

# Elira Kuka

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Southern Methodist University  
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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 (2nd round) at the *American Economic Review*, 2017
- “Quantifying the Benefits of Social Insurance: Unemployment Insurance and Health”, 2017
- “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
- “Do Human Capital Decisions Respond to the Returns to Education? Evidence from DACA”, (with Na’ama Shenhav and Kevin Shih), 2018

## Work in Progress

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“The Safety Net, Liquidity Constraints, and Disability Benefits”, (with Na’ama Shenhav)

“Children’s Health Insurance Coverage and Health Expenses After Parental Job Loss: Are Families Landing In or Falling Through the Safety Net?”, (with Chloe East, Jessamyn Schaller, and Mariana Zerpa)

## Extramural Grants

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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

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Referee of the Year Award, *National Tax Journal* 2017

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 Seminars

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[2018] (including scheduled) Human Capital Workshop (Bank of Italy), Northwestern University MPES,  
Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting

[2017] Barcelona GSE Summer Forum, Chicago Federal Reserve, IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting of  
Labor Economics, Oklahoma State University, Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting,  
UC Davis Alumni Conference, Wellesley College

[2016] Bocconi University, Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Texas Christian Univer-  
sity

[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 Associa-  
tion 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 Interna-  
tional 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, Demography, Empirical Economics, 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, Social Service Review

### *Reviewer*

National Science Foundation

### *Member*

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

## **Teaching**

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### *Southern Methodist University*

Economics of the Public Sector (taxes) – Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017  
Graduate Public Economics – Fall 2016, Spring 2018

### *University of California at Davis*

Public Finance (taxes) – Fall 2013

### *PhD Students Advised (Committee Member)*

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

## **Departmental Service**

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Departmental Seminar Coordinator	2016-2018
Member of Hiring Committee, Assistant Professor in Econometrics	2017-2018
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

## **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)

## **References**

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Hilary Hoynes  
University of California, Berkeley  
[hoynes@berkeley.edu](mailto:hoynes@berkeley.edu)

Marianne Page  
University of California, Davis  
[mepage@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mepage@ucdavis.edu)

Scott Carrell  
University of California, Davis  
[secarrell@ucdavis.edu](mailto:secarrell@ucdavis.edu)