

# JASON T. KERWIN

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## Contact Information

Department of Applied Economics

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University of Minnesota

316C Ruttan Hall, 1994 Buford Ave.

St. Paul, MN 55108

## 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

"Making the Grade: The Trade-off between Efficiency and Effectiveness in Improving Student Learning" with Rebecca L. Thornton. January 2018.

"Peers and Motivation at Work: Evidence from a Firm Experiment in Malawi," with Lasse Brune and Eric Chyn. December 2017.

"Scared Straight or Scared to Death? The Effect of HIV Risk Beliefs on Risky Sexual Behavior" October 2017.

*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.*

"Pay Me Later: A Simple Employer-based Saving Scheme," with Lasse Brune and Eric Chyn. October 2017.

"The Impact of Teacher Effectiveness on Student Learning in Africa," with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Jeffrey A. Smith, and Rebecca L. Thornton. September 2017.

*Best Poster Prize, PAA 2017*

"Income Timing, Savings Constraints, and Temptation Spending: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment," with Lasse Brune. September 2017. (*Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Development Economics*).

"Enumerator Knowledge Effects in Subjective Expectation Elicitation: Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment." March 2016.

"'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 Brune and Eric Chyn)

Achieving an AIDS-Free Generation by Providing Accurate Information About HIV Testing and Treatment (with Laura Derksen, Olivier Sterck, Joep van Oosterhout, and Susan Watkins)

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 Brune and Eric Chyn)

IPA Financial Inclusion Program Research Fund - \$344,975 (2015)

Income Timing, Temptation and Expenditures (with Lasse 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**

Achieving an AIDS-Free Generation by Providing Accurate Information About HIV  
Testing and Treatment

CIFAP Faculty Seed Grant (2017)

Deferred Wages, Savings Constraints, and Labor Supply (with Lasse 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 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 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**

Best Poster Prize, Population Association of America Annual Meeting (2017)

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**

The Impact of Teacher Effectiveness on Student Learning in Africa (with Julie Buhl-Wiggers, Jeffrey A. Smith, and Rebecca L. Thornton)

2017 International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, 28<sup>th</sup> International Population Conference. Cape Town, South Africa.  
Stellenbosch University Department of Economics. Stellenbosch, South Africa.  
Advances with Field Experiments 2017 Conference. Chicago, IL. (Thornton [presenter]).  
University of Colorado Department of Economics. Boulder, CO.  
CESifo. Munich, Germany. (Smith [presenter]).  
Research on Improving Systems of Education Annual Conference 2017. Washington, DC. (Buhl-Wiggers [presenter]).  
Population Association of America, 2017 Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL. (poster)  
Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University. Oxford, UK. (Buhl-Wiggers [presenter]).

Pay Me Later: A Simple Employer-based Saving Scheme (with Lasse Brune and Eric Chyn)

2017 North East Universities Development Consortium Conference. Medford, MA. (scheduled)  
Innovations for Poverty Action, Researcher Gathering on Financial Inclusion. New Haven, CT. (Brune [presenter]).  
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Washington, DC. (Chyn [presenter]).  
Yale University Department of Economics. New Haven, CT.

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

2017 International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, 28<sup>th</sup> International Population Conference. Cape Town, South Africa.  
World Bank, 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Bank Conference on Africa. Berkeley, CA.  
Society of Labor Economists, 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meetings. Raleigh, NC.  
Midwest International Economic Development Conference, University of

- Wisconsin. Madison, WI.  
 University of Minnesota Department of Applied Economics. St. Paul, MN.  
 Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University. Oxford, UK.
- 2016 North East Universities Development Consortium Conference. Cambridge, MA.  
 (Brune [presenter]).  
 Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota. Minneapolis, MN.  
 Yale University Department of Economics. New Haven, CT. (Brune [presenter]).
- 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.  
 University of Michigan Department of Economics. Princeton, NJ.  
 EconCon. Princeton, NJ.  
 Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics. World Bank.  
 11<sup>th</sup> Midwest International Economic Development Conference. University of  
 Minnesota, Twin Cities.  
 Population Association of America, 2014 Annual Meeting. 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, 2015 Annual Meeting. San Diego, CA.
- 2014 Johns Hopkins University Department of Economics (Thornton [presenter]).  
 University of Michigan Causal Inference in Education Research Seminar. Ann  
 Arbor, MI.
- 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, 2013 Annual Meeting. 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

2016-17 Applied Economics 5151 (Masters: Microeconomic Theory)

Instructor of Record

2016-17 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

*American Journal of Health Economics, BMJ Open, Demography, Econometrica,  
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 Research on Educational  
Effectiveness, Journal of the European Economic Association, Scottish Journal of  
Political Economy, Review of Development Economics,*

Professional Associations

Society of Labor Economists

European Economic Association

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

Population Association of America

Department Service

University of Minnesota

2017-18 CIFAP Steering Committee

Awards Committee

Undergraduate Committee

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