

JASON T. KERWIN

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Curriculum Vitae

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Contact Information

Department of Economics
University of Washington
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Academic Positions

2024-present University of Washington
 Associate Professor, Department of Economics
 Brimmer Distinguished Scholar

 University of Minnesota
 Adjunct Associate Professor, Department of Applied Economics

2015-2024 University of Minnesota
 Associate Professor, Department of Applied Economics
 McKnight Land-Grant Professor

Professional Affiliations

2019-present Affiliated Professor, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
2023-present Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)

Education

2015 Ph.D., Economics, University of Michigan
 Fields: Development Economics, Labor Economics
 Economic Demography Trainee, Population Studies Center

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

(* indicates student coauthor)

“Healthcare Appointments as Commitment Devices,” with Laura Derksen, Natalia Ordaz Reynoso*, and Olivier Sterck. April 2024. [[PDF](#)] (*Forthcoming, The Economic Journal*)

“Some Children Left Behind: Variation in the Effects of an Educational Intervention,” with Julie Buhl-Wiggers*, Juan S. Muñoz, Jeffrey A. Smith, and Rebecca L. Thornton. [[PDF](#)] (*In Press, Journal of Econometrics*) <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconom.2021.12.010>

“Peers and Motivation at Work: Evidence from a Firm Experiment in Malawi,” with Lasse Brune and Eric Chyn. July 2022. *Journal of Human Resources*, 57(4): 1147-1177. <https://doi.org/10.3368/jhr.57.4.0919-10416R2>

“How Important is Temptation Spending? Maybe Less than We Thought,” with Lasse Brune and Qingxiao Li*. May 2022. *World Bank Economic Review*, 36(2): 433-454.

<https://doi.org/10.1093/wber/lhab027>

- “Health Knowledge and Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Africa,” with Anne Fitzpatrick, Sabrin Beg, Laura Derksen, Anne Karing, Adrienne Lucas, Natalia Ordaz Reynoso*, and Munir Squires. October 2021. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 190, 33–53. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2021.06.045>
- “Pay Me Later: Savings Constraints and the Demand for Deferred Payments,” with Lasse Brune and Eric Chyn. July 2021. *American Economic Review*, 111(7), 2179–2212. <https://doi.org/10.1257/aer.20191657>
- “Making the Grade: The Sensitivity of Education Program Effectiveness to Input Choices and Outcome Measures,” with Rebecca L. Thornton. May 2021. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 103(2): 251–264. https://doi.org/10.1162/rest_a_00911
- “You Know What I Know: Interviewer Knowledge Effects in Subjective Expectation Elicitation” with Natalia Ordaz Reynoso*. February 2021. *Demography*, 58(1): 1–29. <https://doi.org/10.1215/00703370-8932274>
- “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

(* indicates student coauthor)

- “Scared Straight or Scared to Death? Fatalism in Response to Disease Risks” August 2023. [PDF] (Second Revision Submitted, *The Economic Journal*)
- 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.
- “Navigating Ambiguity: Imprecise Probabilities and the Updating of Disease Risk Beliefs,” with Divya Pandey*. April 2024. (Under Review) [PDF]
- “Open Defecation is Negatively Associated with COVID-19 Mortality: Evidence from India,” with Audrey Dorélien and Divya Pandey*. December 2023.
- “Teacher Flexibility and School Productivity: Evidence from a Remedial Education Program in India,” with Sabrin Beg, Anne Fitzpatrick, Adrienne M. Lucas, and Khandker Wahedur Rahman*. October 2023.
- “Reading for Life: Lasting Impacts of a Literacy Intervention in Uganda,” with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Ricardo Montero de la Piedra, Jeffrey Smith, and Rebecca Thornton. January 2024.
- “Learning More about Teachers: Estimating Teacher Value-Added and Treatment Effects on Teacher Value-Added in Northern Uganda,” with Julie Buhl-Wiggers*, Jeffrey Smith, and

Rebecca Thornton. May 2022. [\[PDF\]](#)

Best Poster Prize, PAA 2017

“Program Scale-up and Sustainability,” with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Jeff Smith, and Rebecca Thornton
[\[Slides\]](#)

Work in Progress

(* indicates student coauthor)

Long-run Impacts of the Northern Uganda Literacy Project (with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Jeffrey Smith, and Rebecca L. Thornton)

A Meta-Analysis of Heterogeneity in Education Program Impacts (with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Hanna Han*, Juan S. Muñoz, Jeffrey Smith, and Rebecca L. Thornton)

Recipient Control over the Timing of Cash Transfers (with Francis Annan, Francis Fang*, Naureen Karachiwalla, and Miriam Laker-Oketta)

Using Large Language Models to Scale Up Teacher Guides (with Simon Graffy and Monica Lambon-Quayefio)

Improving Air Quality in Schools (with Marc Bellemare and Noah Wexler*)

Digital Savings Groups in Egypt (with Alfredo Burlando, Reham Rizk, and Sarah Wahby*)

Permanent Working Papers

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

External Grants (\$1.5 million)

(PI/Co-PI unless otherwise indicated)

2024 J-PAL Learning for All Initiative (LAI) – \$399,998
The Long-Run Benefits of Improved Literacy in Uganda (with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Ricardo Montero de la Piedra*, Jeff Smith, and Rebecca Thornton)

2023 J-PAL Social Protection Initiative (SPI) – \$149,982
The Welfare Effects of Beneficiary Control over the Timing of Cash Transfers (with Francis Annan, Francis Fang*, Naureen Karachiwalla, and Miriam Laker-Oketta)

2023 CEGA Psychology and Economics of Poverty Initiative – \$50,290.33
The Welfare Effects of Beneficiary Control over the Timing of Cash Transfers (with Francis Annan, Francis Fang*, Naureen Karachiwalla, and Miriam Laker-Oketta)

2023 J-PAL Learning for All Initiative (LAI) – \$74,819
Using Large Language Models to Scale Up Teacher Guides (with Simon Graffy and James Odongo)

2023 J-PAL Egypt Impact Lab (EIL) – \$74,990
Empowering Women through Digital Savings Groups (with Alfredo Burlando, Reham Rizk, and Sarah Wahby)

2020 J-PAL Post-Primary Education (PPE) Fund – \$39,893
Targeted Teaching in Secondary School and Educational Progression during a Pandemic (with Adrienne Lucas, Anne Fitzpatrick, Sabrin Beg, and Wahed Rahman)

2020 ESRC/DFID RLO Follow-on Fund – £100,000 (\$130,000)

- Solid Foundations, Mother-Tongue Literacy, and the Transition to Adolescence (co-Investigator, with Rebecca Thornton)
- 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)
- 2019 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)
- 2014 International Growth Centre, London School of Economics – £50,000 (\$85,000)
The Literacy Laboratory Project (with Rebecca Thornton and Mango Tree Educational Enterprises)
- 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

Fellowships and Awards

- 2022-24 McKnight Land-Grant Professorship, University of Minnesota
- 2023 *Journal of Human Resources* Excellence in Reviewing award
- 2022 *Journal of Human Resources* Excellence in Reviewing award
- 2021 CFANS (College-Wide) Distinguished Teaching Award
- 2021 Institute for Advanced Study Residential Fellowship
- 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

Internal Grants – \$223,000

University of Minnesota

- 2022 CIFAP Small Grant – \$24,980
The Long-Run Effects of a Literacy Program on Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skills
(with Ricardo Montero de la Piedra)
- 2022 McKnight Land-grant Professorship – \$50,000
- 2021 UMN Institute for Advanced Studies Fellowship – \$15,000
- 2020 CGHSR Faculty Mentor Award – \$5,000
Appointments versus Commitments: Overcoming Self-Control Problems in
Preventive Health (with Natalia Ordaz Reynoso)
- 2017 CIFAP Faculty Seed Grant – \$15,860
Achieving an AIDS-Free Generation by Providing Accurate Information about HIV
Testing and Treatment
- 2016 University of Minnesota Grant-in-Aid – \$30,910
Two Field Experiments with Agricultural Workers in Malawi
- 2015 CIFAP Faculty Seed Grant – \$15,000
Two Field Experiments with Agricultural Workers in Malawi

University of Michigan

- 2015 MITRE Economics Research Award – \$2,495
Peer Effects in the Workplace: Experimental Evidence from Agricultural Workers in
Malawi (with Lasse Brune and Eric Chyn)
- 2014 MITRE Undergraduate Research Experience Grant – \$3,000
The Literacy Laboratory Project (with Rebecca Thornton)
- MITRE Economics Research Award – \$5,000
Peer Effects in the Workplace: Experimental Evidence from Agricultural Workers in
Malawi
- 2013 University of Michigan Population Studies Center Small Grant – \$10,000
Income Timing, Temptation and Expenditures
- Jordan and Kim Dickstein African Initiatives Fund – \$4,995
Income Timing, Temptation and Expenditures
- MITRE Economics Research Award – \$2,500
Income Timing, Temptation and Expenditures
- 2012 Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant – \$3,000
Response of Malawians' Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission
Risks
- MITRE Economics Research Award – \$4,037
Response of Malawians' Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission
Risks
- MITRE Economics Research Award – \$5,000
Response of Malawians' Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission
Risks
- Center for the Education of Women Student Research Grant – \$1,000
Response of Malawians' Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission
Risks

- Population Studies Center Small Grant – \$6,000
Response of Malawians’ Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission Risks
- 2011 Center for Global Health Student Global Health Engagement Grant – \$10,000
Response of Malawians’ Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission Risks
- Center for Global Health Student Global Health Engagement Grant – \$10,000
Situational Analysis of Sexual Behaviors and Alternative Safer Sex Strategies

Invited Seminars and Conference Presentations

- 2024 NBER (scheduled), Monash University; University of Melbourne; University of Queensland; Queensland University of Technology; University of Sydney; Australian National University; University of Michigan; University of Washington; University of Georgia; Georgetown; IFPRI; University of Hawaii
- 2023 IPA & GPRL Researcher Gathering; The World Bank; The Ohio State University; CSAE; Cornell University; Economic Demography Workshop; PAA; University of Wisconsin; Workshop on Subjective Expectations
- 2022 University of Hawaii; EGROW Foundation; GiveDirectly; IPA; Maryland Population Research Center; Rutgers; MIEDC; AFE; UIUC
- 2021 UMN Applied Economics; UMN Institute for Advanced Study; NBER SI; RISE; KDIS-World Bank DIME Conference
- 2020 Minnesota Population Center; 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 Yash Babar (Carlson - external member, placed at U of Wisconsin Business School)
- 2020 Jeff Bloem (committee member, placed at USDA ERS, now at IFPRI)
- 2020 Ibrahim Keita (committee member, placed at Augsburg University)
- 2020 Soomin Lee (co-chair, placed at Korea Energy Economics Institute)
- 2021 Natalia Ordaz Reynoso (committee member, placed at Facebook - postdoc)
- 2021 Qingxiao Li (co-chair, placed at University of Minnesota - postdoc, now at LSU)
- 2021 Wahed Rahman (co-chair, placed at Oxford University - postdoc)
- 2022 Sandeep Gangarapu (committee member, placed at Apple)
- 2022 Chris Boyd Leon (committee member, placed at Towson University)
- 2022 Berenger Djoumessi Tiague (co-chair, placed at Facebook)
- 2022 Ricardo Montero de la Piedra (co-chair, placed at ASBANC Peru)
- 2023 Khoa Vu (committee member, placed at Charles River Associates)

Current PhD Students

- Francis Fang (co-chair)
- Divya Pandey (chair)
- Ana Melissa Perez (co-chair)
- Ivan Strahof (chair)
- Giang Thai (co-chair)
- Ryan McWay (chair)
- Jiuchen Deng (committee member)
- Natalia Pia Guerrero Trinidad (committee member)
- Jhih-Yun Liu (committee member)
- Stephen Pitts (committee member)
- Sarah Wahby (committee member)

Previous Full-Time Positions

- 2007-2009 Acumen, LLC
 - Senior Research Analyst
 - Supervisors: Tom MaCurdy and Grecia Marrufo
 - Research on domestic health policy and drug prices

Teaching

University of Minnesota

- 2018-22 Applied Economics 8704 (Ph.D.: Microeconomic Analysis of Economic Development)
- 2016-22 Applied Economics 5151 (Master's: Microeconomic Theory)
- 2016-22 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 Economic Review, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, American Journal of Health Economics, BMJ Open, Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Demographic Research, Demography, Econometrica, Economics and Human Biology, Economics of Education Review, Economics Bulletin, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Journal, Economic Theory, European Economic Review, Frontiers in Public Health, Health Economics, Heliyon, Information Processing & Management, International Journal of Sexual Health, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Journal of AIDS and Behavior, Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Human Resources, Law & Policy, Oxford Review of Economic Policy, PLOS ONE, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, Review of Development Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Social Science and Medicine, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, World Development

Department Service

University of Minnesota

- 2022- Priorities Committee
- 2021- Communication Committee
- 2020-23 Faculty Senator, University Senate
- 2020-22 Placement Co-Director
- 2018- Co-Director, Dorélien Kerwin Population Health and Development (PHD) Lab
- 2018- Honors Faculty Representative

2016- CIFAP Steering Committee
2015- Trade and Development Seminar Co-Organizer
2015-21 Undergraduate Committee
2017-18 Awards Committee
2015-17 Labor Workshop Co-Organizer
2015-17 Communication Committee
University of Michigan
2013-14 Economics Ph.D. Program Committee