

# Elira Kuka

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## Academic Positions

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Assistant Professor of Economics, Southern Methodist University August 2015 – present

## Affiliations

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

## Education

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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

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Public Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

## Publications

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“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

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“The Long-Run Effects of Disruptive Peers” (with Scott Carrell and Mark Hoekstra), Revisions Requested at the *American Economic Review*, 2016  
“Quantifying the Benefits of Social Insurance: Unemployment Insurance and Health”, Revisions Requested at the *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 2016  
“Women’s Enfranchisement and Children’s Education: the Long-Run Impact of the U.S. Suffrage Movement” (with Esra Kose and Na’ama Shenhav), 2017

- Winner of 2014 IPUMS Award for Best Work by a Graduate Student using IPUMS-USA data

## Work in Progress

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“Staying in School to Stay in the States: The Impact of Conditioning Immigration Policy on Educational Attainment”, (with Na’ama Shenhav and Kevin Shih)

“Do State Social Insurance Programs Mediate the Health Effects of Parental Job Loss? Evidence from the Medical Expenditure Panel Survey”, (with Chloe East, Jessamyn Schaller, and Mariana Zerpa)

## Extramural Grants

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UNICEF, “Child Poverty and the Great Recession in the United States”, Co-Investigator,  
with Marianne Bitler and Hilary Hoynes 2013-2014

## Honors and Awards

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Sam Taylor Fellowship 2016  
University Research Council Research Grant, Southern Methodist University 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

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- [2017] (including scheduled) Barcelona GSE Summer Forum, Chicago Federal Reserve, IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting of Labor Economics, Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting, UC Davis Alumni Conference, 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

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### *Referee*

American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, Contemporary Economic Policy, Empirical Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Public Economics, Labour Economics, National Tax Journal, Public Finance Review, Social Service Review

### *Reviewer*

National Science Foundation

### *Member*

American Economics Association, Society of Labor Economists (SOLE), Southern Economic Association

## Teaching Experience

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*Instructor, Southern Methodist University*

Economics of the Public Sector (taxes) – Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017

Graduate Public Economics – Fall 2016

*Instructor, University of California at Davis*

Public Finance (taxes) – Fall 2013

*Teaching Assistant, University of California at Davis*

Intermediate Microeconomics, Analysis of Economic Data, Public Finance (taxes), Public Finance (expenditures), Labor Economics, Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics

## Research Experience

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Research Assistant for Professor Scott Carrell

Winter and Summer 2014

Research Assistant for Professor Hilary Hoynes

September 2012 – July 2013

Research Assistant for Professor Steven Sheffrin

Summer 2010

Research Assistant for Professor Elsa Fornero

Summer 2007

Research Assistant for Professor Eric D. Hilt

Spring 2006

## Languages

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