

# MELANIE KHAMIS

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## EDUCATION

The London School of Economics (LSE), London, U.K. PhD Thesis Title: An empirical investigation of the informal labor market, minimum wages and workfare programs at times of growth and crisis in urban Argentina, 1992-2005	2008
University of Warwick, Coventry, U.K. MSc in Economics (distinction in main subjects)	1999
The London School of Economics (LSE), London, U.K. BSc in Economics (upper second class honors)	1998

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Microeconometrics

## EMPLOYMENT

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, USA Tenure-track Assistant Professor in Economics, Department of Economics Core Member of Latin American Studies Program	2011 to present
Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn, Germany Postdoctoral Research Associate	2008- 2011
Department for International Development (DFID), London, U.K. Government Economist	2003-2007
The World Bank Group, Washington D.C., U.S.A. Consultant	2006-2007
The World Bank Group, Buenos Aires, Argentina Consultant	2004-2005
The World Bank Group, Washington D.C., U.S.A Summer Internship	2002
The International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington D.C., U.S.A Research Assistant	2000-2001
Maxwell Stamp PLC, London, U.K. Economic Consultant in International Development Consultancy	1999-2000

### **PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

1. Women Make Houses, Women Make Homes, with Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel and Mutlu Yuksel, *Labour Economics*, 2017, 49, 145-161.  
(new title and substantially revised from working paper: ‘Rubble Women: The Long-Term Effects of Postwar Reconstruction on Female Labor Market Outcomes’ (IZA DP No.6148)).
2. For Better or for Worse: The Long-Term Effects of Postwar Reconstruction on Family Formation, with Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel and Mutlu Yuksel, *Applied Economics*, 2016, 48:29, 2771-2784.
3. Convergences in Men’s and Women’s Life Patterns: Lifetime Work, Lifetime Earnings and Human Capital Investment, with Joyce Jacobsen and Mutlu Yuksel, *Research in Labor Economics*, 2015, 41, 1-33.
4. Does the minimum wage have a higher impact on the informal than on the formal labor market? Evidence from quasi-experiments, *Applied Economics*, 2013, 45:4, 477-495.
5. Is informal sector work an alternative to workfare benefits? The case of pre-program expansion and economic crisis, *Review of Development Economics*, 2012, 16:4, 579–593.
6. Consumption and Social Identity: Evidence from India, with Nishith Prakash and Zahra Siddique, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 2012, 83, 353– 371.
7. The Persistence of Informality: Evidence from Panel Data, with Aslan Akay, *Research in Labor Economics*, 2012, 34, 229–255.
8. A Note on Informality in the Labor Market, *Journal of International Development*, 2012, 24, 894–908.

### **OTHER PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS**

9. Formalization of jobs and firms in emerging economies, May 2014, *IZA World of Labor*.
10. Ethnic Fragmentation, Conflict, Displaced Persons and Human Trafficking: An Empirical Analysis (with Randall Akee, Arnab Basu and Nancy Chau), in Gil S. Epstein and Ira N. Gang eds., *Migration and Culture*, Frontiers of Economics and Globalization, Volume 8, Emerald Publishing, 2010.
11. Crisis and Recovery in Argentina: Labor market, poverty, inequality and pro-poor growth dynamics, in Stephan Klasen and Felicitas Nowak-Lehmann eds., *Poverty, Inequality and Migration in Latin America*, Peter Lang Verlag, 2008.

### **WORKING PAPERS**

12. Comparative Advantage, Segmentation and Informal Earnings: A Marginal Treatment Effects Approach, with Omar Arias, (IZA DP No.3916) (earlier version background paper to World Bank Report “Informality: Exit and Exclusion” 2007), (January 2013).

13. Why Are Women's and Men's Work Lives Converging? Demography, Human Capital Investments, and Lifetime Earnings, with Joyce Jacobsen and Mutlu Yuksel (July 2016).
14. Environment Matters: New Evidence From Mexican Migration, with Xiyue Li (December 2016).
15. Risk Attitudes and Incidence of Informality among Workers: Evidence from a Transition Country, with Thomas Dohmen and Hartmut Lehmann (March 2017).
16. Missing Men and Female Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from large-scale Mexican Migration, with Emily Conover and Sarah Pearlman (March 2017). (earlier version cited by World Bank in November 2015).
17. Migration and the Informal Sector, with Ira Gang and John Landon-Lane (June 2017).

## **RESEARCH FUNDING AND AWARDS**

### **External**

W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research Early Career Research Grant (2014) \$5,000 (with Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel and Mutlu Yuksel)  
Volkswagen Foundation Project (with Hartmut Lehmann) (2011-2014) Euro 420,000  
Alexander von Humboldt TransCoop on Human Trafficking (with Randall Akee, Arnab Basu, Nancy Chau and Hilmar Schneider) (2009-2011) Euro 51,000  
World Bank 1<sup>st</sup> Round Funding for Informality Project Proposal (with Hartmut Lehmann) (2009) \$10,000

### **Internal**

Carol Baker '81 Memorial Prize for PAC Junior Faculty 2015–2016  
COE/Wesleyan University Faculty Fellowship 2015–2016  
Wesleyan University Project Grant 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017  
Wesleyan University Research Funding 2012-2017  
Wesleyan University Travel Funding 2012-2017  
Wesleyan University Student-Faculty Research Internship Funding 2012-2017  
Wesleyan University Teaching and Pedagogy Grant 2015-2016, 2017-2018  
Wesleyan University Summer Research (QAC) Program 2012  
LSE Research Student Scholarship (2006/2007)  
Michio Morishima Travel Award (2007)

## **RESEARCH VISITS**

University of California, Berkeley January to July 2015  
Visiting Research Scholar, Center for Labor Economics (invited by: Prof. David Card)

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, USA 2013-2014  
Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics (invited by: Prof. Jerry Green)

Shorter Research Visits: IZA Bonn, Rutgers, Cornell, College of William & Mary.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

2017

IAFFE Conference, Seoul, Korea (July 2017)

2016

AEA (chair); Fordham; Wesleyan (PAC); LSE; Indiana/Cornell University Conference in Honor of Elinor Ostrom

2015

AEA/ACES (discussant for 3 papers); UC Berkeley; EEA; IZA/CEPR European Summer Symposium for Labor Economics

2014

9<sup>th</sup> IZA/World Bank Conference, Lima, Peru; Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev), Los Angeles; Wesleyan University; Panel Discussant in CSMGEP panel on Diversity and Research at AEA, Philadelphia

2013

AEA/CSWEP San Diego; ACES San Diego; World Bank; Hamilton College; Rutgers University; Connecticut College; 8<sup>th</sup> IZA/World Bank Conference, Bonn; EEA Gothenburg; LAC-DEV Amherst (discussant); Wellesley College

2012

Workshop on Human Trafficking, International Crime and National Security: A Human Rights Perspective (Goettingen); Wesleyan (CSS); Vassar; SOLE (poster); Universitaet Goettingen; EALE; Tufts; SEA; UCONN; Christmas meeting of German economists abroad

2011

ASSA, LERA (poster); Wesleyan University; Dalhousie University; 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting on Risky Behaviors (discussant); IZA; 6<sup>th</sup> IZA/World Bank Conference, Mexico (2 papers presented); Wesleyan (ODE); IZA/World Bank Workshop on Institutions and Informal Employment in Emerging and Transition Economies (presenter and discussant)

2010

ASSA, ACES; IZA; Stockholm University; Enforcement, Evasion and Informality: Theory and Practice Conference at University of Michigan; EALE/SOLE; The Empirics of Law Enforcement and Compliance (discussant); Ruhr-Universitaet Bochum; SAEe Madrid; Universitaet Goettingen

2009

4<sup>th</sup> IZA/World Bank Conference; IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting of Labor Economists; LASA (presenter and discussant); IZA; The Shadow Economy Conference, Universitaet Muenster; EALE (presenter and discussant); 1<sup>st</sup> CIER/IZA Conference; IZA/Volkswagen Foundation Topic Week on Transition Economies (presenter and discussant); World Bank; IZA Prize Conference; College of William & Mary; Cornell University; Rutgers University; NEUDC (poster)

2008

Royal Economic Society; 3<sup>rd</sup> IZA/World Bank Conference; SOLE (poster); 5<sup>th</sup> IZA Annual Migration Meeting (AM<sup>2</sup>) and 2<sup>nd</sup> IZA Migration Topic Week (discussant); Nordic Conference in Development Economics; IZA; LACEA; IPEA; IZA Prize Conference (poster)

2007 and earlier

2<sup>nd</sup> IZA/World Bank Conference (2007); STICERD, LSE; World Bank (2006);

Poverty, Inequality and Policy in Latin America Symposium, Universitaet Goettingen (2005)

## **REFEREEING**

### Journals:

American Economic Review, Applied Economics, The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics, Economics, Economics Bulletin, Economic Modelling, Economics of Transition, Industrial & Labor Relations Review, International Journal of Manpower, IZA Journal of Labor & Development, Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Economic Policy Reform, Journal of Economic Psychology, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Institutional Economics, Journal of Human Trafficking, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Market Research, Journal of Population Economics, Labour Economics, Singapore Economic Review, Research in Labor Economics, Review of Development Economics, Review of International Organizations, The Review of Regional Studies, The Manchester School, Oxford Economic Papers, Oxford Development Studies, World Development

### Grants and Reports:

IZA/DFID Growth and Labour Markets in Low Income Countries Program (GLM | LIC): Phase 3 grants (2013), Phase 2 grants (2013), Phase 1 grants (2012); OECD Report 'Is Informal Normal? Towards More and Better Jobs in Developing Countries' (2008)

### Books

MIT Press Book Proposal "The Economics of Contemporary Latin America"  
Routledge Press Book Proposal "The Informal Economy in Developing Countries"  
Routledge Press Book 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition "Latin American Economic Development"

## **ORGANISATION OF WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES**

### Organizer:

LAC-DEV: 4<sup>th</sup> Liberal Arts Development Economics Conference, Vassar College, September 2016

AALAC Workshop "A Workshop to Enhance Inclusivity in Economics at Liberal Arts Colleges", Pomona College, February 2016

LAC-DEV: 3<sup>rd</sup> Liberal Arts Development Economics Conference, Lafayette College, September 2015

LAC-DEV: 2<sup>nd</sup> Liberal Arts Development Economics Conference, Colgate University, September 2014

ASSA/ACES Session Organizer, Chair and Discussant, January 2014

LAC-DEV: 1<sup>st</sup> Liberal Arts Development Economics Conference, Amherst College, October 2013

IZA Workshop: Understanding Informal Employment in Transition: The case of Georgia, Bonn, Germany (2011);

IZA Workshop: Legal and Illicit Immigration: Theory, Empirics and Policy, Bonn, Germany (2010);

Graduate Workshop in Development Economics, Bonn, Germany (2009);

1<sup>st</sup> CIER/IZA Workshop: Research in Labor Economics, Beijing, China (2009)

### Scientific Committee:

Pacific Conference for Development Economics (PacDev) (2014);

3<sup>rd</sup> EALE/SOLE Conference at UCL, London, U.K. (2010);

4<sup>th</sup> IZA/World Bank Conference, Bonn, Germany (2009)

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Economic Association, Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association, Association for Comparative Economic Studies, UK Government Economic Service (2003-2007), STICERD affiliate (2005-2007), Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) Research Fellow (2011-present), Global Labor Organization (GLO) Fellow (2017-present)

### **ATTENDANCE OF MEETINGS**

Mentee Participant in CSWEP Mentoring program at AEA Philadelphia 2014  
NBER Summer Institute Labor Studies 2013

### **PHD OUTSIDE READER**

Omayma Elsheniti (Rutgers, Economics, 2014)

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Wesleyan University 2011 to present  
ECON301 Microeconomic Analysis (Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Spring 2017)  
ECON261 Latin American Economic Development (Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2017)  
ECON366 The Economics of Developing Countries (Spring 2012)  
ECON300 Quantitative Methods in Economics (Fall 2012)  
ENVS391 COE Senior Colloquium (Fall 2015)  
ENVS241 Labor and Development Economics in Latin America (Spring 2016)  
ECON361 Development and Labor in Latin American Economies (Fall 2016)

Universitaet Bonn, Department of Economics, Bonn, Germany 2010  
Lecturer for Master's level course in Development Economics (team-taught course)

University of San Francisco, San Francisco, U.S.A. 2015  
Guest lecture 'Doing Labor and Development Economics with Large-Scale Secondary Data' for Master in International and Development Economics

Rutgers University, Department of Economics, New Brunswick, U.S.A.  
Guest lectures for PhD course in Development Economics  
'Doing Labor and Development Economics with Large-Scale Secondary Data' 2015  
'Impact Evaluation' 2013  
Guest lecture for Bachelor course Economics of Population  
'Informality in the Labor Market' 2009

London School of Economics (LSE), Department of International Development 2006  
London, U.K.  
Class Teacher for interdisciplinary Master level course on Poverty measurement

## **SERVICE AT WESLEYAN**

### University, Department of Economics, LAST program and COE:

Search Committee for Economics Department 2011-2012, 2016-2017  
Search Committee for Center for the Americas Postdoctoral Mellon Fellow 2015-16  
Board Member of the Center of the Americas 2011-2012, 2015-2016  
Board Member of the Center for Global Studies 2016-2017  
Core Member of Latin American Studies Program 2011 to present  
Economics Department Seminar Organizer 2012-2013  
COE Think Tank Fellow Meetings 2015-2016  
Wesleyan Alumni Event (LA 2016, Seoul 2017)  
Coursera Grant for Wesleyan Specialization on Data Analysis and Interpretation (2015, participated in the application and project workshop in Silicon Valley)  
Organizer of Economics Department reading group (Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Fall 2016)

### Student-related Service/Advising:

Thesis Adviser 2012-2013: Romaine Campbell (Class 2013) ‘The Effect of Female Ownership and Management on Firm Performance: Evidence from Latin America’, High Honors  
Thesis Adviser 2015-2016: Xiyue Li (Class 2016) ‘Climate Change and Migration: Two Case Studies on Mexico’, High Honors  
LAST Senior Essay Tutorial 2016-2017: Kathy Yun (Class 2017) ‘Resource Curse in Latin America: Evidence from Brazil, Venezuela, and Mexico’

Academic Adviser to the Wesleyan Football Team 2016 to present  
Adviser to 22 Economics Majors and 6 Freshmen 2012-2013  
Adviser to 27 Economics Majors 2013-2014  
Adviser to 18 Economics Majors 2014-2015  
Adviser to 6 Economics Majors, 2 Sophomores and 7 Freshmen 2015-2016  
Adviser to 26 Economics Majors, 1 Sophomore and 6 Freshmen 2016-2017  
Committee Member of COE senior thesis (2)  
Thesis reader: 2012: CSS(1), Economics (2), 2013: Economics (1), 2014: CSS(2), 2016: Economics(1), 2017: Economics(1)  
Faculty Adviser/ panelist at the Forum for International Development (February 2012)  
Speaker at 1<sup>st</sup> TedxWes Westalk Conference (February 2013)  
Presenter at book event “The Capital in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, by Thomas Piketty” (December 2014)

## **LANGUAGES**

English (fluent), German (fluent), Spanish (good), French (good), Latin (good)

## **COMPUTER SKILLS**

STATA, EViews, Latex, Python, R, SQL