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CURRENT POSITION

- Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Barnard College, Columbia University, 2003-present.

EDUCATION

- Princeton University
Ph.D. in Economics, November 2002
Advisors: Christina Paxson, Anne Case, and Bo Honoré
M.A. in Economics, January 1998
Field Exams in Labor, Development, and Econometrics
- Columbia College
B.A. in English, May 1987, *cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Development Economics, Child Well-being, Family Structure

PUBLICATIONS

- “Rearranging the Family? Income Support and Elderly Living Arrangements in a Low Income Country,” with Eric Edmonds and Douglas Miller. Winter 2005. *Journal of Human Resources*.
Abstract: Despite the importance of living arrangements for well-being and production, the effect of changes in household income on living arrangements is not well understood. This study overcomes the identification problems that have limited the study of the link between income and living arrangements by exploiting a discontinuity in the benefit formula for the social pension in South Africa. Using the 1996 Population and Housing Census of South Africa, we find, in contrast to the existing literature on wealthier nations, no evidence that pension income is used to maintain the independence of elders in South Africa. Rather, potential beneficiaries alter their household structure. Prime working age women depart, and we observe an increase in children under 5 and young women of childbearing age. These shifts in co-residence patterns are consistent with a setting where prime age women have comparative advantage in work away from extended family relative to younger women. It appears that the additional income from old age support induces a change in living arrangements to exploit this advantage.
- “Women’s Work and Economic Development,” with Christina Paxson. Fall 2000. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*.
Abstract: This paper used both a cross-country dataset and microdata from India and Thailand to examine how women's work status changes with economic development. Several clear patterns emerged: women's labor force participation first declines and then rises with development; women move from work in family enterprises to work as paid employees; fertility declines; and gender gaps in education narrow. Women's education levels, and those of their spouses, appear to be important determinants of women's labor market activities. Broad welfare indicators, such as mortality rates and education levels, indicate that women's well-being improves on average with development, both in absolute terms and relative to men.

OTHER RESEARCH:

- “Fathers' Time Investments in Children: Do Sons Get More?”

Abstract: Evidence suggests that, from birth, fathers treat sons differently than daughters in the U.S., as well as in developing countries. Fathers' time investments in children are one channel through which differential treatment by gender may affect children's outcomes. This paper uses data from the 2003 American Time Use Survey to explore three questions about paternal time in married two-parent families: Does the gender composition of his children affect the amount of time a father spends with them? If so, does the gender of the individual child have an additional effect? And is a girl advantaged or disadvantaged by the presence of brothers in spending time with her father? Father-level and child-level regressions examine the effects of gender composition and gender. Family fixed effects specifications show that gender is important within families as well as across families. Overall, boys get more of fathers' time in certain types of activities, compared to girls in all-girl families and to girls with brothers. Although the contribution of this time to children's development cannot be directly measured, to the extent that these investments of fathers' time affect children's outcomes, it appears that girls are at a disadvantage, especially girls in all-girl families. Girls with brothers do receive more of fathers' time than girls with only sisters, but this is primarily in television watching, so whether it is an advantage or not is open to question.

- “The Effect of Children’s Gender on Divorce and Child Support.”

Abstract: In the United States a large proportion of children will live in single mother homes for some period in their childhoods, and whether they receive child support from their absent fathers is an important factor in their well-being. Previous evidence suggests that the gender composition of a family’s children – specifically, the presence of sons – reduces the probability of divorce. Using the March Current Population Survey from 1983 – 2001, this paper examines whether girls are at a double disadvantage in terms of the probabilities of their parents divorcing, and in the likelihood of receiving child support if their parents are divorced. The empirical findings indicate that boys are more likely than girls to reside in married couple families, consistent with the notion that boys reduce the probabilities of divorce. However, there is little evidence that boys and girls fare differently in child support receipt or amounts if their parents are divorced.

- “All for One or Each for Her Own: Do Polygamous Families Share and Share Alike?”

Abstract: This paper compares unitary and collective models of investment in children in the context of a polygynous family structure (with multiple wives) using a Living Standards Measurement Survey from Côte d’Ivoire. I examine whether the mother’s rank (whether she is a senior (first) or junior wife) in the household and her characteristics relative to other wives influence her child’s school enrollment, school expenditures and anthropometric measures. The findings with respect to the anthropometric measures of child well-being are not inconsistent with the assumptions of the unitary model. However, I find evidence that being the child of a junior wife negatively affects enrollment and school expenditures at the middle school ages, relative to being the child of a senior wife, although it slightly raises expenditures at the primary school ages. The results of fixed effects regressions which take account of unobserved heterogeneity of the fathers are consistent with the evidence of the OLS estimates although imprecisely estimated. This evidence that rank affects investments in children is consistent with the credit-constrained collective model presented in the paper.

FELLOWSHIPS

- Steven H. Sandell Grant for Junior Scholars in Retirement Research, Center for Retirement Research at Boston College. "The Long Term Effects of the Divorce Revolution: Health, Wealth, and Labor Supply." 2007-2008.
- Alternate for American Association of University Women Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowship. 2007-2008.
- Princeton University Graduate Summer Stipend, Summer 2001.
- Princeton University Graduate Fellowship, 2000-2001.
- National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, 1995-1997 and 1999-2000 (on leave 1997-1999).
- National Merit Scholar, John Jay Scholar, Columbia College 1983-1984.

PRESENTATIONS (non-job market)

- 2007-2008: American Economics Association National Meeting (scheduled)
- 2006-2007: Society of Labor Economist annual meeting; 2 papers, also discussant
- 2005-2006: American Time Use Survey Early Results Conference; American Economics Association National Meeting; Center on Family Demography and Public Policy Seminar at the Columbia School of Social Work; Applied Micro Lunch, Department of Economics, Columbia University
- 2002-2003: American Economics Association National Meeting

REFEREEING

American Economic Review, Demography, Economica, Feminist Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of International Trade and Economic Development, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Population Research, Journal of Socio-Economics, The Sociological Quarterly

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Lecturer, Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University. Teaching Assistant for Microeconomics, basic and advanced levels, for first year M.P.A. students, 2002-2003.
- Teaching Assistant for Professor Elie Tamer. Econometrics, intermediate undergraduate course, Princeton University. Spring 2001.
- Teaching Assistant for Professor Bo Honoré. Statistics and Data Analysis for Economics, intermediate undergraduate course, Princeton University. Fall 2000.
- Research Assistant for Professor David Card, Princeton University, Summer 1996.
- Undergraduate Research Assistant for Professor Cecilia Conrad, Barnard College, 1994-1995.

COURSES TAUGHT

BC2010 Economics of Gender Spring 2004, Spring 2005, Spring 2006
BC2411 Statistics for Economics Fall 2003, Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Fall 2007
BC3035 Intermediate Microeconomic Theory Spring 2004, Spring 2005, Spring 2006
BC3061-62 Senior Thesis 2004-2005, 2005-2006, 2007-2008
BC3066-67 Senior Research Seminar in Economic History 2005-2006

SERVICE

Department:

- Organizer of Department Seminar series 2004-2006, 2007-2008
- Major Adviser 2004-2006, 2007-2008

College:

- First Year Adviser 2005-2006
- Career Services committee 2004-2006
- Open House for prospective students Fall 2004
- Faculty Teller 2003-2004

University:

- Dissertation defense committees for Columbia Economics Department:
Jane Lin 3/11/04, Chi Mac 4/29/04