

Elira Kuka

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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor of Economics, George Washington University August 2019 – current
Fall 2019, Spring 2022: Maternity Leave
Assistant Professor of Economics, Southern Methodist University August 2015 – May 2019
Visiting Scholar, University of California at Berkeley June 2018 – December 2018

Affiliations

Affiliated Faculty, The Institute for International Economic Policy (IIEP) at the Elliott School for
International Affairs, George Washington University 2019 – present
Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) 2017 – present
Program Affiliations: Children, Public Economics
Research Affiliate, IZA – Institute of Labor Economics 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, Applied Microeconomics

Publications

“Women’s Suffrage and Children’s Educations” (with Esra Kose and Na’ama Shenhav), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, Vol. 13 (3): 374–405, 2021

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

“Quantifying the Benefits of Social Insurance: Unemployment Insurance and Health”, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, Vol. 102 (3): 490–505, 2020

“Do Human Capital Decisions Respond to the Returns to Education? Evidence from DACA”, (with Na’ama Shenhav and Kevin Shih), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, Vol. 12 (1): 293–324, 2020

“A Reason to Wait: The Effect of Legal Status on Teen Pregnancy” (with Na’ama Shenhav and Kevin Shih), *American Economic Association Papers and Proceedings*, Vol. 109: 213–217, 2019

“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

- “Long-Run Effects of Incentivizing Work After Childbirth”, (with Na’ama Shenhav), Reject and Resubmit at the *American Economic Review*, November 2020
- “Racial Inequality in Unemployment Insurance Receipt and Take-Up”, (with Bryan Stuart), December 2021

Grants and Fellowships

- Russell Sage Foundation, “Adopt a Paper: The impact of high-quality paper feedback on the academic success of junior scholars”, Co-Principal Investigator (with Danila Serra), \$49,818 2021-2023
- The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, “Adopt a Paper: The impact of high-quality paper feedback on the academic success of junior scholars”, Co-Principal Investigator (with Danila Serra), \$49,839 2021-2022
- Shapiro Policy Research Scholarship, George Washington Institute of Public Policy 2020-2021
- NBER Retirement and Disability Research Center, “Retirement Benefits and Incentives for Work: New Evidence from Eligibility Criteria”, Principal Investigator, \$51,466 2019-2020
- University Research Council Research Grant – Southern Methodist University, Co-Principal Investigator (with Na’ama Shenhav) 2018
- NBER Disability Research Center, “The Safety Net, Liquidity Constraints, and Disability Benefits”, Co-Principal Investigator (with Na’ama Shenhav), \$47,181 2017-2018
- Sam Taylor Fellowship, Co-Principal Investigator (with Na’ama Shenhav) 2016
- University Research Council Research Grant – Southern Methodist University, Co-Principal Investigator (with Chloe East) 2015
- All-UC Group in Economic History Research Grant, Co-Principal Investigator (with Esra Kose and Na’ama Shenhav) 2014
- UNICEF, “Child Poverty and the Great Recession in the United States”, Co-Principal Investigator (with Marianne Bitler and Hilary Hoynes), \$22,000 2013-2014

Honors and Awards

- Member (elected), National Academy of Social Insurance 2020
- Referee of the Year Award, *National Tax Journal* 2017
- IPUMS Research Award, for Best Work by a Graduate Student using IPUMS-USA data 2014
- Ray Beaumont Graduate Student Award, for Departmental Improvement, UC Davis 2014

Seminar and Conference Presentations

- [2022] (including scheduled) Michigan State University, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- [2021] American University, Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Research Workshop (University of Wisconsin), Tax Policy for Low-Income Americans, Wayne State University
- [2020] (including cancelled due to Covid-19) Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Conference, DePaul University, Tax Policy for Low-Income Americans (University of Chicago), Texas A&M University
- [2019] 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

Conference Organizer

- Washington Area Labor Economics Symposium (WALES), Co-organizer 2021
- National Tax Association (NTA) Annual Meeting, Program Committee Member 2021
- International Institute of Public Finance (IIFP) Annual Congress, Scientific Committee Member 2021

Referee

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

Reviewer (ad-hoc)

Israel Science Foundation, National Science Foundation

Member

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

Teaching

George Washington University

Introduction to Econometrics – Fall 2020, Spring 2021

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

George Washington University

Departmental Seminar Coordinator 2021-current

Graduate Studies Committee 2019-current

Southern Methodist University

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