Camille Wixon

University of Virginia

Caw2va@virginia.edu

(912)704-9643

February 4th, 2025

Dear Selection Committee:

I am writing to express my strong interest in participating in the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp in July 2025. As a fourth year PhD student in economics studying pharmaceutical innovation and market structure, I am particularly excited about the opportunity to engage with leading scholars in innovation economics and to develop my research on how insurance coverage affects Research & Development incentives in preventative care markets.

My research examines how market structure and institutional features shape innovation in pharmaceutical markets, with a focus on contraceptive products. Using comprehensive claims data, I investigate how insurance coverage affects both demand-side product selection and supply-side innovation decisions. This work reveals how insurance-dampened price sensitivity can create unexpected barriers to socially beneficial innovation—insights that could extend to other preventative care markets.

The boot camp's focus on innovation policy and analysis would be particularly valuable for developing this research agenda. I look forward to engaging with other participants and learning from the diverse perspectives they will bring to discussions of innovation economics.

Dr. Amalia Miller, Professor of Economics at the University of Virginia, will provide a letter of recommendation. She can be reached at armiller@virginia.edu or (434) 924-6750.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the opportunity to participate in this exciting program.

Sincerely,

Camille Wixon

CAMILLE WIXON
Caw2va@virginia.edu

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA

Personal Contact Information

803 Cabell Ave.
Charlottesville, VA 22903
(912)704-9643

Personal Information: US Citizenship

Prior Studies:

Bachelor of Science, Mathematics and Economics with Honors, Wake Forest University, Summa Cum Laude, 2019

Doctoral Studies:

University of Virginia 2021-present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: Beyond Birth Control: How Women Navigate Costs, Risks, and Access in the Modern Contraceptive Landscape
Expected Completion Date: May 2027

Dissertation Committee:

Professor Amalia Miller
University of Virginia
(434) 924-6750, armiller@virginia.edu

Professor Julie Holland Mortimer
University of Virginia
(434)982-2591, rrd9am@virginia.edu

Professor John Pepper
University of Virginia
(434)924-3402, jvp3m@virginia.edu

Teaching and Research Fields:

Fields: Labor, Public, Industrial Organization

Teaching Experience:

2022-2023	"Corporate Finance," TA for Christopher McGee
2024	"Economics of Gender at Work," TA for Amalia Miller
2024	"Antitrust Policy," TA for Julie Holland Mortimer

Professional Experience:

2024-Present	Research Assistant for Julie Holland Mortimer and Sylvia Hristakeva
2024-Present	Research Assistant for Julie Holland Mortimer and Charles Murry
2019-2021	Desk Analyst at Barclays Investment Bank (New York); Special Situations
2018	Intern at Barclays Investment Bank (New York)

2016-2019	Research Assistant for Amanda Griffith and Joyce Maine
2015-2016	Research Assistant for Todd McFall

Professional Activities

President	University of Virginia Women in Economics Club
Junior Fellow	University of Virginia Society of Fellows
Economics Representative	Graduate Excellence Campaign
Mentor	Wake Forest University Women in Economics
Mentor	University of Virginia Distinguished Major Thesis Program
Mentor	UVA Undergraduate Women in Economics and Undergraduate Economics Clubs

Honors, Grants, and Scholarships:

2024	Karsh Institute Gun Violence Solutions Project Faculty Working Group Grant Recipient
2024	Economics Department Nominee for Graduate Teaching Award
2019	Economics Award for Academic Excellence
2018	G.W Greene Scholarship (awarded to a rising senior with the highest GPA)
2016	Carswell/Mullen Scholar (award for academic excellence and leadership)

Research Papers in Progress

"Beyond Birth Control: How Women Navigate Costs, Risks, and Access in the Modern Contraceptive Landscape"

"Abortion Access and Intimate Partner Violence: Evidence from Roe v. Wade"

"Stockpiling Under Political Uncertainty: Evidence from Ammunition Sales" with Marcella Cartledge

Working Papers

The Impact of Math and Science Remedial Education on Engineering Major Choice, Degree Attainment, and Time to Degree. *Revisions re-quested at the Research in Higher Education Journal* (with Amanda Griffith and Joyce Maine).

Presentations (includes scheduled):

2025	Wake Forest University Junior Faculty Seminar Series
2025	Gun Violence Solutions Program Spring Symposium
2024	Diverse Economics Conference at the University of Richmond
2024	Graduate Student Seminar Series at the Federal Reserve

Specialized Course Work:

Mixtape Demand Estimation Workshop with Ariel Pakes and Jeff Gortmaker
Dynamic Structural Estimation Summer School 2024
Statistical Machine Learning

Undergraduate Research:
Do APs Get Degrees? Measuring the Effects of College Level Course Credit for Qualifying AP Scores on Major Declaration
Edge Weights and Ranking Changes in Google's PageRank Algorithm

Complete List of Graduate Courses:

Fall 2021:

Mathematical Economics I

Microeconomic Theory I

Macroeconomic Theory I

Econometrics I

Spring 2022:

Microeconomic Theory II

Macroeconomic Theory II

Econometrics II

Microeconomic Theory III

Fall 2022:

Industrial Organization I

Labor Economics Topics

Cross Section Econometrics

Experimental Economics

Spring 2023:

Labor Economics and Development

Industrial Organization II

Public Economics I

Statistical Machine Learning

Fall 2023:

Empirical IO: Demand & Retail

Research Methods

Non-Topical Research, Doctoral Prep

Performance (Voice)

Spring 2024:

Research Methods

Non-Topical Research, Doctoral Prep

Fall 2024:

Applied Microeconomics Workshop

Non-Topical Research, Doctoral

Spring 2025:

Applied Microeconomics Workshop

Non-Topical Research, Doctoral

Current and Future Research

My research examines how market structure and institutional features shape innovation incentives in pharmaceutical and medical device markets, with a particular focus on contraceptive products. Using comprehensive claims data covering 28 million privately insured individuals alongside Medicaid datasets, I investigate how insurance coverage affects both demand-side product selection and supply-side innovation decisions.

A key insight from my work is that traditional models of pharmaceutical innovation may not fully capture the complexity of markets where insurance significantly dampens price sensitivity. In such environments, manufacturers must compete primarily on product characteristics rather than price, potentially creating misaligned incentives for innovation. My research demonstrates this through analysis of the contraceptive market, where extending product duration could cannibalize a manufacturer's existing sales, potentially reducing incentives to conduct clinical trials for longer-acting methods despite clear social benefits.

My structural model of contraceptive demand reveals strong consumer preferences for longer-acting methods and specific product characteristics beyond pregnancy prevention, such as reduced menstrual symptoms. This suggests that innovation incentives should account for multiple dimensions of product quality. The rich longitudinal nature of my claims data enables examination of how women's contraceptive choices evolve over time, providing insights into the dynamic nature of consumer preferences and product adoption.

The Innovation Research Boot Camp would be particularly valuable for developing this research agenda in several ways. First, the program's focus on innovation policy would help me better understand how regulatory frameworks can address misaligned innovation incentives in pharmaceutical markets. Second, exposure to frontier research in innovation economics would enhance my analysis of how market structure affects R&D decisions, especially in contexts where price competition is limited by insurance coverage. Finally, the boot camp's diverse participant pool would provide valuable perspectives on how my research on contraceptive markets could generalize to other preventative care markets where insurance coverage affects innovation incentives.

My research contributes to our understanding of innovation economics by examining how institutional features like insurance coverage can create unexpected barriers to socially beneficial innovation. This insight extends beyond contraceptive markets to other preventative care products where insurance coverage is mandated or heavily subsidized. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for designing policies that promote efficient innovation in pharmaceutical and medical device markets.

UNIVERSITY of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

February 5, 2025

Dear selection committee members:

I am writing to offer my enthusiastic recommendation of Camille Wixon as potential participant in the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2025. Camille is an outstanding student in her fourth year of the doctoral program in Economics at the University of Virginia. She successfully defended her dissertation proposal and advanced to candidacy on May 1, 2024. I am serving as Camille's thesis advisor; her other committee members are Professors Julie Mortimer and John Pepper.

Camille's dissertation research studies women's healthcare choices and outcomes, with a current focus on family planning decisions and choice of contraceptive medication or device. She studies how women respond to the evolving landscape of available contraceptive options, and estimates how financial and non-financial factors (such as side effects, dosing method and frequency, and efficacy) affect those choices. She exploits exogenous variation in out-of-pocket costs that come from insurance regulation that has varying impacts across types of contraception as well as across brands and products. The initial stage of her research is focusing on demand estimation and cross-product effects from price changes and the introduction of new and/or improved products (e.g., from new FDA approvals). She has obtained access to data on private insurance claims and well as state-by-drug level Medicaid claims and has completed some initial reduced form analysis and structural model building and estimation. After she completes estimation of the structural demand model, which needs to account for the durable nature of the choice and the varying product durations across methods (e.g., pills are taken daily but an IUD can last for several years), she plans to build out the supply-side of the market in the second stage of the work. The analysis will initially likely take products as given and focus on pricing as the strategic choice, with a goal of expanding the scope to incorporate innovation decisions that are informed by the estimates produced in the earlier phases about the demand-side and market competition.

Outside of research, Camille is a truly delightful person to be around, a beloved teacher and provider of departmental public goods, including leading the Women in Economics group and serving as ambassador in interdisciplinary scholarly groups and fundraising activities at the University. I have no doubt that she would make an excellent addition to your cohort.

Sincerely yours,



Amalia R. Miller
Georgia S. Bankard Professor of Economics, University of Virginia
Research Associate, NBER
Research Fellow, IZA

P.O. Box 400182 • Charlottesville, VA 22904-4182
Phone: 434-924-6750 • Fax: 434-982-2904 • E-mail: armiller@virginia.edu