CURRICULUM VITAE
Melissa Schettini Kearney

Academic Positions and Affiliations

University of Notre Dame, Department of Economics, Aug 2025-
Gilbert F. Schaefer Professor Economics
Director, Strengthening Families Research Initiative

University of Maryland, Department of Economics
Neil Moskowitz Professor of Economics, 2016-2025
Professor, 2014-2016, *Associate Professor (with tenure)*, 2009-2014; *Assistant Professor,* 2006 – 2009

National Bureau of Economic Research
Research Associate, 2009 – present; *Faculty Research Fellow,* 2002- 2009

Brookings Institution, Economic Studies Program
Non-resident Senior Fellow, 2015-present
Senior Fellow (in residence), 2013-2015
Non-resident Fellow, 2007 – 2009; *Fellow (in residence),* 2005 –2006

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

Leadership and Advisory Positions

Aspen Institute, Economic Strategy Group, *Director,* 2017-present
Director since the first year of the program's launch. Responsible for developing and implementing an overall strategic vision, a plan of action, and a policy agenda for the bipartisan group.

MDRC, *Board of Directors*, January 2022 – present

Notre Dame Wilson-Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities, *Board of Advisors*, 2015-present
Faculty Affiliate, 2013-present

Smith Richardson Foundation, Board of Governors, 2018-2024, 2026-

American Economic Association, *Executive Committee Member (elected)* 2020–2022
Editorial Appointments Committee, 2020-2023; Chair, 2022

Russell Sage Foundation, Social Inequality Advisory Committee, 2018-2020

MIT Jamal-Abdul Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
- Inaugural Co-Chair, Cities & States Innovation Initiative, 2015-2018
- *Affiliated scholar*, 2015-present

The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution, *Director*, 2013-2015
Advisory Council Member, 2015-present

Education

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

A.B., Economics, Highest Honors, Princeton University, 1996
Phi Beta Kappa; Wolf Balleisen Memorial Award, thesis prize in economics

Editorial Positions
Journal of Economic Literature, Board of Editors, January 2017-2025
American Economic Journal: Economic Policy: Board of Editors, 2019-2024
Future of Children, Senior Editor, January 2017-2020
Demography, Board of Editors, 2016-2019
Journal of Human Resources, Co-Editor, 2016-2018

Book
Kearney, Melissa S. *The Two-Parent Privilege*, University of Chicago Press, 2023
- Listed by *Wall Street Journal* and the *New Yorker* "Best Books of 2023"

Edited volumes
Kearney, Melissa S. and Luke Pardue (editors), *Advancing America's Prosperity*, Aspen Economic Strategy Group, October 2025.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Luke Pardue (editors), *Strengthening America's Economic Dynamism*, Aspen Economic Strategy Group, November 2024.

Kearney, Melissa S., Luke Pardue, and Justin Schardin (editors), *Building a More Resilient US Economy*, Aspen Economic Strategy Group, November 2023.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Amy Ganz (editors), *Economic Policy in a More Uncertain World*, Aspen Economic Strategy Group, January 2023.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Amy Ganz (editors), *Rebuilding the post-pandemic economy*, Aspen Economic Strategy Group, December 2021.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Amy Ganz (editors), *Securing Our Economic Future*, Aspen Economic Strategy Group, December 2020.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Ron Haskins (editors), *How Cultural Factors Shape Economic Outcomes, Future of Children,* Princeton University: June 2020.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Amy Ganz (editors), *Maintaining the Strength of American Capitalism*, Aspen Institute Economic Strategy Group, November 2019.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Amy Ganz (editors). *Expanding Economic Opportunity for More Americans: Bipartisan Policies to Increase Work, Wages, and Skills*. Aspen Economic Strategy Group, February 2019.

Kearney, Melissa and Benjamin Harris (editors). *Policies to Address Poverty in America*, The Hamilton Project: June 2014.

Articles in Academic Journals
Melissa S. Kearney & Phillip B. Levine, forthcoming. "Why is Fertility So Low in High-Income Countries," *Journal of Economic Literature* (previously circulated as NBER working paper 33989).

Melissa S. Kearney & Phillip B. Levine, 2023. "The US COVID-19 baby bust and rebound," *Journal of Population Economics*, vol 36(4), pages 2145-2168.

Kearney, Melissa S., Philip B. Levine, Luke Pardue, "The puzzle of falling birth rates since the Great Recession," *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, winter 2022, 36(1): 151-176.

Kearney, Melissa S., Brendan M. Price, and Riley Wilson. "Disability Insurance in the Great Recession: Ease of Access, Program Enrollment, and Local Hysteresis." *AEA Papers and Proceedings* May 2021, 111: 486-90.

Evans, William, Melissa S. Kearney, Brendan Perry, and James X. Sullivan, "Increasing Community College Completion Rates among Low-Income Students: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial Evaluation of a Case Management Intervention," *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, September 2020.

Abraham, Katharine and Melissa S. Kearney. "Explaining the Decline in the U.S. Employment-to-Population Ratio: A Review of the Evidence, *Journal of Economic Literature* 58(3), September 2020: 585-643.

Hershbein, Brad, Melissa Schettini Kearney, Luke W. Pardue, "College Attainment, Income Inequality, and Economic Security: A Simulation Exercise," *AEA Papers & Proceedings* May 2020, (longer version: NBER Working Paper No. 26747 February 2020.)

Evans, William N., Melissa S. Kearney, Brendan Perry and James X. Sullivan, "A Cautionary Tale about Emergency Financial Assistance without Services: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial Evaluation at a Community College," *AEA Papers & Proceedings* Vol. 109, May 2019.

Browman, Alexander S. , Mesmin Destin, Melissa S. Kearney, and Phillip B. Levine, "How economic inequality shapes mobility expectations and behaviour in disadvantaged youth," *Nature Human Behaviour* 3, February 2019: 214–220.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Philip Levine, "Early Childhood Education by Television: Lessons from Sesame Street" *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 11(1), February 2019: 318-350.

Kearney, Melissa and Riley Wilson, "Male Earnings, Marriageable Men, and Non-Marital Fertility: Evidence from the Fracking Boom," *Review of Economics and Statistics* 100(4), October 2018: 678-690.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Philip Levine, "The Economics of Non-Marital Childbearing and the Marriage Premium for Children," *Annual Review of Economics* (9), September 2017.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Philip Levine, "Income Inequality, Social Mobility, and the Decision to Drop-Out of High School." *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, March 2016.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip Levine, "Media Influences on Social Outcomes: The Impact of MTV's 16 and Pregnant on Teen Childbearing," *American Economic Review* 105(12), 2015: 3597-3632.

Filiz-Ozbay, Emel, Kyle Hyndman, Jonathan Guryan, Melissa Kearney, and Erkut Ozbay, "Do Lottery Payments Induce Savings Behavior? Evidence from the Lab." *Journal of Public Economics* (126), June 2015: 1-24.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip Levine, "Investigating Recent Trends in the U.S. Teen Birth Rates," *Journal of Health Economics (41),* May 2015: 15-29.

Dettling, 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.

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).

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.

Working Papers

Dettling, Lisa and Melissa Schettini Kearney, "Did the Modern Mortgage Set the Stage for the U.S. Baby Boom?" NBER working paper 33446, February 2025.

Dettling, Lisa and Melissa Schettini Kearney, "The Cyclicality of Births and Babies' Health, Revisited: Evidence from Unemployment Insurance," NBER working paper 30937, February 2023.

Permanent Working Papers

Kearney, Melissa S. "The "college gap" in marriage and children's family structure," NBER working 30078. May 2022

Furman, Jason, Melissa S. Kearney, and Wilson Powell, "The role of childcare challenges in the US jobs market recovery during the COVID-19 pandemic," NBER working paper 28934, June 2021.

Dawson, Rachel Fulcher, Melissa S. Kearney, James X. Sullivan, "Comprehensive Approaches to Increasing Student Completion in Higher Education: A Survey of the Landscape" NBER working paper 28046, November 2020.

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

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, Washington DC, Oct 2013.

Chapters in books and edited volumes

Kearney, Melissa S. and Luke Pardue, "The Economic Case for Smart Investing in America's Youth" in *Building a More Resilient US Economy*, edited by Melissa S. Kearney, Justin Schardin, and Luke Pardue. Washington, DC: Aspen Institute, November 2023.

Kearney, Melissa and Phillip Levine, "The Causes and Consequences of Declining US Fertility," in ed. Melissa S. Kearney and Amy Ganz, Economic Policy in a More Uncertain World," Aspen Institute Economic Strategy Group, January 2023.

Kearney, Melissa and Phillip Levine, "Role Models, Mentors, and Media Influences," in ed. Melissa Kearney and Ron Haskins, "How Cultural Factors Shape Economic Outcomes," *Future of Children* June 2020.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Magne Mogstad. "Universal Basic Income (UBI) as a Policy Response to Current Challenges," in ed. Melissa S. Kearney and Amy Ganz, *Maintaining the Strength of American Capitalism*, Aspen Institute Economic Strategy Group, December 2019.

Kearney, Melissa. "Promoting economic security and upward mobility with programmes that support low-income families and youth," in Ed. Chad Bown, *Economics and Policy in the Age of Trump*, VOXEU. June 2017.

Kearney, Melissa. "Should we be concerned about income inequality?" in Ed. Michael Strain, *The U.S. Labor Market: Questions and Challenges for U.S. Policy*. Washington D.C.: American Enterprise Institute. June 2016.

Duggan, Mark, Melissa S. Kearney, and Stephanie Rennane. 2016. "The Supplemental Security Income Program" In R. A. Moffitt (Ed.) *Economics of Means-Tested Transfer Programs in the U.S., Volume II* (pp. 1-58). Chicago, IL: University of Chicago Press.

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.

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

Policy papers and reports

Grant, Ella, Melissa S. Kearney, Luke Pardue. Supporting Families, Rewarding Work: A Proposal to Reform and Enhance the EITC and the CTC. The Aspen Economic Strategy Group, June 2025.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Wendy Edelberg. "A Proposal for an Enhanced Partially Refundable Child Tax Credit," The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution, March 2023.

Kearney, Melissa S. "Will birth rates in the U.S. rebound? Probably Not." Brookings Institution. May 24, 2021.

Kearney, Melissa S. "Child Poverty in the United States," *Econofact*, January 2021.

Kearney, Melissa S. "We could abolish child poverty in the U.S. with social security benefits for poor kids" Brookings Institution. October 21, 2020.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip B. Levine. Half a Million Fewer Children? The Coming Covid Baby Bust." Brookings Institution. June 15, 2020.

Furman, Jason, Timothy Geithner, Glenn Hubbard, and Melissa Kearney, "Promoting Economic Recovery After Covid-19" *Aspen Economic Strategy Group Task Force Report*, June 2020.

Kearney, Melissa and Luke Pardue, "Exposure on the Job: Who are the Essential Workers Who Cannot Work from Home?" May 2020. Brookings Institution.

Kearney, Melissa and Luke Pardue, "COVID-19 Social Insurance Payments to U.S. Households," *EconoFact,* March 2020.

Kearney, Melissa, "Widening Socioeconomic Differences in Children's Family Structure," *EconoFact*, June 2019.

Kearney, Melissa, "Welfare and the Federal Budget," *EconoFact,* July 2017.

Gale, William, Melissa Kearney, and Peter Orszag. "Would a significant increase in the top income tax rate substantially alter income inequality?" Brookings Institution. September 28, 2015.

Kearney, Melissa, Brad Hershbein, and Lawrence H. Summers. "Increasing Education: What it Will and Will Not Do for Earnings and Earnings Inequality," The Hamilton Project. March 30, 2015.

Kearney, Melissa and Phillip Levine, "Economic despair: The vicious circle of inequality and social mobility", Brookings Social Mobility Memos, May 29, 2015.

Kearney, Melissa and Phillip Levine, "Income inequality, social mobility, and the decision to drop out of high school", voxeu.org, May 28, 2015.

Kearney, Melissa, Brad Hershbein, and Elisa Jacome "Profiles of Change: Employment, Earnings, and Occupations from 1990-2013." The Hamilton Project. April 20, 2015.

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.)

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

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

Essays and opinion pieces

Kearney, Melissa, "For a Better Birth Rate Debate, Consider the Possibilities," *The Dispatch*, September 30, 2024.

Kearney, Melissa and Rob Portman, "High US Debt Threatens the US Economy," *TIME magazine*, November 13, 2023.

Kearney, Melissa S. "The US Economy Needs More Two-Parent Families", *TIME magazine*, September 28, 2023.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Luke Pardue, "Too Many High School Seniors Are Turning Away from College Altogether," *TIME magazine*, May 4, 2023.

"A Driver of Inequality that Not Enough People are Talking About," *The Atlantic*, September 18, 2023.

"The Rise of Single Parent Families is Not a Good Thing," *New York Times*, September 17, 2023.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Wendy Edelberg, "How to fight poverty and boost work with an enhanced Child Tax Credit," The Hill, March 2023.

Kearney, Melissa S. "America's slowing population growth is here to stay," *Financial Times*, December 2022.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip B. Levine, "How the Pandemic Affected U.S. Birth Rates—and What Comes Next," *TIME magazine*, November 2022.

Kearney, Melissa S. "Six Reasons why an expanded child tax credit or child allowance should be part of the US safety net." Brookings Institution, October 12, 2021.

Hoynes, Hilary, Melissa Kearney, Diane Schanzenbach, "How lifting children out of poverty today will help them tomorrow." The Conversation. April 2021

Kearney, Melissa S. and Phillip B. Levine, We Expect 300,000 Fewer Births This Year, New York Times opinion, March 4, 2021.

Kearney, Melissa and Diane Schanzenbach, Romney's Plan to Help Families and Promote Work, The Hill, February 17, 2021.

Furman, Jason, Melissa Kearney, Timothy Geithner, Glenn Hubbard, "What a Successful Economic Recovery Plan Must Look Like." Washington Post opinion. June 16, 2020.

Kearney, Melissa. "Emerging from the COVID-19 Crisis a Better and More Resilient Society," The Hill opinion. April 11, 2020.

Paulson, Henry M., Erskine Bowles, and Melissa S. Kearney. "Americans are being left behind. Here's how we fix it." Washington Post opinion, January 27, 2019.

Kearney, Melissa, How Should Governments Address Income Inequality? Putting Piketty into Practice, *Foreign Affairs*, November/December 2017.

Kearney, Melissa and Philip B. Levine, "Income Inequality and the Decision to Drop Out of High School," Communities & Banking. Federal Reserve Bank of Boston 28(1), winter 2017.

Kearney, Melissa, "What Does Culture Have to Do With the American Dream?" Institute for Family Studies blog, May 22, 2017, edited transcript of remarks given at American Enterprise Institute.

Kearney, Melissa and Philip Levine, "The 'marriage premium for children' depends on family resources," Brookings Social Mobility Memos, May 13, 2017.

Kearney, Melissa and Phillip Levine, "Disadvantaged kids to miss out on educational TV under Trump budget," The Hill, March 19, 2017.

Kearney, Melissa and Phillip Levine, "What the Media Got Wrong About Our 'Sesame Street' Education Study," New Republic, June 19, 2015.

Kearney, Melissa, "How a Simple Change to the Tax Code Could Help the Middle Class," *Washington Post*, December 24, 2014.

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

Rubin, Robert, Roger C. Altman, and Melissa Kearney, "Making the poor – and the U.S. – poorer still," Washington Post opinion, December 8, 2013.

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.

Invited Academic Seminar and Conference Presentations

2025 – 2026 Brookings Papers on Economic Activity (BPEA) Fall 2025; MIT Department of Economics; Emory University; Stanford University, Hoover Institute; 2026 AEA "Recent Developments" Lecture on the Economics of Fertility

2024 – 2025 Princeton University OPR, University of Virginia, Batten School; Weber State University (interdisciplinary book talk); University of Mississippi (interdisciplinary book talk); University of Notre Dame; Johns Hopkins University

2023 – 2024 Duke University, Demography; University of Chicago, Demography; Harvard University, Opportunity Insights; Florida State University; University of Florida; Alpine Population Conference (Bocconi University); University of Wisconsin-

Milwaukee (book talk)

2022 – 2023 University of Indiana, Bloomington-O'Neill School; University of Nebraska; University of Connecticut; Florida Applied Micro Seminar Series; Alpine Population Conference (Bocconi University); NBER Summer Institute - Children

2021 – 2022 Vanderbilt; BYU; UC San Diego; George Washington University; UC Merced; Brandeis University; University of Wisconsin, Institute for Research on Poverty; University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy; Society of Economics of the Household (SEHO) at UCL

2020 - 2021 IFS-CEP Welfare and the low wage labour market workshop (presenter); 2021 ASSA meetings (presenter, session chair/organizer, discussant); George Mason University

2019 – 2020 2020 ASSA meetings (presenter); University of Pittsburgh, Economics; Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy

2018 – 2019 University of Toronto; Columbia University; Princeton University; University of Lugano; University of Milan; NBER Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Toronto (discussant); U.S. Census Bureau; 2019 ASSA meetings (presenter and discussant)

2017 – 2018 University of California, Davis; Georgetown University; CEP/IFS conference on Wages, Labour Market Policy and the Safety Net; Utah WBEC (discussant); NBER/SSA seminar

2016 – 2017 Duke University, Public Policy; Boston University; University of Michigan; APPAM annual meetings; AEA annual meetings (discussant); University of Kentucky; University of Maryland population research center

2015 – 2016 George Mason School of Public Policy; Northwestern SESP; Harvard University Inequality Seminar; Brookings Papers on Economic Activity (BPEA); AEA annual meetings (presenter; discussant); APPAM Annual Meeting

2014 – 2015 MIT Economics; NY Federal Reserve; University of Houston; University of Berkeley, Demography; APPAM annual meetings

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

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

2011 – 2012 Georgetown University, Policy; 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 meetings; 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, Economics; 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 UVA Economics; 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

Select Invited public presentations and keynote addresses

- BYU Forum Address, "Making Strong Families a National Priority," November 2024
- 2024 Grossman Lecturer in Economics at Colby College, April 2024
- Atlanta Conference on Public Policy & Child Wellbeing, Keynote Address, March 2024
- Rice University, Baker Institute for Public Policy Book Forum, March 2024
- Notre Dame Combs Lecture Series, "The Two-Parent Privilege," October 2023
- UMBC Mullen Lecture, "The Two-Parent Privilege," October 2023
- Brookings webinar: "A comparative perspective on policies to support single-parent families," December 2022
- CREDO annual keynote lecture, "The Family Gap: How inequality in family structure is widening class gaps in society," November 2022
- Queens University, J. Douglas Gibson Lecture, "Declining Fertility and Diverging Family Structure: Demographic Challenges Unfolding," September 2022

- Aspen Institute McCloskey Speaker Series, "Is the US Headed for Stagflation?" August 2022
- National Academies of Sciences panel on "The Impact of COVID-19 on Birth Rates: Considerations for Planning and Policy Webinar," June 6, 2022.
- SIEPR 2022 summit, Federal Spending Panel, March 4, 2022
- University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty (IRP), Tax Policy for Low Income Americans, August 27, 2021
- Ellen Bellet Gelberg Tax Policy Lecture, University of Florida Law School, "Universal Basic Income," February 5, 2021
- Texas A&M International University's IBC Bank and Commerce Bank Keynote Speaker, "The Coming Covid Baby Bust & Other Challenges for Families," November 18, 2020
- American Economic Institute, Poverty in the wake of the pandemic-induced recession, July 2020
- Wellesley College, Calderwood Lecture, "A Public Policy Perspective on U.S. Income Inequality," March 2020
- FixUs, Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, "Economic Factors & Policy Solutions," (Panel) Washington DC January 2020
- Foreign Affairs, Council on Foreign Relations, "The Global Economy in an Age of Populism," (Panel) Washington, DC, November 2019
- Aspen Ideas Festival 2019, "A Path Forward on Economic Prosperity," Aspen CO June 2019: https://www.aspenideas.org/sessions/a-path-forward-on-economic-policy
- Federal Reserve Community Development Research Conference, May 2019, "Emerging Labor Market and Education Trends Reshaping Pathways to the Middle Class"
- Alpine Population Conference, Ski-note Speaker, LaThuile, Italy, Jan 2019, "Family structure in the U.S."
- Inforum at UMD, annual meeting, "Explaining the decline in U.S. Employment," Dec 2018
- Hurst lecture series, "Creating Economic Opportunity for More Americans," Aspen CO Aug 2018: https://www.aspeninstitute.org/events/hurst-lecture-series-esg-panel/
- Congressional Budget Office Technical Advisory Panel, "Explaining the recent decline in U.S. employment," September 2018
- US Social Security Administration, "Explaining the recent decline in U.S. Employment," May 2018
- Aspen Ideas Festival 2016, "Inclusive Capitalism," Aspen CO June 2016: https://www.aspenideas.org/session/deep-dive-why-inclusive-capitalism-critical-our-economic-success
- American Economic Institute, "Improving Economic Opportunity in America," March 2017, discussion of work by Raj Chetty: http://www.aei.org/events/improving-economic-opportunity-in-america-a-discussion-with-raj-chetty/
- Inforum at UMD, annual meeting, "Income Inequality and Social Mobility," Dec 2015
- U.S. Congressional Testimony, Joint Economic Committee, **"**Income Inequality in the United States" January 16, 2014.
- Administration for Children and Families' (ACF) 16th 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 unintenteded 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

Select Podcasts

- Catholic in America, Building Strong Families: The Economic Implications with Dr. Melissa Kearney, January 2025
- Honestly with Bari Weiss, Why Half of American Babies are Born to Unmarried Mothers, December 2023
- C-SPAN After Words, The Two-Parent Privilege, September 2023
- Freakonomics, When Did Marriage Become a Luxury Good (Ep. 558), September 2023
- EconoFact Chats: What's Behind the Fall in the US Birth Rate? May 1, 2022
- Straight Talk with Hank Paulson, Interview with Melissa Kearney (Ep. 38), April 2021
- Innovation Hub from WGBH, How to End Child Poverty with Social Security, Feb 2021
- Freakonomics, How Much Do We Really Care About Children (Ep. 447), Jan 2021
- EconoFact Chats, Child Poverty in the United States, Jan 2021
- Morning Brew Business Casual, How a Birth Bust Could Bust the Economy, September 2020
- Brookings Cafeteria, How Social and Cultural Factors Shape Children's Economic Outcomes, June 2020
- Freakonomics, Does Early Education Come Way Too Late (Ep. 228), Feb 2018
- Freakonomics, The Fracking Boom, a Baby Boom, and the Retreat from Marriage (Ep. 294), July 2017
- Freakonomics, Is America Ready for a No Lose Lottery? Feb 2017
- Brookings Cafeteria, Why the Poorest Kids Quit High School, March 2016
- Freakonomics, The Economists Guide to Parenting (Ep 39), Aug 2011

Sponsored Research

"Fertility and Declining Population Growth in High-Income Countries."
Funding source: Smith Richardson Foundation, Inc.
Award Amount: $198,858
Duration: December 2022-September 2025

"Raising a Nation: How Improving Society and Closing Class Gaps Will Depend on Strengthening Families,"
Funding source: Smith Richardson Foundation, Inc.
Award Amount: $50,000
Duration: January 2021-December 2022

"Evaluating the Effectiveness of Emergency Financial Assistance Delivery in Texas"
Funding Source: MIT JPAL
Award Amount: $50,000.
Duration: January 2021-December 2021

"Raising a Nation: How Improving Society and Closing Class Gaps Will Depend on Strengthening Families:
Funding Source: Smith Richardson Foundation
Award Amount: $50,000
Award Duration: January 2, 2021-December 31, 2021

"The Decline in U.S. Labor Force Participation: A Review of the Evidence"
Funding Source: Smith Richardson Foundation
Award Amount: $139,527
Award Duration: July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017

"Randomized Evaluation of a Community College Intervention Designed to Increase Persistence and Completion"

Funding Source: NIH #1R21HD081399-01A1 (Prime award to University of Notre Dame)
Award Amount: $97,751 to the University of Maryland
Award Duration: April 1, 2015-March 31, 2017

"The Lasting Effect of Sesame Street on Children's Development: Lessons for Early Childhood Interventions"
Funding Source: Spencer Foundation
Award Amount and Duration: $49,084.50 over one year
Term: April 1, 2015 - May 31, 2016

"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 Grants, 2016, 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

Teaching

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

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

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

Tyler Landon, 2025, BYU (committee chair)
Maranna Yoder, 2025, University of Indiana-Bloomington (committee chair)
John Iselin, 2025, CBO Tax Policy Group (committee chair)
Cristina Riquelme, 2024, Trinity University
Rachel Nesbit, 2024, RAND corporation
John Soriano, 2023, University of Dallas
Victoria Perez-Zetune, 2022, Insight Policy Research (committee chair)
Luke Pardue, 2022 Gusto, (committee chair)
George Zuo, 2021, RAND corporation *(*committee chair)
Cody Tuttle, 2020, University of Texas, Austin (committee chair)
Fernando Saltiel, 2019, McGill University
Thomas Hegland, 2019, Health Care Analytics
Heath Witzen, 2019, Consumer Finance Protection Bureau
Riley Wilson, 2018, Brigham Young University (committee chair)
Lucas Davis, 2018, U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis (committee chair)
Stephanie Rennane, 2016, RAND (committee chair)
Filippos Petroulakis, 2015, European Central Bank (committee chair)
Tara Kaul, 2014, 3ie
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 Kranker, 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:
Junior Recruiting, committee co-chair 2021, 2023, 2024; member 2007, 2009, 2011, 2015-2020
Undergraduate Teaching Committee, 2019-2020
Executive committee, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2015-16, 2016-17
Salary committee, 2012-13, 2019-2024
Graduate Student Admissions, committee member, 2009-10, 2010-11, 2012-13

Campus-wide:
Member, BSOS College PCC Committee, 2019-present
Dean's representative for Dissertation Defenses (Sociology 2011, 2013; Policy School 2012, 2020)
Maryland Population Research Center, Executive Committee, 2009-2011, 2015-16

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

Other Professional Service

- National Bureau of Economic Research, Conference on Decline in Fertility and Population Growth, conference organizer, June 2023, 2024, 2025
- National Tax Association, Dissertation award committee, 2020
- Society of Labor Economics (SOLE) program committee, 2019
- Member, Poverty and Tax Policy Network of the Collaborative of Poverty Centers, 2018-2020
- National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Research Advisory Council, 2006-2018
- CSWEP mentor, 2014; mid-career mentor, 2019
- Association of Public Policy and Management (APPAM) – Policy Council, 2009-2012; Dissertation prize committee (*denotes chair), 2009-10, 2010-11*, 2011-12, 2012-13*; program committee, 2016
- SOLE program committee, 2015
- Conference Organizer: NBER Universities Research Conference, "Poverty, Inequality, and Social Policy," May 10-11, 2013
- RAND CFBP Financial Capability Research Team – research consultant, 2012-13
- Brookings Social Genome Project – topical advisor, 2010-2012
- 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 Congressional Budget Office, National Science Foundation

Previous 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



January 30, 2026