

Elira Kuka

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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor of Economics, George Washington University	August 2019 –
Assistant Professor of Economics, Southern Methodist University	August 2015 – May 2019
Visiting Scholar, University of California at Berkeley	June 2018 – December 2018

Affiliations

Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research	May 2017 – present
Research Affiliate, IZA – Institute of Labor Economics	May 2016 – present

Education

Ph.D., Economics, University of California at Davis	June 2015
M.S., Economics, University of California at Davis	2010
B.A., Economics, Wellesley College	2009
International Baccalaureate, United World College of the Adriatic	2005

Research Fields

Public Economics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Health Economics

Publications

- “Quantifying the Benefits of Social Insurance: Unemployment Insurance and Health”, Accepted at the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, NBER Working Paper No. 24766, 2018
- “A Reason to Wait: The Effect of Legal Status on Teen Pregnancy” (with Na’ama Shenhav and Kevin Shih), Forthcoming at the *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*
- “The Long-Run Effects of Disruptive Peers” (with Scott E. Carrell and Mark Hoekstra), *American Economic Review*, Vol. 108 (11): 3377-3415, 2018
- “Do In-Work Tax Credits Serve as a Safety Net?” (with Marianne Bitler and Hilary Hoynes), *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 52 (2): 319-350, 2017
- “Child Poverty, the Great Recession, and the Social Safety Net in the United States” (with Marianne Bitler and Hilary Hoynes), *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, Vol. 36 (2): 358-389, 2017
- “Reexamining the Consumption Smoothing Benefits of Unemployment Insurance” (with Chloe N. East), *Journal of Public Economics*, Vol. 132: 32-50, 2015
- “EITC and the Self-Employed: Real or Reported Effects?”, *Public Finance Review*, Vol. 42 (6): 691-719, 2014

Working Papers

- “Do Human Capital Decisions Respond to the Returns to Education? Evidence from DACA”, (with Na’ama Shenhav and Kevin Shih), Revise and Resubmit the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, NBER Working Paper No 24315, 2019
- “Who Benefited from Women’s Suffrage?” (with Esra Kose and Na’ama Shenhav), *Under Review*, 2018
- Winner of 2014 IPUMS Award for Best Work by a Graduate Student using IPUMS-USA data

Work in Progress

- “New Evidence on the Long Term Effects of the EITC”, (with Na’ama Shenhav)
- “Unemployment Insurance and Health: Evidence from Denmark” (with Claudio Labanca and Jonas Maibom)

Extramural Grants

- NBER Disability Research Center, “The Safety Net, Liquidity Constraints, and Disability Benefits”,
Co-Investigator, with Na’ama Shenhav 2017-2018
- UNICEF, “Child Poverty and the Great Recession in the United States”, Co-Investigator,
with Marianne Bitler and Hilary Hoynes 2013-2014

Honors and Awards

- University Research Council Research Grant, Southern Methodist University, with Na’ama Shenhav 2018
- Referee of the Year Award, *National Tax Journal* 2017
- Sam Taylor Fellowship, with Na’ama Shenhav 2016
- University Research Council Research Grant, Southern Methodist University, with Chloe East 2015
- 2014 IPUMS Research Award for Best Work by a Graduate Student using IPUMS-USA data 2015
- Provost’s Dissertation Year Fellowship 2014–2015
- UC Davis and Humanities Graduate Research Award 2014–2015
- UC Davis Graduate Travel Fellowship 2013, 2015
- All-UC Group in Economic History Research Grant 2014
- Graduate Student Dissertation Workshop (Invited), Western Economic Association International 2014
- Ray Beaumont Graduate Student Award for Departmental Improvement, UC Davis 2014

Conferences and Presentations

- [2019] (including scheduled) Baylor University, Cornell University, Dartmouth College, Duke University (Sanford School of Public Policy), George Washington University, Rutgers University, University of Delaware, University of Pittsburgh, University of Toronto, University of Zurich, Vanderbilt University
- [2018] Dartmouth College, Human Capital Workshop (Bank of Italy), Grinnell College, Northwestern University MPES, Santa Clara University, Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting, University of California at Berkeley IRLE, University of California at Davis, University of California at Irvine, University of California at Merced, University of California at Santa Barbara, University of Notre Dame
- [2017] Barcelona GSE Summer Forum, Chicago Federal Reserve, IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting of Labor Economics, Oklahoma State University, Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting, University of California at Davis Alumni Conference, University of California at Santa Cruz, Wellesley College
- [2016] Bocconi University, Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Texas Christian University

- [2015] Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Conference, Claremont McKenna College, College of William and Mary, Georgia State University, Indiana University SPEA, Southern Economics Association Annual Meetings, Southern Methodist University, Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Syracuse University, Western Economic Association International Annual Conference, University of Amsterdam, University of Oklahoma
- [2014] All-California Labor Economics Workshop (Poster), Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics, War on Poverty Conference (Poster), Western Economic Association International Annual Conference
- [2012] All-California Labor Economics Workshop (Poster)

Professional Activities

Referee

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, Contemporary Economic Policy, Demography, Economic Inquiry, Empirical Economics, International Tax and Public Finance, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Public Economics, Labour Economics, National Tax Journal, Public Finance Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Social Service Review

Reviewer

Israel Science Foundation, National Science Foundation

Member

American Economics Association, Society of Labor Economists (SOLE), National Tax Association

Teaching

Southern Methodist University

Federal Government Taxation – Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2019
 Graduate Public Economics – Fall 2016, Spring 2018

University of California at Davis

Public Finance (taxes) – Fall 2013

PhD Students Advised (Committee Member)

Priyanka Chakraborty, Cullum Clark, Hao Li, Manini Ojha, Soeun Park, Punarjit Roychowdhury

Departmental Service

Undergraduate Studies Committee	2018-2019
Member of Hiring Committee, Assistant Professor in Econometrics	2017-2018
Departmental Seminar Coordinator	2016-2018
Member of Hiring Committee, Assistant Professor in Global Economic Issues and Related Areas	2016-2017
Member of Hiring Committee, Assistant Professor in Global Economic Issues	2015-2016
Faculty Participant in “Women in Economics Club”	2015-2017

Languages

Italian (native fluent), English (fluent), Albanian (fluent), Spanish (basic)