

JASON T. KERWIN

jkerwin@umn.edu

<http://www.jasonkerwin.com>

Contact Information

Department of Applied Economics
University of Minnesota
316C Ruttan Hall, 1994 Buford Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55108

Phone: 612-625-5719

Fax: 612-625-6245

Academic Positions

2015-present University of Minnesota
Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Economics
Graduate Faculty Member, Humphrey School of Public Affairs
Faculty Affiliate & Graduate Faculty Member, Minnesota Population Center

Professional Affiliations

2019-present Affiliated Professor, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

Education

2015 Ph.D., Economics, University of Michigan
2011 M.A., Economics, University of Michigan
2007 M.A., International Policy Studies, Stanford University
 B.S., Physics, Stanford University
 B.A., International Relations, Stanford University

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- “You Know What I Know: Enumerator Knowledge Effects in Subjective Expectation Elicitation” with Natalia Ordaz Reynoso. June 2020. (*Accepted, Demography*).
- “Peers and Motivation at Work: Evidence from a Firm Experiment in Malawi,” with Lasse Brune and Eric Chyn. May 2020. (*Accepted, Journal of Human Resources*).
<https://doi.org/10.3368/jhr.57.4.0919-10416R2>
- “Making the Grade: The Sensitivity of Education Program Effectiveness to Input Choices and Outcome Measures,” with Rebecca L. Thornton. January 2020. (*Accepted, Review of Economics and Statistics*). https://doi.org/10.1162/rest_a_00911
- “Income Timing and Liquidity Constraints: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment,” with Lasse Brune. January 2019. *Journal of Development Economics*, 138, 294–308.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jdeveco.2019.01.001>
- “Prevalence of and Factors Associated with Oral Sex among Rural and Urban Malawian Men,” with Rebecca L. Thornton and Sallie M. Foley. *International Journal of Sexual Health* 26(1):66-77, February 2014. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19317611.2013.830671>
- “Missing Safer Sex Strategies in HIV Prevention: A Call for Further Research,” with Sallie M. Foley, Rebecca L. Thornton, Paulin Basinga and Jobiba Chinkhumba. *African Population Studies* 25(2):267-285, December 2011. <https://doi.org/10.11564/25-2-232>
- “Need for Risk Adjustment in Adapting Episode Grouping Software to Medicare Data,” With Thomas E. MaCurdy and Nick A. Theobald. *Health Care Financing Review* 30(4):33-46, Summer 2009. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/19719031>

Working Papers

- “Scared Straight or Scared to Death? Fatalism in Response to Disease Risks” October 2020. [[PDF](#)]
(Revision Submitted, *American Economic Review*)
2014 Moore Dissertation Prize, University of Michigan Department of Economics
2016 Dorothy S. Thomas Award, Population Association of America
Media Coverage: Vedantam, Shankar, “[How Risk Affects the Way People Think About Their Health](#).” NPR Morning Edition, 16 September 2016.
- “Pay Me Later: A Simple Employer-based Saving Scheme,” with Lasse Brune and Eric Chyn.
October 2019. [[PDF](#)] (*Revise and Resubmit, American Economic Review*)
- “How Important is Temptation Spending? Maybe Less than We Thought,” with Qingxiao Li and Lasse Brune. February 2020. [[PDF](#)] (*Revise and Resubmit, World Bank Economic Review*)
- “Some Children Left Behind: The Distributional Impacts of Improving Literacy Teaching in Uganda,” with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Juan S. Muñoz, Jeffrey A. Smith, and Rebecca L. Thornton. August 2020. [[PDF](#)] (*Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Econometrics*)
- “Teacher Effectiveness in Africa: Longitudinal and Causal Estimates,” with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Jeffrey A. Smith, and Rebecca L. Thornton. October 2019. [[PDF](#)]
Best Poster Prize, PAA 2017

Work in Progress

- The Literacy Laboratory Project (with Mango Tree Educational Enterprises Uganda, Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Jeffrey Smith, and Rebecca L. Thornton)
- Targeted Teaching to Improve Learning in Secondary School (with Adrienne Lucas, Anne Fitzpatrick, Sabrin Beg, and Wahed Rahman)
- Soft and Hard Commitment Devices to Increase HIV Testing (with Laura Derksen, Natalia Ordaz Reynoso, and Olivier Sterck)
- Natural Disasters, Intimate Partner Violence, and HIV (with Eric Chyn and Berenger Djoumessi Tiague)

Permanent Working Papers

- “‘Rational Fatalism’: Non-Monotonic Choices in Response to Risks.” Working Group in African Political Economy, University of California, Berkeley, May 2012.

External Grants

- 2019 J-PAL Post-Primary Education (PPE) Fund – \$148,647
Solid Foundations and the Transition to Post-Primary School (with Rebecca Thornton and Victoria Brown)
Kusuma Trust UK – £250,000 (\$313,000)
Targeted Teaching to Improve Learning in Secondary School (with Adrienne Lucas, Anne Fitzpatrick, Sabrin Beg, and Wahed Rahman)
- 2018 J-PAL Post-Primary Education (PPE) Fund – \$50,000
Targeted Teaching to Improve Learning in Secondary School (with Adrienne Lucas, Anne Fitzpatrick, Sabrin Beg, and Wahed Rahman)
- 2015 IPA Financial Inclusion Program Research Fund – \$344,975
Deferred Wages, Savings Constraints, and Labor Supply (with Lasse Brune and

Eric Chyn)

- 2013 IPA/Yale Savings and Payments Research Fund – \$15,000
Income Timing, Temptation and Expenditures (with Lasse Brune)
- 2012 Russell Sage Foundation, Small Grants in Behavioral Economics Program – \$7,500
Response of Malawians’ Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV
Transmission Risks

Internal Grants

University of Minnesota

- 2020 CGHSR Faculty Mentor Award
Appointments versus Commitments: Overcoming Self-Control Problems in
Preventive Health
- 2017 CIFAP Faculty Seed Grant
Achieving an AIDS-Free Generation by Providing Accurate Information about HIV
Testing and Treatment
- 2016 University of Minnesota Grant-in-Aid
Two Field Experiments with Agricultural Workers in Malawi
- 2015 CIFAP Faculty Seed Grant
Two Field Experiments with Agricultural Workers in Malawi

University of Michigan

- 2015 MITRE Economics Research Award
Peer Effects in the Workplace: Experimental Evidence from Agricultural Workers
in Malawi (with Lasse Brune and Eric Chyn)
- 2014 MITRE Undergraduate Research Experience Grant
The Literacy Laboratory Project
- MITRE Economics Research Award
Peer Effects in the Workplace: Experimental Evidence from Agricultural Workers
in Malawi
- 2013 University of Michigan Population Studies Center Small Grant
Income Timing, Temptation and Expenditures
- Jordan and Kim Dickstein African Initiatives Fund
Income Timing, Temptation and Expenditures
- MITRE Economics Research Award
Income Timing, Temptation and Expenditures
- 2012 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant
Response of Malawians’ Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission
Risks
- MITRE Economics Research Award
Response of Malawians’ Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission
Risks
- University of Michigan Population Studies Center Small Grant
Response of Malawians’ Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission
Risks
- 2011 Center for Global Health Student Global Health Engagement Grant

Response of Malawians' Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission Risks

Center for Global Health Student Global Health Engagement Grant
Situational Analysis of Sexual Behaviors and Alternative Safer Sex Strategies

Fellowships and Awards

- 2020 Outstanding Research Award, Minnesota Population Center
- 2017 Best Poster Prize, Population Association of America Annual Meeting
- 2016 Dorothy S. Thomas Award, Population Association of America
- 2009-15 Rackham Merit Fellowship
- 2014 Moore Dissertation Research Prize, University of Michigan Department of Economics
- 2014 Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship
- 2014 Rackham Spring/Summer Research Grant
- 2010 Population Studies Center, National Institute on Aging, Training Fellowship in Economic Demography
- 2010-12 Harold and Vivian Shapiro/John Malik/Jean Forrest Award

Invited Seminars and Conference Presentations

- 2020 University of Minnesota; E-economics of Education Seminar
- 2019 University of Hawaii; Ohio State University; University of Washington; UAPS
- 2018 University of Minnesota; University of Utah; Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Research Workshop; MWIEDC; China Agricultural University; Peking University; Hong Kong University of Science and Technology; Hong Kong University
- 2017 IUSSP; Stellenbosch University; University of Colorado; Annual Bank Conference on Africa; SOLE; PAA; MWIEDC; University of Minnesota; CSAE
- 2016 PacDev; Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota
- 2015 University of Minnesota; London Experimental Week; PAA; IFPRI; University of Michigan
- 2014 Midwest Development Day; NEUDC; University of Michigan; EconCon; Quality Education in Developing Countries Meeting, Hewlett Foundation; Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics; MWIEDC; PAA
- 2013 PAA; Midwest Economics Association; PacDev
- 2012 WGAPE; University of Malawi College of Medicine, Research Dissemination Conference

Invited Workshops

- 2016 Russell Sage Foundation Summer Institute in Behavioral Economics
- 2013 University of Chicago, Becker Friedman Summer School in Price Theory
- 2012 Stanford Workshop in Applied Demography

Advising

Former PhD Students

- 2017 Ana Maria Cuesta (committee member, placed at IADB)
- 2017 Johanna Fajardo Gonzalez (committee member, placed at EAFIT)
- 2017 Lindsey Novak (committee member, placed at Colby College)
- 2018 Camilo Bohórquez-Peñuela (committee member, placed at Central Bank of Colombia)
- 2020 Jeff Bloem (committee member, placed at USDA ERS)
- 2020 Ibrahim Keita (committee member, placed at Augsburg University)
- 2020 Soomin Lee (co-chair, placed at Korea Energy Economics Institute)

Current PhD Students

- Berenger Djoumessi Tiague (co-chair)
- Ivan Glinski (chair)
- Conor Hughes (chair)
- Ricardo Montero de la Piedra (co-chair)
- Divya Pandey (chair)
- Stephen Pitts (chair)
- Wahed Rahman (co-chair)

Teaching

University of Minnesota

- 2018-20 Applied Economics 8704 (Ph.D.: Microeconomic Analysis of Economic Development)
- 2016-20 Applied Economics 5151 (Masters: Microeconomic Theory)
- 2016-20 Applied Economics 3001 (Undergraduate: Intermediate Microeconomics)

University of Michigan

- 2013 Economics 675 (Doctoral: Applied Microeconometrics)
Graduate Student Instructor for Professor Jeffrey A. Smith
Guest Lecture on Weak Instruments
- 2012 Economics 406 (Undergraduate: Introduction to Econometrics)
Guest Lecture on Measurement Error
- 2011 Economics 101 (Undergraduate: Introductory Microeconomics)
Head Graduate Student Instructor for Dr. Chris Proulx

Professional Service

Referee Activity

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, American Journal of Health Economics, BMJ Open, Demographic Research, Demography, Econometrica, Economics and Human Biology, Economics Bulletin, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Theory, Information Processing & Management, International

Journal of Sexual Health, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Journal of AIDS and Behavior, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Human Resources, Law & Policy, PLOS ONE, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Development Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Scottish Journal of Political Economy

Department Service

University of Minnesota

- 2020- Faculty Senator
- 2020-21 Placement Co-Director
- 2018- Co-Director, Dorélien Kerwin Population Health and Development (PHD) Lab
- 2018- Honors Faculty Representative
- 2016- CIFAP Steering Committee
- 2015- Undergraduate Committee
- 2015- Trade and Development Seminar Co-Organizer
- 2017-18 Awards Committee
- 2015-17 Labor Workshop Co-Organizer
- 2015-17 Communication Committee

University of Michigan

- 2013-14 Economics Ph.D. Program Committee