

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## Melissa Schettini Kearney

---

### **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

### **Professional Positions**

University of Maryland, Department of Economics:

*Neil Moskowitz Professor of Economics*, 2016-present

*Professor*, August 2014-present

*Associate Professor (with tenure)*, August 2009-2014; *Assistant Professor*, August 2006 – 2009

Aspen Institute, Economic Strategy Group

*Director*, 2017-present

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

National Bureau of Economic Research:

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

MIT Jamal-Abdul Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

*Co-Chair*, Cities and States Innovation Initiative, 2015-present

*Affiliated scholar*, 2015-present

Notre Dame Wilson-Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities

*Board of Advisors*, 2015-present

*Faculty Affiliate*, 2013-present

The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution,

*Advisory Council Member*, 2015-present

*Director*, 2013-2015

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

### **Editorial Positions**

*Journal of Human Resources*, Co-Editor, 2016-present

*Future of Children*, Senior Editor, January 2017-present

*Demography*, Board of Editors, 2016-present

*Journal of Economic Literature*, Board of Editors, January 2017-present

### **Articles in Refereed Journals**

Kearney, Melissa and Riley Wilson, "[Male Earnings, Marriageable Men, and Non-Marital Fertility: Evidence from the Fracking Boom](#)," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, forthcoming.

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.

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 and edited volumes**

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 and Benjamin Harris (editors). "[Policies to Address Poverty in America](#)," The Hamilton Project: June 2014.

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, [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.

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 Elisa Jacome "[Profiles of Change: Employment, Earnings, and Occupations from 1990-2013](#)." The Hamilton Project. April 20, 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 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, Blog Posts, and Opinion Pieces**

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 Phillip Levine, “[Disadvantaged kids to miss out on educational TV under Trump budget](#),” The Hill, March 19, 2017.

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, “[What the Media Got Wrong About Our ‘Sesame Street’ Education Study](#),” New Republic, June 19, 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](#),” voxu.org, May 28, 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.

Guryan, Jonathan, Erik Hurst, and Melissa Kearney, “[Parental Education and Parental Time with Children](#),” voxu.org, July 5, 2008.

### **Working Papers**

Abraham, Katharine and Melissa S. Kearney. “[Explaining the Decline in the U.S. Employment-to-Population Ratio: A Review of the Evidence](#),” NBER Working Paper No. 24333, February 2018.

Evans, William, Melissa S. Kearney, 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](#)," NBER Working Paper No. 24150, Dec 2017.

Kearney, Melissa S. and Philip Levine, "[Early Childhood Education by MOOC: Lessons from Sesame Street](#)" NBER Working Paper No. 21229, June 2015. (Revise & Resubmit, AEJ: Applied Economics)

### **Permanent Working Papers**

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.

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

- 2017 – 2018 University of California, Davis; Georgetown University; CEP/IFS conference on Wages, Labour Market Policy and the Safety Net
- 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 University of Virginia, 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

### **Invited Policy Presentations**

- 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) 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**

- “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, 2016

"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*

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

### **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, 2016
- Dept of Economics Undergraduate Teaching Award: 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016

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

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

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 Paulo, 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:**

Executive committee, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2015-16, 2016-17

Junior Recruiting, committee member 2007-8, 2009-10, 2011-12, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18

Salary committee, 2012-13

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

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

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

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

### **Professional Service**

- Smith Richardson Foundation, Board of Governors, 2018-present
- Russell Sage Foundation, Social Inequality Advisory Committee, 2018-present
- National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy – Research Advisory Council, 2006-present
- 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 government agencies: Congressional Budget Office, National Science Foundation

### **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

*Melissa S. Kearney*

**February 21, 2018**