

TODD J. KUMLER

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Education:

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2014 (expected) | PhD Economics | Columbia University |
| 2010 | MPhil Economics | Columbia University |
| 2009 | MA Economics | Columbia University |
| 2007 | BA Economics, Mathematics | Illinois Wesleyan University |
| 2005 | Visiting Student | London School of Economics |

Fields of Specialization:

Development Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Honors and Awards:

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| 2012-2013 | Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University |
| Summer 2011 | Program for Economic Research Graduate Fellowship, Columbia University |
| 2007-present | Faculty Fellowship, Columbia University |
| 2007 | Kathleen Grey Fellowship, Phi Kappa Phi |
| 2007 | Annabelle Scrogin Anderson '36 Award for Distinguished Achievement in Multiple Fields, Illinois Wesleyan University |
| 2006 | Phi Beta Kappa |
| 2006 | Phi Kappa Phi |
| 2003 | Presidential Scholar, Illinois Wesleyan University |

Working Papers:

“Enlisting Workers in Monitoring Firms: Payroll Tax Compliance in Mexico” with Eric Verhoogen and Judith A. Frías. June 2012.

Abstract: Non-compliance of firms with tax regulations is a major constraint on state capacity in developing countries. We focus on an arguably under-appreciated dimension of non-compliance: under-reporting of wages by formal firms to evade payroll taxes. Comparing wage distributions for similar sets of workers in the administrative records of the Mexican social security agency and a household labor-force survey, we document extensive under-reporting of wages. We further argue that the 1997 Mexican pension reform had a differential effect by age on the incentives of workers to ensure that their wages were reported accurately. Using a difference-in-differences strategy, we present evidence that the increase in the incentive for workers to ensure accurate reports led to a significant decline in under-reporting. The results suggest that enlisting workers in monitoring their employers is an effective way to increase payroll tax compliance.

“Improving Reading Skills by Encouraging Children to Read: A Randomized Evaluation of the Sa Aklat Sisikat Program in the Philippines” with Ama Baafra Abeberese and Leigh L. Linden, June 2012.

Abstract: We show that a short-term (31 day) reading program, designed to provide age-appropriate reading material, to train teachers in their use, and to support teachers’ initial efforts for about a month improves students’ reading skills by 0.13 standard deviations. The effect is still present three months after the program but diminishes to 0.6 standard deviations, probably due to a reduced emphasis on reading after the program. We find that the program also encourages students to read more on their own at home, but find no evidence that improved reading ability improves test scores on other subjects.

“The Effects of Trade Liberalization on Fertility and Child Health Outcomes in India” with S Anukriti, October 2012.

Abstract: This paper examines the impact of India’s 1991 tariff reform on fertility and child health outcomes in rural areas. In relative terms, women more exposed to tariff cuts are more likely to give birth, and these births are more likely to be female. These results are primarily driven by low caste, uneducated and low wealth mothers. Moreover, infant mortality decreases for girls (but not boys) born in low status families in rural areas more exposed to tariff reductions, suggesting that socially disadvantaged households invest more in daughters to take advantage of new economic opportunities resulting from trade liberalization. On the other hand, fertility decreases and mortality for girls *increases* for high status women, who also exhibit a weak increase in sex ratio at birth in response to the trade reform.

Work in Progress:

“Globalization and Mexican Labor: Effects of Chinese Export Growth on Mexican Manufacturing Workers”

“Spillover Effects of Health Insurance Expansions: Early Evidence from the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA)” with Sarena Goodman

“Employment Effects of Social Security Reform in Mexico”

Research Experience:

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| 2009-2012 | RA for Eric Verhoogen, Columbia University |
| 2009 | Fieldwork for Leigh Linden (UT-Austin) in Manila, Philippines |

Presentations:

Comisión Nacional del Sistema de Ahorro para el Retiro (National Retirement Savings Commission), Mexico City, Mexico, May 2012

Northeast University Development Consortium, New Haven, CT, November 2011

Development Economics Colloquium, Columbia Department of Economics, March 2012, October 2011, May 2011, December 2010

Applied Microeconomics Colloquium, Columbia Department of Economics, October 2012, April 2010, December 2009

Teaching Experience:

Teaching Assistantships at Columbia University:

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| Spring 2009 | Intermediate Microeconomics (Jonathan Vogel) |
| Fall 2008 | Development Economics (Ronald Findlay) |
| Summer 2007 | International Trade (Victor Shlychkov) |

Other Employment Experience:

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| Summer 2006 | Research Intern, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland |
| Summer 2004 | Campaign Intern, Barack Obama for US Senate |

Personal

Citizenship: USA
Computer Skills: Stata, SAS, Python