

BETH AKERS

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Current Positions

Fellow, Brown Center on Education Policy, Brookings Institution (8/2012 to present)
Lecturer, Government Analytics, Johns Hopkins University (5/2014 to present)

Education

Ph.D. Economics Columbia University (2012)
B.S. Mathematics University at Albany, SUNY (2005)

Field of Specialization:

Economics of Education, Higher Education Finance Policy

Previous Position

Staff Economist White House Council of Economic Advisers (2007-2008)

Honors and Awards

Columbia University Teaching Fellow (2006-2012)
Columbia University Faculty Fellow (2005-2006)
NSF Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship Fellow (2005-2006)

Policy Reports

“How Much is Too Much? Evidence on Financial Well-Being and Student Loan Debt”
AEI Series on Reinventing Financial Aid, Center on Higher Education Reform, American Enterprise Institute, May 2014.

“Student Loan Safety Nets: Estimating the Costs and Benefits of Income-Based Repayment,” Brown Center on Education Policy, Brookings Institution, 2014.

“The Next Steps: Building a Reimagined System of Federal Student Aid,” Brown Center on Education Policy, Brookings Institution, 2013.

Articles in Edited Volumes

“Understanding Changes in the Distribution of Student Loan Debt Over Time,” with Matthew M. Chingos and Alice Henriques, Upjohn Institute, forthcoming.

Other Writing

“Drop Student Loan Forgiveness, Pare Income-Based Repayment Programs Back to Core Purpose,” with Matthew M. Chingos, *Real Clear Education*, April 18, 2014.

Chalkboard, Brown Center on Education Policy, Brookings Institution

- “Reconsidering the Conventional Wisdom on Student Loan Debt and Home Ownership,” May 8, 2014.

- “Refinancing Outstanding Student Loans: Not as Progressive as it Seems,” with Matthew M. Chingos, March 19, 2014.
- “Fair Trade Faculty: Should Policy Enforce a Living Wage for Adjuncts?” February 12, 2014.
- “Assessing the Plight of Recent College Grads,” October 30, 2013.
- “States’ Merit-Based Aid Undermines the Aim of the Federal Pell Grant Program,” September 25, 2013.
- “Big Challenges Ahead for President Obama’s College Ratings,” with Matthew M. Chingos, August 23, 2013.
- “Moving on to the Real Issues in Student Lending,” July 31, 2013.
- “Do Student Loan Interest Rates Matter?” June 25, 2013.
- “Policymakers Get Serious About Student Loan Interest Rates,” May 10, 2013.
- “Time-to-Graduation Too Often Overlooked,” May 1, 2013.
- “Criticisms of College Scorecard Are Off the Mark,” February 27, 2013.
- “Consumption Amenities in Higher Education,” February 6, 2013.

Working Papers

“Excess Sensitivity of Labor Supply and Educational Attainment: Evidence from Variation in Student Loan Debt”

“Adverse Selection and Moral Hazard in the Market for Federal Student Loans”

“Estimating the Temporal Earnings Losses faced by Workers Displaced by Outsourcing”

Research Grants

Smith Richardson Foundation, “Student Loan Debt: Is a Crisis on the Horizon,” 2013–2014, \$50,000

Lumina Foundation, “Exploring New Models of Passive Student Loan Repayment Systems,” 2013, \$100,000.

Lumina Foundation, “Decreasing Time to Degree Through Financial Awareness,” 2013–2014, \$200,000.

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, “The Next Steps: Building a Reimagined System of Federal Student Aid,” 2013, \$78,000

Professional Activities

Invited Presentations: University of Arkansas (Education Reform), Cato Institute, Lumina Foundation Ideas Summit, Charles Koch Institute, University of Nevada- Las Vegas, Upjohn Institute, Brookings Institution, Federal Reserve Board, Mount Holyoke College

Media: Vox, Huffington Post, WBUR (NPR), National Journal, Wall Street Journal, Chronicle of Higher Education, Education Next, Minnesota Daily, Las Vegas Sun, Nevada Public Radio, NPR, PBS News, ABC News, Fox Business News, Boston Herald, Alaska Public Radio, Fortune Magazine, Mother Jones Magazine

Teaching

Program Evaluation, M.S in Government Analytics, Johns Hopkins University, 2014
International Trade, Department of Economics, Columbia University, 2010

(Teaching Assistantships)

Global Economic Environment, Columbia Business School
Intermediate Microeconomics, Department of Economics, Columbia University
Economics of Uncertainty, Department of Economics, Columbia University
Financial Economics, Department of Economics, Columbia University