conduct independent research on various economic policy issues with a focus on federal public investments, tax and budget issues, and the labor market. Work with outside scholars to commission and disseminate research. Secured and managed grant funding from a variety of major foundations.
- 2004-2007 **Director of Tax and Budget Policy, Center for American Progress**, Washington, DC.
Directed and organized tax activities and research for national think tank; conduct wide range of research, analysis, and commentary on economic issues with particular focus on tax policy.
- 2003-2004 **Senior Economic Research and Policy Analyst; and Staff Economist, OMB Watch**, Washington, DC.
Conducted analysis and advocacy on a wide range of federal policy issues.
- 1999-2003 **Assistant Professor of Economics (tenure-track), Amherst College, Department of Economics**, Amherst, Massachusetts.
Taught undergraduate courses in a range of fields and levels including advanced econometrics, intermediate macroeconomics, economic policy, and positive political economy.

1992-1994 **Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Board of Governors**, Washington, DC.
Assisted senior economists and officers on a wide variety of research topics including time-series econometrics, monetary policy, long-term growth, and econometric theory. International Finance Division, Trade and Financial Studies Section.

BOARD, COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY

The Pew Charitable Trusts, SubsidyScope Advisory Board, Washington DC, 2008-present.

Apollo Alliance, Transportation Manufacturing Action Plan Task Force, 2010.

Science Progress, Advisory Board, (a project of the Center for American Progress), Washington, DC, 2007-present.

Coalition on Human Needs, Board of Directors, Washington, DC, 2003-2007, 2009-present (treasurer).

National Economists' Club, Board of Governors (elected), Washington, DC, 2007-2009.

American Economic Association, Committee on Electronic Publishing, 2006-2008.

Eisenhower Foundation, Kerner National Advisory Panel, Washington, DC, 2007-2008.

OMB Watch, Regulatory Reform Project, Steering committee, Washington, DC, 2008.

Society of Government Economists, honorary member, Washington, DC, 2006.

AndHow!Theater Company, Board of Directors, New York City, NY, 1999-present.

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Awards for Economics Websites: *The Economist* (Top 5), *Forbes.com* (Top 5), *International Thomson Business Press* (#1).

Christian A. Johnston Lecture, Middlebury College, 2001.

Harvard / MIT Research Training Group in Positive Political Economy, Graduate Fellow, 1996-97.

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellow, 1994-96, 97-98.

High Honors in the Division of Social Sciences, Swarthmore College, 1992.

TEACHING

Assistant Professor of Economics (tenure track), Amherst College, 1999-2003.
Positive Political Economy, Spring 2000, Fall 2001. Macroeconomics (Intermediate),

Spring 2001, 2002. Macroeconomic Policy, Spring 2002. An Introduction to Economics, Fall 1999-Fall 2001. Topics in Econometrics (Advanced), Fall 2000, Spring 2000.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1998-1999.
Introductory Macroeconomics (14.02), Fall 1998, Spring 1999, Teaching Assistant for Professor Paul Krugman. Public Economics (14.41), Fall 1998, Teaching Assistant for Professor Jonathan Gruber.

OTHER POSITIONS

- 1998, 1999 **Teaching Assistant, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA.**
Assistant to Professors Paul Krugman, and Jonathan Gruber; undergraduate courses in Macroeconomics and Public Economics.
- 1995, 1997 **Research Assistant, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Cambridge, MA.**
Assistant to Professors Ricardo Caballero and Peter Diamond; research on investment theory and social security.
- June 1995 **Consultant, Federal Reserve Board of Governors, International Finance Division, Washington, DC.**
Continued research on growth-inflation linkage and the impact of public gold sales on market prices.
- Summer 1995 **Graduate Intern/ Research Assistant, The Brookings Institution, Economic Studies Program, Washington, DC.**
Conducted independent research on the theoretical effects of liquidity constraints and bankruptcy on consumption.
- 1997-2002 **Writer/Manager, About.com**
Economics "Guide." Developed and maintained economics related website and provided original content. During tenure as guide, *The Economist* magazine ranked the site as a top 5 economics website.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL

CONGRESSIONAL/ADMINISTRATION TESTIMONY

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

Hearing on: "Tracking the Money: How Recovery Act Recipients Account for their Use of Stimulus Dollars" Thursday, November 19, 2009.

Presentation to President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board, Tax subcommittee

November 2, 2009.

Senate Special Committee On Aging

Hearing on: "Social Security: Keeping the Promise in the 21st Century," June 17, 2009.

U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Hearing on: "Infrastructure Investment and Economic Recovery," October 29, 2008.

U.S. House of Representatives, Small Business Committee

Hearing on: "Reforming the Tax Code to Assist Small Businesses," September 21, 2005.

PRESENTATIONS

Non-academic highlights include: The Brookings Institution (federal investments in infrastructure), Center for American Progress (tax policy), Economic Policy Institute (various), Democracy: A Journal of Ideas (climate change policy), Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (broadband, economic stimulus), Eisenhower Foundation/Kerner Commission (tax policy), Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (the economy, stimulus), American University Washington College of Law, Collaboration on Government Secrecy (financial markets/transparency), National Association of Regional Planners (economy, stimulus), ESRI Conference (ARRA data collection), many others.

Academic highlights: American University, Harvard University, Middlebury College, MIT, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska, and others.

INTERNET

Founder, ArgMax.com. (<http://www.argmax.com>) June 2002-present.

Named by Forbes Magazine as a Top 5 Economy Weblog, in both 2005 and 2003.

ArgMax contains economics news, data, and analysis, as well as a variety of resources for economists and the general public, including original economic commentary, a directory of economists, news summary page, data mailing lists, etc. Contains *Economists with Web Pages* (1995-present), the oldest online directory of economist's web pages with links to over 1,700 economists' sites. As of 2004, the site was receiving approximately 250,000 page views and over 100,000 visits per year.

Guide, About.com. (<http://economics.about.com>) June 1997-March 2002.

Economics site "Guide". Produced original commentary and overall site management. The economics section of About.com consisted of economic commentary aimed to a broad audience as well as a library of economics resources on the web. *The Economist* magazine ranked the site as a top 5 economics website, and International Thomson Business Press ranked it the number 1 economics website calling it the "Best of the Best". As of early 2002, the site received approximately 45,000 page views per week and over 8,000 newsletter subscribers.

General Editor, New Economics Papers (NEP). (<http://netec.wustl.edu/NEP>) 1998-2001.

General editor and manager. As of 2001, NEP provided email notifications to approximately 5,000 subscribers of new economics research papers in approximately 50 subject areas by approximately 40 editors.

JOURNAL REFEREE

The American Economic Review, Contemporary Economic Policy, Journal of Business and Economic Statistics, Journal of Public Economics, Prentice Hall Publishing

GRADUATE WORKSHOPS

Economic Science Laboratory Workshop in Experimental Economics, University of Arizona, 1998.

Workshop in Computational Economics, Santa Fe Institute, 1996.

Behavioral Economics Workshop, Russell Sage Foundation, 1996.

PUBLICATIONS

Authored numerous reports, analyses, and commentary on economic theory and policy, including federal tax policy and the federal budget. In addition to those listed below, reports have appeared on the websites of <http://www.ombwatch.org>, <http://www.americanprogress.org/>, and <http://www.epi.org>.

PUBLISHED GENERAL ARTICLES, OPINION

“Topic A: Tackling Toxic Assets” *The Washington Post*, March 24, 2009.

“In the Tanks: A Debate on the Financial Rescue Plan” edited by Andres Martinez, *The Washington Post*, February 11, 2009.

“Cap and Lease Carbon” *Democracy: A Journal of Ideas*, Spring 2008.

“Why You Should Care About the 2007 Economic Nobel” *The American Prospect* (online), October 16, 2007.

“Green Revenue” *Tax Notes*, January 8, 2007.

“An Open-Source Tax Credit: Proposal and Economic Analysis” *Tax Notes*, August 7, 2006.

“Comprehensive Tax Code Overhaul is Overdue” *Washington Post* (online), April 24, 2006.

“Fair, progressive tax reform would be good policy, good politics,” (with Robert Gordon,) *Baltimore Sun*, March 23, 2006. (Also appeared in *Salt-Lake Tribune*, March 28, and *Fort Wayne Journal*, March 29).

“Tax Reform is Dead... Long Live Tax Reform!” *Tax Notes*, March 23, 2006.

“First, Do No Harm” *Tax Notes*, Jan 31, 2006.

“Before Hurting the Poor, Look Elsewhere for Cuts” *Philadelphia Enquirer*, November 27, 2005.

"Estate's Rites" (with R. Gordon) *The American Prospect* (online) August 25, 2005.

"Commentary Understates Cost of Estate Tax Repeal" *Tax Notes*, July 11, 2005, p 241-244.

"A Tax Plan for Progressives" (with J. Podesta) *The American Prospect*, June 25, 2005.

"A Fair and Simple Tax Plan for Our Future" (With C. Butts, and J. Podesta) *Tax Notes*, May 10, 2005.

"The Big Squeeze: Impacts of Federal Budget and Tax Policy" (with G. Bass and E. Taylor), in *Responsive Philanthropy*, Spring 2004.

"Stock Options: To Expense or Not to Expense?" *Red Herring Online*, December 2003.

"State a loser in estate tax repeal" with (L. Canright), *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, December 2, 2003.

REFEREED ARTICLES / BOOKS

"The Benefits of Expediting Government Gold Sales: Simulation Results" (with Dale Henderson, Steven Salant, and Sebastian Thomas), *Review of Financial Economics*, Volume 16, Issue 3, Pages 235-258 (2007).

"Coordination Failure in Macroeconomics: An overview." *Eastern Economic Journal*, vol. 31, issue 1, pages 46-54 (2005).

Macroeconomics: Study Guide. Prentice Hall. Study Guide to accompany Intermediate Macroeconomics by D. Colander and E. Gamber. (2001)

"Output and Inflation in the Long Run" (with N. Ericsson and R. Tryon), *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 16(1) (2001).

"Money, Politics, and the Post-war Business Cycle" (with J. Faust), *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 43 (1999).

"Review: Applied Econometric Techniques by K. Cuthbertson, S. Hall, and M. Taylor" (with N. Ericsson), *Econometric Reviews*, 14(1) (1995).

"The Lucas Critique in Practice: Theory without Measurement" (with N. Ericsson), Chapter 8 in K. D. Hoover (ed.) Macroeconometrics: Developments, Tensions, and Prospects. (1995).

Testing Exogeneity (ed., with N. Ericsson), *Advanced Texts in Econometrics* series. Oxford University Press, (1994).

OTHER ACADEMIC

"Voting for Publicly Provided Goods: Local and Non-local Interactions," revised, 2002. (Dissertation chapter, MIT).

"Policy Formation a la Mode: Voter Turnout, Ideological Candidates, and Platform Setting with Non-quadratic Preferences," revised, 2002. (Dissertation chapter, MIT).

"Politics, Policy, and Economic Outcomes: A Puzzle" (with Jon Faust), presented to the Harvard / MIT Research Training Group in Positive Political Economy, April 1996, revised, 2002. (Dissertation chapter, MIT).

"Voter Turnout, Ideological Candidates, and Platform Setting with Non-quadratic Preferences," *Santa Fe Institute Working Paper #97-06-053* (1997).

"Endogenous Household Liquidity Constraints and Income Taxation" Mimeo, MIT. Presented to the Harvard / MIT Research Training Group in Positive Political Economy, March 1997.

"A Supergame Theoretic Model of Household Liquidity Constraints" Mimeo, Brookings. Presented at The Brookings Institution, August 1995.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES, ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY FROM
ECONOMIC POLICY INSTITUTE

"A first look at the budget freeze" *Issue Brief*, January 29, 2010.

"Recovery.gov recipient reporting on jobs—Problems and recommendations" *Policy Memo*, October 29, 2009

"Lost investment during a recession can prolong pain" (with E. Pollack) *Economic Snapshot*, September 30, 2009.

"Economic scarring: The long-term impacts of the recession" *Briefing Paper*, September 30, 2009. (Cited by Paul Krugman in *The New York Times*, and featured in *USA Today* front page Article, January, 2010)

"Economic downturn largest contributor to deficit woes" *Economic Snapshots*, August 25, 2009.

"The 2009 budget deficit—How did we get here?" *Issue Brief*, August 20, 2009.

"The recovery package in action" (with E. Pollack) *Briefing Paper*, August 13, 2009.

"Mass layoffs at highest level since at least 1995" *Economic Snapshots*, July 1, 2009.

"Tools for Assessing the Labor Market Impacts of Infrastructure Investment" *Working Paper*, April 2009.

"Transportation investments and the labor market: How many jobs could be generated and what type?" *Issue Brief*, April 2009.

"Green investments and the labor market: How many jobs could be generated and what type?" *Issue Brief*, April 2009

“How long would a job-market recovery take?” *Economic Snapshots*, January, 2009.

“The false fiscal dilemma: History shows that the economy is big enough to stabilize financial markets and address the economy's other pressing needs” *Policy Memorandum*, October 2008.

“A rescue plan for main street” (with Ethan Pollack) *Policy Memorandum*, October 2008. (revised, December 2008).

“Infrastructure investment and economic recovery” *Policy Memorandum*, October 2008.

“Take a Walk on the Supply-Side” (with Michael Ettlinger) Center for American Progress/EPI, September 2008.

“Bailout plan must help the middle class and grow the economy” *Policy Memorandum*, September 2008.

“Making the case -- again -- for an economic rebound” *Policy Memorandum*, May 2008.

“A Feeble Recovery: The fundamental economic weaknesses of the 2001-07 expansion,” (with L. Josh Bivens) *Briefing paper*, May 2008. (Updated, December 2008)

“Corporate tax declines and U.S. inequality” *Snapshot*, April 2008.

“U.S. lags behind in broadband infrastructure” *Snapshots*, April 2008.

“Strategy for economic rebound: Smart stimulus to counteract the economic slowdown” (with Lawrence Mishel and Ross Eisenbrey) *Briefing Paper*, January 2008.

“Fixing the Alternative Minimum Tax” *Snapshots*, November 2007.

“Typical families see income and earnings decline” *Snapshots*, September 2007.

MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES, ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY FROM CENTER FOR AMERICAN PROGRESS

“Responsible Investment: A Budget and Fiscal Policy Plan for Progressive Growth” (with David Madland), November 2007.

“A National Innovation Agenda: Progressive Policies for Economic Growth and Opportunity through Science and Technology” (with Tom Kalil), January 2008.

“Green Revenue” January 8, 2007.

“Economy Continues to Under Perform” (with Mirra Levitt) November 2, 2006.

“Stop the Madness!” (with Derek Douglas, Bobby Lepore) September 6, 2006.

“Census Paints Bleak Picture” (with Jeanne Lambrew, Mark Greenberg) August 29, 2006.

“Does the World Cup Get the Economic Ball Rolling?” June 7, 2006.

“Encouraging the Production of Open Source Software” (with Carl Malamud) April 27, 2006.

“Comprehensive Tax Code Overhaul is Overdue” April 24, 2006.

“The Check Is in the Mail” April 14, 2006.

“Fair, progressive tax reform would be good policy, good politics” (with Robert Gordon) March 23, 2006.

“An Open Source Tax Credit” (with Carl Malamud) March 13, 2006.

“Bush's Tax and Budget Policies Fail to Promote Economic Growth” (with Lee Price) February 16, 2006.

“Student Loans in Bush's Budget” (with Kate Sabatini) February 7, 2006.

“Tax Reform: First, Do No Harm” January 30, 2006.

“Congress Passes Budget Bill, Cuts Support for Nation's Neediest” December 21, 2005.

“Misplaced Priorities: Cutting Services to Finance Tax Breaks” (with Bracken Hendricks) November 29, 2005.

“Five Easy Pieces Scorecard” October 28, 2005.

“Rebuild? Or Give Money to Residents? Yes.” October 11, 2005.

“Budgeting for Katrina and Beyond” (with Robert Gordon, Jennifer M. Palmieri) September 23, 2005.

“Reforming the Tax Code to Assist Small Businesses” September 21, 2005.

“Tax Dodging, July 15, 2005.

“Repeal/Reform of the Estate Tax” (with Gene Sperling, John Podesta, Neera Tanden) June 30, 2005.

“Letter to the President's Advisory Panel on Federal Tax Reform” (with John Podesta) June 9, 2005.

“Budget Magic” May 18, 2005.

“Economy Slows at Start of Year” April 28, 2005.

“Rebalancing the Tax System” April 2, 2005.

“Reconnecting Tax and Budget Policies” April 1, 2005.

“Comments on the Advisory Panel's Request for Comments #1”, (with Cassandra Butts) March 18, 2005.

“Proposed Budget Would Enact More Tax Cuts at the Expense of Commitments to Health Care” March 11, 2005.

“A Note on Effective Federal Tax Rates: 1979-2002” March 2, 2005.

“Previewing the President’s Budget: America Has a Choice” February 7, 2005.

“Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Discipline” December 3, 2004.

“Smash and Grab Budgeting” November 10, 2004.

“Economy Muddling Along; Some Weaknesses Remain” October 29, 2004.

“Business Investment Too Narrow” (with Christian Weller) October 28, 2004.

“Budget Failures” October 22, 2004.

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

MEDIA

Print: Quoted in dozens of magazines and newspapers, including: *The Washington Post*, *Boston Globe*, *LA Times*, *Financial Times*, *USA Today*, *Wall Street Journal*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, *New York Times*, *Time Magazine*, *National Journal*.

TV: National: Bloomberg, CNBC, CNN, C-Span, others.

Radio: NPR’s Marketplace, Kojo Nnandi Show, many local outlets.

COMPUTING SKILLS

Economic and Statistics Software. Experience with most major statistical/analysis software packages, including Stata, SAS, Gauss, PC-GIVE/FIML, EVIEWS, Mathematica, RATS, S+, SPSS. Current favorite: Stata.

Website Design. Good working knowledge of HTML, PHP, MySQL, JavaScript, PERL. Current favorite: PHP with MySQL.

General Computer. Mac’s, PC’s, Unix based systems and most major software and statistical packages. Used a variety of programming languages including Java, C, C++.

HOBBIES

Cooking, playing and watching soccer, building websites, economic commentary.

SHORT BIO

John S. Irons, Ph.D., is the Research and Policy Director at the Economic Policy Institute. His areas of expertise include the U.S. economy and economic policy, with an emphasis on federal tax and budget policy. Previously, he was Director of Tax and Budget Policy at The Center for American Progress. Prior to joining the Center, he was Senior Economic Research and Policy Analyst and Staff Economist at OMB Watch, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting government accountability and citizen participation. Prior to coming to Washington D.C., Dr. Irons was a tenure-track Assistant Professor of Economics at Amherst College. He has also worked at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors and briefly at the Brookings Institution.

Dr. Irons' academic publications have appeared in several Journals including the *Journal of Monetary Economics*, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Review of Financial Economics* and the *Eastern Economic Journal*. He is co-editor (with N. Ericsson) of Testing Exogeneity, published by Oxford University Press. He has authored numerous reports and articles on tax and budget policy, as well as on the broader economy and economic policy. He has been a guest lecturer and presented research at many colleges and universities including American University, Harvard University, Middlebury College, MIT, University of Missouri, University of Nebraska, and others.

He has also testified before the House of Representative Small Business Committee, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. He has also testified before the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board, Tax subcommittee, and the Senate Special Committee On Aging

He has been quoted in numerous national and local print publications and has appeared on TV and radio programs, including CNN, CNBC, BBC, NPR's Marketplace, C-Span, and others. He has been an occasional "econo-blogger" at the *Wall Street Journal*, and a contributor to the *National Journal* expert blog on the Economy.

Dr. Irons was awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, as well as a Graduate Fellowship from the Harvard/MIT Research Training Group in Positive Political Economy. He has won several awards for his economics websites, including top-5 awards from The Economist and Forbes.

He has served on the Committee on Electronic Publishing of the American Economic Association, and on the board of nonprofit institutions, including the Coalition on Human Needs. He was elected to serve on the Board of Governors of the National Economists Club.

Dr. Irons holds a B.A. with High Honors in economics from Swarthmore College, and a Ph.D. in economics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He is currently married and has two young daughters.