

JASON T. KERWIN

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Contact Information

Department of Applied Economics
University of Minnesota
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St. Paul, MN 55108

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Employment

University of Minnesota, 2015-present.

Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Economics

Graduate Faculty Member, Humphrey School of Public Affairs

Faculty Affiliate & Graduate Faculty Member, Minnesota Population Center

Education

University of Michigan, Ph.D. in Economics, 2015.

Dissertation: "Economics as an Experimental Science: Using Field Experiments to Test Models of Economic Behavior"

University of Michigan, M.A. in Economics, 2011.

Stanford University, M.A. in International Policy Studies, 2007.

Stanford University, B.S. in Physics, 2007.

Stanford University, B.A. in International Relations, 2007.

Research and Teaching Fields

Development, Labor, Health, Education

Working Papers

"Scared Straight or Scared to Death? The Effect of HIV Risk Beliefs on Risky Sexual Behavior" July 2016. *Submitted.*

2014 Moore Dissertation Prize, University of Michigan Dept. 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.

"Peers and Motivation at Work: Evidence from a Firm Experiment in Malawi," with Lasse F. Brune and Eric Chyn. October 2016.

- “The Impact of Teacher Effectiveness on Student Learning in Africa,” with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Jeffrey A. Smith, and Rebecca L. Thornton. September 2016.
- “Income Timing, Temptation, and Expenditures: A Field Experiment in Malawi,” with Lasse F. Brune. September 2016.
- “Enumerator Knowledge Effects in Subjective Expectation Elicitation: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment.” March 2016.
- “Making the Grade: Understanding what works for teaching literacy in rural Uganda” with Rebecca L. Thornton. August 2015.
- “‘Rational Fatalism’: Non-Monotonic Choices in Response to Risks.” Working Group in African Political Economy, University of California, Berkeley, May 2012.

Work in Progress

- The Literacy Laboratory Project (with Mango Tree Educational Enterprises Uganda, Jeffrey Smith, and Rebecca L. Thornton)
- Deferred Wages and Savings Constraints (with Lasse F. Brune and Eric Chyn)
- Misconceptions about HIV as a Barrier to Universal Testing and Treatment: an Intervention to Target High-Risk Men (with Laura Derksen, Lucinda Manda-Taylor, and Olivier Sterck)
- Rural Electrification, Health, and Welfare: Evidence from the Staggered Rollout of Microgrids in Haiti (with Audrey Dorélien)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- “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.
- “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.
- “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.

External Grants

- Deferred Wages, Savings Constraints and Labor Supply (with Lasse F. Brune and Eric Chyn)
IPA Financial Inclusion Program Research Fund - \$344,975 (2015)
- Income Timing, Temptation and Expenditures (with Lasse F. Brune)
IPA/Yale Savings and Payments Research Fund - \$15,000 (2013)
- Response of Malawians’ Sexual Behavior to Information about HIV Transmission Risks
Russell Sage Foundation, Small Grants in Behavioral Economics Program - \$7,500 (2012)

Internal Grants

Deferred Wages, Savings Constraints and Labor Supply (with Lasse F. Brune and Eric Chyn)

University of Minnesota Grant-in-Aid (2016)

CIFAP Faculty Seed Grant (2015)

Peer Effects in the Workplace: Experimental Evidence from Agricultural Workers in Malawi (with Lasse F. Brune and Eric Chyn)

University of Minnesota Grant-in-Aid (2016)

University of Michigan Population Studies Center Small Grant (2016)

CIFAP Faculty Seed Grant (2015)

MITRE Economics Research Award (2014, 2015)

The Literacy Laboratory Project (with Mango Tree Education Enterprises and Rebecca L. Thornton)

MITRE Undergraduate Research Experience Grant (2014)

Income Timing, Temptation and Expenditures (with Lasse F. Brune)

MITRE Economics Research Award (2013)

Jordan and Kim Dickstein African Initiatives Fund (2013)

University of Michigan Population Studies Center Small Grant (2013)

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

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant (2012)

MITRE Economics Research Award (2012)

University of Michigan Population Studies Center Small Grant (2012)

Center for Global Health Student Global Health Engagement Grant (2011)

Situational Analysis of Sexual Behaviors and Alternative Safer Sex Strategies (with Rebecca L. Thornton)

Center for Global Health Student Global Health Engagement Grant (2011)

Fellowships and Awards

Dorothy S. Thomas Award, Population Association of America (2016)

Moore Dissertation Research Prize, University of Michigan Dept. of Economics (2014)

Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship (2014)

Rackham Spring/Summer Research Grant (2014)

Rackham Merit Fellowship (2009-2011, 2012-2013, 2014-2015)

Harold and Vivian Shapiro/John Malik/Jean Forrest Award (2010, 2011, 2012)

Population Studies Center, National Institute on Aging, Training Fellowship in Economic Demography (2010)

Research Presentations

Deferred Wages and Savings Constraints (with Lasse Brune and Eric Chyn)

2016 Researcher Gathering on Financial Inclusion. New Haven, CT. (Brune [presenter]).

Peers and Motivation at Work: Evidence from a Firm Experiment in Malawi (with Lasse Brune and Eric Chyn)

2016 North East Universities Development Consortium Conference. Cambridge, MA. (scheduled - Brune [presenter]).

Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN.

Department of Economics, Yale University. New Haven, CT.

2015 University of Michigan Department of Economics. Ann Arbor, MI.

Income Timing, Temptation, and Expenditures: Field Experimental Evidence from Malawi (with Lasse Brune)

2015 University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. St. Paul, MN.

Twentieth SOLE Meetings/Fourth SOLE/EALE World Conference. Montréal, Quebec (Brune [presenter]).

The Effect of HIV Risk Beliefs on Risky Sexual Behavior: Scared Straight or Scared to Death?

2015 International Food Policy Research Institute. Washington, DC.

University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. St. Paul, MN.

2014 Midwest Development Day. University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN.

North East Universities Development Consortium Conference. Boston, MA.

EconCon. Princeton, NJ.

Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics. World Bank.

11th Midwest International Economic Development Conference. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Population Association of America. Boston, MA.

Evaluating the Effect of the Primary Literacy Project on Literacy and Academic Achievement (with Rebecca L. Thornton)

2015 London Experimental Week. Middlesex University, London, UK.

University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. St. Paul, MN (Thornton [presenter]).

Population Association of America. San Diego, CA.

2014 Johns Hopkins University Department of Economics (Thornton [presenter]).

2013 Hewlett Foundation, Quality Education in Developing Countries Meeting. Murchison Falls, Uganda.

‘Rational Fatalism’: Non-Monotonic Choices in Response to Risks

- 2013 Population Association of America. New Orleans, LA. (Poster)
Midwest Economics Association, Columbus, OH
Pacific Conference for Development Economics. San Francisco State University.
- 2012 Working Group in African Political Economy. University of California, Berkeley.
University of Malawi College of Medicine, Research Dissemination Conference.
(Poster)

Knowledge of, Attitudes Toward, and Practice of Oral Sex in Zomba District, Malawi (with Alinafe Chibwana, Sallie M. Foley, Jobiba Chinkhumba, and Rebecca L. Thornton)

- 2012 University of Malawi College of Medicine, Research Dissemination Conference.

Missing safer sex strategies in the ABC’s of sex: A call for further research (with Rebecca L. Thornton, Sallie Foley, Paulin Basinga, and Jobiba Chinkhumba)

- 2011 Union for African Population Studies. Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso. (Thornton [presenter])

Invited Workshops

- 2013 University of Chicago, Becker Friedman Summer School in Price Theory
- 2012 Stanford Workshop in Applied Demography

Teaching

University of Minnesota

- 2016 Applied Economics 3001 (Undergraduate: Intermediate Microeconomics)
Instructor of Record

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)
Graduate Student Instructor for Professor Jeremy T. Fox
Guest Lecture on Measurement Error
- 2011 Economics 101 (Undergraduate: Introductory Microeconomics)
Head Graduate Student Instructor for Dr. Chris Proulx

Stanford University

- 2006-07 Economics 1A (Undergraduate: Introductory Microeconomics)
Graduate Student Instructor for Dr. Marcelo Clerici-Arias and Professor

Gavin Wright

2007 Sociology 191 (Undergraduate: Sustaining the Recovery - The Aftermath of Hurricane Katrina)

Instructor and Trip Leader

Professional Service

Referee Activity

BMJ Open, Demography, Econometrica, Economic Theory, Journal of AIDS and Behavior, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, International Journal of Sexual Health

Department Service

University of Minnesota

2016-17 CIFAP Steering Committee

Communication Committee

Undergraduate Committee

Labor Workshop

2015-16 Communication Committee

Undergraduate Committee

Labor Workshop

University of Michigan

2013-14 Economics Ph.D. Program Committee