

MELANIE KHAMIS

EDUCATION

The London School of Economics (LSE), London, U.K. PhD	2008
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	
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 Chair of Latin American Studies Program	2011 to present 2020-2021
Core Member of Latin American Studies Program	2011 to present
Associate Professor in Economics (with tenure), Department of Economics	2018 to present
Assistant Professor in Economics, Department of Economics	2011 to 2018
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, 2019, 2020-2021
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. Initial Job Match Quality and Labor Market Transitions: Evidence from Mexican Informal and Formal Labor Markets, with Emily Conover and Sarah Pearlman. UNU-WIDER Working Paper 2021/23. Accepted *Journal of Development Studies*.
2. Declining Outmigration and Local Labor Markets, with Emily Conover and Sarah Pearlman (July 2021). *Journal of Human Resources*, preprint manuscript available on journal website.
3. Gender Imbalances and Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from Large-Scale Mexican Migration, with Emily Conover and Sarah Pearlman, *IZA Journal of Migration and Development*, 2021, 12.
4. Environment Matters: New Evidence From Mexican Migration, with Xiyue Li, *Applied Economics Letters*, 2020, 27, 168-173.
5. 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)).
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. Consumption and Social Identity: Evidence from India, with Nishith Prakash and Zahra Siddique, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 2012, 83, 353– 371.
11. The Persistence of Informality: Evidence from Panel Data, with Aslan Akay, *Research in Labor Economics*, 2012, 34, 229–255.
12. A Note on Informality in the Labor Market, *Journal of International Development*, 2012, 24, 894–908.

OTHER PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

13. Formalization of jobs and firms in emerging economies, May 2014, *IZA World of Labor*.

14. 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.
15. 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.

PEER-REVIEWED POLICY PUBLICATIONS AND POLICY WORKING PAPERS

16. The Early Labor Market Impacts of COVID-19 in Developing Countries: Evidence from High-Frequency Phone Surveys, with Daniel Prinz, David Newhouse, Amparo Palacios-Lopez, Utz Pape, Michael Weber, *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper*, No. 9510, 2021. *Under Review*
17. JobsWatch COVID-19: Early Labor Market Impacts of COVID-19 in Developing Countries, with Daniel Prinz, David Newhouse, Amparo Palacios-Lopez, Utz Pape, Michael Weber, World Bank, January 2021.
18. JobsWatch COVID-19: The Evolving Labor Market Impacts of COVID-19 in Developing Countries, with Daniel Prinz, David Newhouse, Amparo Palacios-Lopez, Utz Pape, Michael Weber, World Bank, July 2021.

WORKING PAPERS

19. Migration and Household Informal Activity, with Ira Gang and John Landon-Lane (December 2020). *Under Review*
20. It's Not Easy Being A Green Party: Green Politics as a Normal Good, with Patrick Gourley (July 2021). *Under Review*
21. 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).
22. 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).
23. Risk Attitudes and Incidence of Informality among Workers: Evidence from a Transition Country, with Thomas Dohmen and Hartmut Lehmann (March 2017).

RESEARCH FUNDING AND AWARDS

External

- UNU-WIDER Grant "Transforming informal work and livelihoods" (2019) \$8,000
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 1st 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 2012-2021
Wesleyan University Travel Funding 2012-2019
Wesleyan University Student-Faculty Research Internship Funding 2012-2021
Wesleyan University Teaching and Pedagogy Grant 2015-2016, 2017-2018
Wesleyan University Summer Research (QAC) Program 2012, 2018
LSE Research Student Scholarship (2006/2007)
Michio Morishima Travel Award (2007)

RESEARCH VISITS

Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Cambridge, MA, USA 2018-2019
Fellow with the Women and Public Policy Program (WAPPP) (selected by committee)

Transatlantic Senior Researcher, Ruhr Graduate School of Economics (December 2018)

NBER Applied Microeconomics/Health Group (NYC) January-June 2019
Visiting Researcher (invited by: Prof. Michael Grossman and Prof. David Jaeger)

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: RWI Essen, IZA Bonn, Rutgers, Cornell, College of William & Mary.

PRESENTATIONS

2021

LAC Labor and Public Conference 2021 (session chair)

2020

UNU-WIDER workshop on “Transforming informal work and livelihoods”, Helsinki, Finland (April 2020 due to COVID organizer moved to October 2020)

IZA / World Bank / NJD Jobs and Development Conference, Warsaw, Poland (May 2020 due to COVID organizer moved to September Virtual Conference 2020)

AEA Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education, Chicago (CTREE) (chair and discussant, May 2020, organizer cancelled the conference due to COVID)

ESPE Conference, Barcelona, Spain (June 2020, organizer cancelled the conference due to COVID)

EALE/SOLE Conference, Berlin, Germany (June 2020, in person conference cancelled due to COVID)

2019

Williams College CGD conference “Gender and Development” (April 2019); Canadian Economic Association (May/June 2019); IZA/World Bank/NJD Jobs and Development Conference (June 2019); Western Economic Association (June 2019); European Association for Labor Economists (EALE) (invited flash talk) (September 2019); Yale (September 2019); University of Arkansas (October 2019); Wesleyan (November 2019).

2018

UMass Amherst; RWI Essen (June 2018); IZA World of Labor Conference, Berlin, Germany (June 2018); The Brookings Institution (October 2018); NEUDC Cornell University (October 2018); SEA (November 2018) (panelist for CSWEP and presentation); Universitaet Bamberg (December 2018);

2017

IAFFE Conference, Seoul, Korea

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

9th 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; 8th 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; 3rd Annual Meeting on Risky Behaviors (discussant); IZA; 6th 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

4th 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); 1st 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; 3rd IZA/World Bank Conference; SOLE (poster); 5th IZA Annual Migration Meeting (AM²) and 2nd IZA Migration Topic Week (discussant); Nordic Conference in Development Economics; IZA; LACEA; IPEA; IZA Prize Conference (poster)

2007 and earlier

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

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

REFEREING

Journals:

American Economic Review, Applied Economics, Applied Economics Letters, The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics, Economics, Economics Bulletin, Economic Modelling, Economics of Transition, Empirical Economics, Industrial & Labor Relations Review, International Journal of Manpower, IZA Journal of Labor & Development, IZA Journal of Migration and Development, Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Demographic Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Policy Reform, Journal of Economic Psychology, Journal of Family and Economic Issues, Journal of Gender Studies, Journal of Institutional Economics, Journal of International Development, 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, Review of Social Economy, 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 2nd Edition "Latin American Economic Development"

ORGANISATION OF WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Reviewer/Program Organizer:

IZA / World Bank / NJD Jobs and Development Conference (September 2021)

IZA / World Bank / NJD Jobs and Development Conference (September 2020)

IZA / World Bank / NJD Jobs and Development Conference (June 2019)

Organizer/Attendance:

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

AALAC Workshop "A Workshop to Enhance Inclusivity in Economics at Liberal Arts Collges", Pomona College, February 2016; Follow-up Workshop ASSA Philadelphia, January 2018

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

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

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

LAC-DEV: 1st 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);

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

Scientific Committee:

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

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

4th 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)

MENTORING ACTIVITY

Mentor in American Economic Association Mentoring Program, Fall 2021

Job Market Coach for American Economic Association Mentoring Program, Fall 2021

American Economic Association CSWEP Newsletter contribution: “Being at a Liberal Arts College with High Research Expectations”, 2020, Issue III. (Service to the profession)

Invited “Guru” talk to the Berlin Network for Labor Market Research, July 2020 (Service to the profession)

Mentor in CSWEP Mentoring program at AEA San Diego 2020 (Service to the profession)

Mentee Participant in CSWEP Mentoring program at AEA Philadelphia 2014

EXTERNAL EXAMINER AND REVIEWER

2014: PhD (1), 2020: Tenure (1), 2021: Tenure (3)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Wesleyan University 2011 to present

ECON301 Microeconomic Analysis (Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2019 (2 sections), Fall 2020 (2 sections), Fall 2021, Spring 2022);

ECON261 Latin American Economic Development (Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022);

ECON361 Development and Labor in Latin American Economies (Fall 2016, Spring 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021);

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)

RWI, Ruhr Graduate School, Essen, Germany Mini-Lectures ‘Gender in the Labor Market’ for PhD in Economics Students	2018
Universitaet Bonn, Department of Economics, Bonn, Germany Lecturer for Master level course in Development Economics (team-taught course)	2010
LSE, Department of International Development, London, U.K. Class Teacher for interdisciplinary Master level course on Poverty measurement	2006

SERVICE AT WESLEYAN

University, Department of Economics, LAST program and COE:

Chair of the Search Committee for Economics Department, 2019-2020 (Hire: Carycruz Bueno)

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

Chair of Latin American Studies Program 2020-2021

Core Member of Latin American Studies Program 2011 to present

Economics Department Seminar Organizer 2012-2013

Department Committee on Response to External Review, April 2018

COE Think Tank Fellow Meetings 2015-2016

Wesleyan Alumni Event (LA 2016, Seoul 2017, Wesleyan Asian Pacific American Alumni Council and the Alumni of Color Council, NYC 2018)

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)

Research Mentor for Samir Bandaogo, Assistant Professor of Economics (2018)

Research Mentor for Jennifer Raynor, Assistant Professor of Economics (2019 to now)

Teaching Mentor for Gillian Brunet, Assistant Professor of Economics (2020 to now)

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’

Economics Senior Essay Tutorial Fall 2019: Sam Smith (Class 2020) ‘Migration and Children’s Education in China: The Effect of Gender-Specific Migration on the Education of Left-Behind Children’

Academic Adviser to the Wesleyan Football Team 2016 to present

Adviser to 22 Economics Majors and 6 Pre-Majors 2012-2013; Adviser to 27 Economics Majors 2013-2014; Adviser to 18 Economics Majors 2014-2015; Adviser to 6 Economics Majors and 9 Pre-Majors 2015-2016; Adviser to 26 Economics Majors and 7 Pre-Majors

2016-2017; Advisor to 29 Economics Majors and 6 Pre-Majors 2017-2018, Advisor to 6 Economics Majors 2018-2019; Advisor to 14 Economics Majors and 6 Pre-Majors 2019-2020, Advisor to 15 Economics Majors and 6 Pre-Majors 2020-2021

Committee Member of COE senior thesis 2015-2016: (2)

Thesis reader: 2012: CSS(1), Economics (2), 2013: Economics (1), 2014: CSS(2), 2016: Economics(1), 2017: Economics(1), 2018: Economics(1), 2019: Economics(1). 2020: Economics(1)

Faculty Adviser/ panelist at the Forum for International Development (February 2012); Speaker at 1st TedxWes Westalk Conference (February 2013); Presenter at book event “The Capital in the 21st century, by Thomas Piketty” (December 2014); Women in Business Student Group Presentation (February 2018)

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), German (fluent), Spanish (good), French (good), Latin (good), Japanese (advanced intermediate)

COMPUTER SKILLS

STATA, EViews, Latex, Python, R, SQL