

Melissa Schettini Kearney

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University of Maryland
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Education

Ph.D., Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2002
Dissertation: Essays on Public Policy and Consumer Choice: Applications to Welfare and State Lotteries

A.B., Economics, Highest Honors, Princeton University, 1996
Phi Beta Kappa
Thesis: Economic Determinants of Age at First Birth
Awarded Wolf Balleisen Memorial Award, thesis prize in economics

Professional Positions

University of Maryland, Department of Economics, *Assistant Professor*, August 2006 – present

Brookings Institution, Economic Studies Program:
Non-resident Fellow, January 2007 – present
Fellow, June 2005 – December 2006

Wellesley College, Department of Economics, *Assistant Professor*, July 2002 - May 2005

Other Affiliations

National Bureau of Economic Research, *Faculty Research Fellow*, 2002- present
Joint Center for Poverty Research, *Research Affiliate*, 2002-2004
American Economic Association, *Member*
Association of Public Policy and Management, *Member*
National Tax Association, *Member*

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

Vernon Memorial Prize for best paper in Journal of Policy Analysis and Management 2007
Brookings Institution Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Early Career Fellowship, 2004
National Tax Association Outstanding Dissertation Award, Honorable Mention, 2002
MIT Department of Economics Fellowship, 1998-2002
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 1998-2001
Harry S. Truman Scholar, 1995
National Coca-Cola Scholar, 1992

Journal Publications

"Gambling at Lucky Stores: Evidence from State Lottery Sales," forthcoming *American Economic Review* (with Jonathan Guryan)

“Subsidized Contraception, Fertility, and Sexual Behavior,” forthcoming *Review of Economics and Statistics* (with Phillip Levine)

“Trends in U.S. Wage Inequality: Re-Assessing the Revisionists,” forthcoming *Review of Economics and Statistics* (David Autor and Larry Katz)

“The Impact of Child SSI Enrollment on Household Outcomes: Evidence from the SIPP,” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2007, 26(4), 861-886. (with Mark Duggan)
- Awarded Vernon prize for best paper in *JPAM* 2007

“The Polarization of the U.S. Labor Market,” *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, May 2006, 96(2). (with David H. Autor and Lawrence F. Katz)

“Intergenerational Mobility for Women and Minorities in the United States,” *Future of Children*, Fall 2006, 16(2).

“State Lotteries and Consumer Behavior,” *Journal of Public Economics*, 2005, 89: 2269-2299.

“The Economic Winners and Losers of Legalized Gambling,” *National Tax Journal*, June 2005, 58: 281-302.

“Is There an Effect of Incremental Welfare Benefits on Fertility Behavior? A Look at the Family Cap” *Journal of Human Resources*, 2004, 39(2): 295-325.

Other Publications

“Socioeconomic Disadvantage and Early Childbearing,” in ed. Jonathan Gruber, *An Economics Perspective on the Problems of Disadvantaged Youth*, NBER conference volume (with Phil Levine)

Working Papers

“Lucky Stores, Gambling, and Addiction: Empirical Evidence from State Lottery Sales,” with Jonathan Guryan, NBER working paper 11287

“Estimating Preferences Under Risk: The Case of State Lottery Bettors,” in Ph.D. thesis, MIT Department of Economics

Permanent Working Papers

“Rising Wage Inequality: The Role of Composition and Prices”, with David Autor and Larry Katz, NBER working paper 11628

Grants

National Institute of Child Health and Development. Family Planning Waivers and Fertility. R03HD052528-01A1 (with Phil Levine), 2007 – 2009

National Institute of Child Health and Development. The Impact of Child SSI Enrollment. R03HD050441. (with Mark Duggan), 2005 – 2007

Academic and Conference Presentations

- 2007 – 2008 NBER Summer Institute 2007, American University, UMBC
- 2006 - 2007 University of Maryland; University of Virginia; George Washington University; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Conference; RAND Health Policy seminar; American Economic Association (AEA) annual meeting
- 2005 - 2006 Princeton University Dept of Economics; Yale University Dept of Economics; Cornell University School of Policy Analysis and Management; Princeton-Brookings *Future of Children* authors conference
- 2004 – 2005 NBER Summer Institute 2004; Brookings Institution; Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Conference; Econometric Society Annual Meeting; University of Maryland; Federal Reserve Board of Governors; Heinz School of Public Policy at Carnegie Mellon University; St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank; Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management
- 2003 – 2004 NBER Summer Institute 2003; Fundacion Ramon Areces, Madrid, Spain; University of Chicago GSB
- 2002 – 2003 NBER Summer Institute 2002; National Tax Association Annual Conference; University of Chicago; University of New Hampshire; Dartmouth College; Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
- 2001- 2002 Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Princeton University; Brown University; Wellesley College

Policy Presentations

- Institute for Policy Research (IPR) at Northwestern, Policy Briefing - “The Evolution of the Social Safety Net: Change for the Better?” 2005
- American Enterprise Institute – “Does SSI Enduringly Reduce Child Poverty,” 2005

Professional Service

Ad hoc reviewer for journals:

American Economic Review, *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Marriage and Family*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Southern Economics*, *Labour Economics*, *National Tax Journal*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*

Ad hoc reviewer for research proposals:

National Science Foundation (NSF), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC); Smith Richardson Foundation

Conference Discussant:

NBER Public Economics Universities Research Conference (2006); Future of Children conference on policies to reduce poverty, Princeton, NJ (2006); Brookings conference on policies to reduce poverty, Washington D.C. (2006); Econometric Society Annual Meeting (2004)

National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy – Research Advisory Council, 2006-present

Teaching

At University of Maryland – Graduate Public Finance

At Wellesley College (all undergraduate) - Econometrics; Intermediate Microeconomics; Economic Analysis of Social Policy

Other Professional Experience

M.I.T. Department of Economics Graduate Computer Lab Stata Consultant, 2001-2002
Research Assistant to Joshua Angrist, David Autor, Jonathan Gruber, M.I.T., 1999-2000
Research Assistant/Programmer, Mathematica Policy Research, Washington, D.C., 1996-1998
Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for courses in econometrics, Princeton University, 1995-1996
Research Assistant to Professors David Card and Cecilia Rouse, Princeton University, 1995

Citations in Press/Radio Appearances

NYTimes; Economist; Washington Post; Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Regional Focus; BBC Live at Five!; Detroit News; Fed Gazette; Christian Science Monitor; Boston Herald; Raleigh-Durham News & Observer

Personal

Birth date: May 13, 1974

Citizenship: U.S.A.

Family: married (Daniel P. Kearney Jr.), two children (William, born 6/2005, & Sophia, born 4/2007)

(Updated Dec 2007)