

**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
**Melissa Schettini Kearney**

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**Education**

Ph.D., Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2002

Dissertation title: Essays on Public Policy and Consumer Choice: Applications to Welfare Reform and State Lotteries

Dissertation Committee: Jonathan Gruber and Joshua Angrist

A.B., Economics, Highest Honors, Princeton University, 1996

Phi Beta Kappa

Wolf Balleisen Memorial Award, thesis prize in economics

**Professional Positions**

University of Maryland, Department of Economics:

*Associate Professor*, August 2009-present

*Assistant Professor*, August 2006 – 2009

The Hamilton Project, *Director*, 2013-present

Brookings Institution, Economic Studies Program:

*Senior Fellow*, 2013-present; *Non-resident Fellow*, 2007 – 2009; *Fellow*, 2005 –2006

National Bureau of Economic Research:

*Research Associate*, 2009-present; *Faculty Research Fellow*, 2002- 2009

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

Joint Center for Poverty Research, *Research Affiliate*, 2002-2004

**Articles in Refereed Journals**

Detting, Lisa and Melisa S. Kearney. “House Prices and Birth Rates: The Impact of the Real Estate Market on the Decision to Have a Baby,” *Journal of Public Economics* 110, February 2014: 1-166

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip Levine. “Income Inequality and Early, Non-Marital Childbearing,” *Journal of Human Resources* 49, Winter 2014: 1-31

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip Levine, “Why is the Teen Birth Rate So High in the United States and Why Does it Matter?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 26(2), Spring 2012: 141-63.

Freedman, Seth, Melissa Kearney, and Mara Lederman. “Product Recalls, Imperfect Information, and Spillover Effects: Lessons from the Consumer Response to the 2007 Toy Recalls,” *Review of Economics and Statistics* 94(2), May 2012: 499-516.

Guryan, Jonathan and Melissa S. Kearney, “Is Lottery Gambling Addictive?” *AEJ: Economic Policy* 2(3), August 2010: 90–110.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip Levine. “Subsidized Contraception, Fertility, and Sexual Behavior,” *Review of Economics and Statistics* 91(1), October 2010: 137.

Guryan, Jonathan, Erik Hurst, and Melissa S. Kearney. "Parental Education and Parental Time with Children," *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 22(3), Summer 2008: 23-46.

Autor, David H, Lawrence F. Katz, and Melissa S. Kearney. "Trends in U.S. Wage Inequality: Re-Assessing the Revisionists," *Review of Economics and Statistics* 90(2), May 2008, 300-323.

Guryan, Jonathan and Melissa S. Kearney. "Gambling at Lucky Stores: Evidence from State Lottery Sales," *American Economic Review* 98 (1), March 2008: 458-73.

Duggan, Mark and Melissa S. Kearney. "The Impact of Child SSI Enrollment on Household Outcomes: Evidence from the SIPP," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 26(4), 2007: 861-886.

Kearney, Melissa S. "State Lotteries and Consumer Behavior," *Journal of Public Economics* 89, 2005: 2269-2299.

Kearney, Melissa S. "The Economic Winners and Losers of Legalized Gambling," *National Tax Journal* 58, June 2005: 281-302.

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

### **Chapters in books**

Kearney, Melissa S., Peter Tufano, Erik Hurst, and Jonathan Guryan. "Making Savings Fun: An Overview of Prize-Linked Savings," in ed. Olivia Mitchell and Ammamaria Lusardi, *Financial Literacy: Implications for Retirement Security and the Financial Marketplace*, Oxford University Press, 2011.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip Levine. "Socioeconomic Disadvantage and Early Childbearing," in ed. Jonathan Gruber, *An Economics Perspective on the Problems of Disadvantaged Youth*, University of Chicago Press, October 2009.

Kearney, Melissa S. "Teen Pregnancy Prevention," in ed. Phillip Levine and David Zimmerman, *Targeting Investments in Youth: Fighting Poverty when Resources are Limited*, Princeton University Press, October 2010.

### **Other publications**

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip Levine. "Teen Births are Falling: What's Going on?" Brookings policy brief, March 2014.

Kearney, Melissa and Lesley Turner, "Giving Secondary Earners a Tax Break: A Proposal to Help Low- and Middle-Income Families. The Hamilton Project Discussion Paper, December 2013.  
(Proposal introduced into federal legislation by U.S. Senator Murray, March 2014.)

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip Levine. "Reducing Unplanned Pregnancies through Medicaid Family Planning Services," Brookings CCF Brief number 39, July 2008.

Kearney, Melissa S. "Intergenerational Mobility for Women and Minorities in the United States," *Future of Children*, Fall 2006, 16(2).

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

### Invited Columns

Kearney, Melissa and Phillip Levine, "Is MTV's 16 and Pregnant 'A Great Form of Birth Control?'", Huffingtonpost.com, January 13, 2014.

Kearney, Melissa and Phillip Levine, "Forget Plan B: To Fight Teen Childbearing, Focus on Economic Opportunity," The Atlantic, May 8, 2013.

Kearney, Melissa and Phillip Levine, "Income Inequality, Economic Despair, and Teen Childbearing," Huffingtonpost.com, June 7, 2012.

Guryan, Jonathan, Erik Hurst, and Melissa Kearney, "Parental Education and Parental Time with Children," voxeu.org, July 5, 2008.

### Working Papers

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip Levine, "Media Influences on Social Outcomes: The Impact of MTV's 16 and Pregnant on Teen Childbearing," NBER working paper 19795, January 2014.

*Media coverage:* nearly 200 press, radio, TV, and internet news site mentions, including NY Times, Boston Globe, National Public Radio, USA Today, LA Times, Chicago Tribune

Filiz-Ozbay, Emel, Kyle Hyndman, Jonathan Guryan, Melissa Kearney, and Erkut Ozbay, "Do Lottery Payments Induce Savings Behavior? Evidence from the Lab." NBER working paper 19130, June 2013. (revise and resubmit, *Journal of Public Economics*)

*Media coverage:* Wall Street Journal

Aizer, Anna, Nora Gordon, and Melissa Kearney, "Exploring the Growth of the Child SSI Caseload in the Context of the Broader Policy and Demographic Landscape,"

presented at NBER/SSA Disability Research Conference in Washington DC, October 2013.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip Levine, "Investigating Recent Trends in the U.S. Teen Birth Rates," NBER working paper 17964, March 2012. (under academic review)

### Work in Progress

Kearney, Melissa S. and Philip Levine, "Income Inequality, Social Mobility, and the Decision to Drop-Out of High School." Current draft: April 2014.

(Earlier draft presented at NBER conference on Poverty, Income Inequality, and Social Mobility, May 2013.)

"Stay the Course: A Randomized Evaluation of a Community College Intervention," with William Evans and Jim Sullivan

"Contemporaneous and Persistent Effects of Economic Conditions on Household Formation and Finances," with Lisa Dettling

### Permanent Working Paper

Autor, David H, Lawrence F. Katz, and Melissa S. Kearney. "Rising Wage Inequality: The Role of Composition and Prices," NBER working paper 11628, September 2005.

### **Invited Seminar and Conference Presentations**

2013 – 2014 Stanford University; UCLA; UC-Santa Barbara; Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania (scheduled); UT-Austin (scheduled)

2012 – 2013 Harvard University, Department of Economics; NBER Universities Research Conference; University of Bergen/University College London workshop; Columbia University; Ohio State University; Washington University in St. Louis; APPAM Annual Conference (presenter and discussant); AEA Annual Meeting (discussant); American University School of Public Policy; University of Maryland Center for Children, Relationships, & Culture

2011 – 2012 Georgetown University PPI; Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania; University of Wisconsin – Institute for Research on Poverty; Northwestern University – Institute for Policy Research; University of Illinois – Institute for Government and Public Affairs; NBER NYC Health Economics seminar, U.S. Dept of Treasury, U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

2010 – 2011 Brown University; APPAM Annual Conference; AEA Annual Meeting (discussant); University of British Columbia; University of Stavanger (Norway) conference on “Labor Markets, Children, and Families”

2009 – 2010 Syracuse University; Delaware University; Purdue University; UC-Santa Barbara; Clemson University; Federal Trade Commission

2008 – 2009 NBER Targeting Investments in Children; National Poverty Center Census/SIPP research conference (discussant); Southern Economic Association conference (discussant); Notre Dame; Wellesley College; Georgetown University; UC-Irvine; UC-Davis; University of Michigan

2007 – 2008 NBER Summer Institute 2007, American University, UMBC, AEA Annual Meeting (discussant); Mathematica Policy Research; Academy Health annual conference; Tufts University

2006 - 2007 University of Virginia; George Washington University; NBER Public Economics Universities Research Conference (discussant); APPAM Annual Conference; RAND Health Policy seminar; American Economic Association (AEA) annual meeting

2005 - 2006 Princeton; Yale; Cornell; Princeton-Brookings *Future of Children* authors conference; *Future of Children* conference on policies to reduce poverty (discussant); Brookings conference on policies to reduce poverty (discussant)

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; St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank; Northwestern University Kellogg School of Management; Econometric Society Annual Meeting (discussant)

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; Brown; Wellesley College

### **Invited Policy Presentations**

U.S. Congressional Testimony, Joint Economic Committee, “Income Inequality in the United States” January 16, 2014.

Administration for Children and Families’ (ACF) 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference (WREC), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, May 2013.

RAND Behavioral Finance Forum, May 2013.

Brookings Institution conference on unintended pregnancy – “Abortion in America,” 2006  
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

### **Sponsored Research**

“Exploring the Growth of the Child SSI Caseload in the Context of the Broader Policy and Demographic Landscape” (co-PI with Anna Aizer and Nora Gordon)

Funding Source: NBER Disability Research Center, Project NB13-02

Award Amount and Duration: \$122,754 over 1 year

Grant dates: August 1, 2012 - July 31, 2013

“Income Inequality and Educational Attainment” (co-PI with Phillip Levine)

Funding Source: Smith Richardson Foundation

Award Amount and Duration: \$50,000 over 1 year

Start Date: September 2012

“Explaining Trends in Teen Birth Rates” Childbearing (co-PI with Phillip Levine)

Funding Source: National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy

Award Amount and Duration: \$96,000 over 1 year

Completion Date: August 2011

“Family Planning Waivers and Teen Fertility” (co-PI with Phillip Levine)

Funding Source: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Award Amount and Duration: \$137,000 over 2 years

Completion Date: April 2009

“The impact of Child SSI Enrollment” (co-PI with Mark Duggan)

Funding Source: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development

Award Amount and Duration: \$140,000 over 2 years

Completion Date: June 2007

### **Fellowships, Prizes, Awards**

University of Maryland Population Center Seed Grant, 2012

University of Maryland Graduate Research Board research support and salary award, 2008

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

### **Reviewing Activities for Journals**

*American Economic Review; AEJ - Economic Policy; AEJ - Applied Economics; AEJ – Macroeconomics; B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, Demography, Economic Letters; Health Economics; 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, Public Finance Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics; Review of Economics Studies*

- Recognized for “Excellence in Refereeing” for the *American Economic Review, 2009*

Associate Editor, *Economic Inquiry*

### **Teaching**

At University of Maryland – Public Economics (graduate), Public Finance and Public Policy (undergraduate), Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis (undergraduate), Honors Thesis Workshop

- Dept of Economics Graduate Teaching Award: 2008, 2011
- Dept of Economics Undergraduate Teaching Award: 2012, 2013

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

### **PhD Research Advising, Completed, with first job placement**

Lisa Dettling, 2013, Federal Reserve Board of Governors (committee chair)

Timothy Moore, 2012, George Washington University (committee chair)

Gabriel Lara Ibarra, 2011, IMPAQ international, LLC (committee chair)

Juan Diego Bonilla, 2011, University of Sao Paolo, Brazil

Seth Freedman, 2010, RWJ Scholar in Health Policy at Michigan

Lingsheng Meng, 2010 Tsinghua University

Keith Kranner, 2010, Mathematica Policy Research

Craig Garthwaite, 2009, Kellogg, Northwestern University

Tamara Hayford, 2009, Congressional Budget Office

Melissa Powell McInerney, 2008, College of William and Mary

Melinda Sandler, 2008, North Carolina State University

Perry Singleton, 2007, Syracuse University

### **University of Maryland service**

#### **Economics Department:**

Executive committee, 2011-12, 2012-13

Salary committee, 2012-13

Graduate Student Admissions, committee member, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2012-13

Junior Recruiting, committee member 2007-8, 2009-10, 2011-12

#### **Campus-wide:**

Dean’s representative for Dissertation Defenses (Sociology 2011, 2013; Policy School 2012)

Maryland Population Research Center, Executive Committee, 2009-2011

National Scholarship office, student interview preparation, 2007-2011

Search Committee, African American Studies Department Public Policy Faculty Search 2007-8

Selection Committee, UMD BSOS George Phillips Award 2007-8

### **Professional Service**

- Conference Organizer: NBER Universities Research Conference, “Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy,” May 10-11, 2013
- Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO) – faculty affiliate (2012- )
- RAND CFBP Financial Capability Research Team – research consultant (2012-13)
- Brookings Social Genome Project – topical advisor, 2010-2012
- Association of Public Policy and Management (APPAM) – Policy Council, 2009-2012; Dissertation prize committee (\*denotes chair), 2009-10, 2010-11\*, 2011-12, 2012-13\*
- National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy – Research Advisory Council, 2006-2012
- Brookings Unplanned Pregnancy Agent-Based Modeling Project - consultant, 2007-2008
- Ad hoc reviewer for research proposals: National Science Foundation (NSF), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC); Smith Richardson Foundation
- Ad hoc reviewer for government agencies: Congressional Budget Office

### **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

*Signature:*



April 14, 2014