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The Economics of Work and Family 2000-01

Department of Economics

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The Economics of Fertility

Wednesday
February 21, 2001
3:00 P.M.
358 Knuss Hall
WMU

Katherine Ross Phillips
Research Associate
The Urban Institute

Dr. Katherine Ross Phillips is a Research Associate in the Income and Benefits Policy Center of The Urban Institute. She earned a B.A. in Psychology from Johns Hopkins University in 1989 and received her Ph.D. from the interdisciplinary Social Science program at Syracuse University in 1999, but her professional activity pre-dates this final degree. She has worked as an Associate Researcher at the Population Studies Center of the University of Pennsylvania, as a Researcher at the Policy Research and the Luxembourg Income Study at Syracuse University. She received the Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation Award from Syracuse University in 1999.

Dr. Ross Phillips' research examines relationships among public policy, market work and the family and how these interactions influence child and family well-being. Of particular interest are the barriers to market work and changes in the work and domestic environments of low-income, primary caretakers in the wake of welfare reform. She is currently working with the National Survey of America's Families, a national survey data collection effort by the Urban Institute.

Dr. Ross Phillips has co-authored numerous papers and book chapters. Her journal publications include "Public Policy, the Employment of Mothers: A Cross-National Study" (with Janet C. Chorosta and Marcia K. Meyers in Social Science Quarterly), and "The EITC: Expectations, Knowledge, Use, and Economic and Social Mobility" (with Timothy M. Smeeding and Michael O'Connor) in National Tax Journal. Her book chapters include "Gendering Welfare-State Variation: Income Transfers, Employment Supports, and Family Poverty" (with Marcia K. Meyers and Janet C. Gornick), and "Social Protection in the Developed World" (with Timothy M. Smeeding).

Her recent research papers include "Labor Pains: The Effects of the Family and Medical Leave Act on Recent Mothers' Return to Work," "Parental Leave and the Family Medical Leave Act" (with Jane Waldfogel and Win-Run Hui), "Playing by the Rules, but Losing the Gender Economy's 'Work/Birth' Pool" (with Gregory Acs and Daniel McKenzie), and "Social Protection for the Poor in the Developed World" (with Timothy M. Smeeding).

Dr. Ross Phillips serves as senior editor for professional journals and was a member of the Editorial Board of Maxwell Review from 1996-1998.

How Family Structure Affects Labor Market Outcomes

Wednesday
March 21, 2001
3:00 PM
358 Knuss Hall
WMU

Joyce P. Jacobson
Professor of Economics
Wesleyan University

Dr. Joyce P. Jacobson is Professor of Economics at Wesleyan University, where she has taught since 1993. She received her A.B. in economics magna cum laude from Harvard/Radcliffe College in 1982, and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She earned her M.S. in Economics from the London School of Economics in 1983, and her Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University in 1991. She was an Assistant Professor of Economics at American University at Rhodes College in 1998-99.

Professor Jacobson's main areas of research are the causes and consequences of gender and racial differences in employment and earnings patterns, and explicating female labor supply. She has been very professionally active as author of many journal articles, book chapters, and book reviews. Her book, The Economics of Gender: displays the breadth and depth of her knowledge of this broad topic, and it has become a standard reference work in this area.


Professor Jacobson has served in many professional associations, including service on the board of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSEWP), an official subcommittee of the American Economic Association. Since 1997, she has served on the Editorial board of the Quarterly Journal of Economics. Also, she has been a member of the Working Group on Social Indicators of Women's Status at the Institute for Women's Policy Research since 1994.

The Economics of Fertility

Susan L. Averett
Associate Professor
Lafayette College

Dr. Susan L. Averett is Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Business at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, where she has taught since 1991. She received a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Colorado in 1991, after receiving her B.S. in Economics from Colorado State University in 1985. Dr. Averett was presented with the Michael E. Borus Dissertation award in 1991 by the Ohio State University and the Center for Human Resources Research for the outstanding dissertation using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth database.

Professor Averett's academic research covers a broad range mixing mostly to fertility, child care, and female labor supply. She displays the rare skill of applying sophisticated econometric techniques to timely and interesting day-to-day topics. Some of her most interesting current research includes "Does Maternity Leave Induce Births?" (with Leslie A. Whittington), "Children Over Career: A Cross-Cohort Exploration of the Postpartum Labor Force Behavior of Professional Women" (with Leslie A. Whittington and Donna M. Anderson), and "Parental Child Care and Children's Cognitive Development" (with Lisa Germain and Stephanie Potter).


Dr. Averett also has earned several college-wide awards for exemplary teaching, and serves as referee for many major economics journals.

Travel Directions: From I-94 Exit 74, take U.S. 131 north to exit 30A (Stadium Drive). Go east on Stadium Drive to the fourth traffic light (Howard Street). Turn left across the railroad tracks onto Howard. Then take the second exit to the right onto the WMU campus. Follow the signs to the Miller Auditorium parking ramp. Kauss Hall is the dark brick building opposite the Waldo Library clock tower. See Western Michigan University's web site at www.wmich.edu for a map.

Werner Sichel Economics Lecture-Seminar Series
Department of Economics
College of Arts and Sciences
Western Michigan University
Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5330

"The Economics of Work and Family" is the 37th annual Public Lecture-Seminar Series organized by the Department of Economics at Western Michigan University. This year's series focuses on the economics of work and family, including the importance of child care policy, the economics of fertility, and the effects of federal family and Medical Leave Act. This year, the series is directed by Dr. Emily Hoffman, Professor of Economics, and Dr. Jeffrey Kimmel, Senior Economist at the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, which is the co-sponsor of the series. Assisting Drs. Hoffman and Kimmel are Professors Wei-Chiao Huang, Susan Pozo, and Eskander Ali of the Economics Department. The Wednesday afternoon lectures, followed by a question and answer session, are open to the public.

Each scholar will also present a seminar to faculty, graduate students, and other interested practitioners. For further information please contact Dr. Hoffman (616-387-5546; hoffman@wmich.edu), Dr. Kimmel (616-385-0435; kimmel@wmichstn.org), or call the Economics Department office at (616) 387-5535.

The public lectures in this series form the basis of two courses to be supervised by Dr. Hoffman. Economics 591 and 592 (one credit each) are open to graduate and advanced undergraduate students of Western Michigan University.

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Does Federal Child Care Policy Make Sense?

Wednesday
September 12, 2000
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knnauss Hall

Dr. David M. Blau is Professor of Economics and Fellow of the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was a B.A. in Economics from Amherst College in 1973. Professor Blau received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin in 1980 and after a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University and then a short stay at the University of Miami, he joined the faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1985. He is a labor and population economist with a broad interest in research that lies at opposite ends of the life cycle: the economics of child care and the economics of aging.

His child care research ranges from the entire spectrum of child care issues, including issues relating to both the demand and supply of child care and the effects of child care on child development. He has been a leader in efforts to frame the child care debates in the language and logic of economics. Among his many publications in this field are "Child Care Costs and Family Labor Supply" and "Turnover in Child Care Arrangements" (both with P. K. Robins), Review of Economics and Statistics; "Parenting, Employment, and Child Care Costs" and "Child Care Demand and Labor Supply of Young Mothers Over Time" (both with P. K. Robins, Demography); "The Child Care Labor Market," "The Productivity of Quality Child Care Centers," and "The Effect of Child Care Characteristics on Child Development" (Journal of Human Resources); "The Supply of Child Care Labor" (Journal of Labor Economics); and "The Demand for Quality in Child Care" (with A. Hagy, Journal of Political Economy). Dr. Blau has been awarded three grants from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and two from the Russell Sage Foundation to study child care issues. He is currently completing a book manuscript on the child care problem in the United States.

Professor Blau also has worked for many years on dynamic models of the labor force behavior of older individuals and couples, and he has received two grants from the National Institute of Aging to study this issue. His professional service includes 8 years as co-editor of Journal of Human Resources and a current stint as Deputy Editor of Demography.

Thinking About Child Care Policy

Wednesday
October 11, 2000
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knnauss Hall

Dr. Barbara R. Bergmann has a most distinguished career in economics and social policy. After earning her B.A. in Mathematics and Economics at Cornell University in 1948, she attended Harvard University where she earned her Ph.D. in Economics in 1959. In 1962 she became a member of the faculty at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and in 1973 was named Professor of Economics at the University of Maryland. She has published widely and written extensively in the field of child care and the effects of child care on child development. She is also a distinguished and widely-cited researcher in the area of family economics.

Dr. Bergmann's research interests include topics such as the supply of child care and the effects of child care on child development. She has been a leader in efforts to frame the child care debates in the language and logic of economics. Among her many publications in this field are "Child Care Costs and Family Labor Supply" and "Turnover in Child Care Arrangements" (both with P. K. Robins), Review of Economics and Statistics; "Parenting, Employment, and Child Care Costs" and "Child Care Demand and Labor Supply of Young Mothers Over Time" (both with P. K. Robins, Demography); "The Child Care Labor Market," "The Productivity of Quality Child Care Centers," and "The Effect of Child Care Characteristics on Child Development" (Journal of Human Resources); "The Supply of Child Care Labor" (Journal of Labor Economics); and "The Demand for Quality in Child Care" (with A. Hagy, Journal of Political Economy). Dr. Blau has been awarded three grants from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and two from the Russell Sage Foundation to study child care issues. He is currently completing a book manuscript on the child care problem in the United States.

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Does Federal Child Care Policy Make Sense?

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Professor Blau also has worked for many years on dynamic models of the labor force behavior of older individuals and couples, and he has received two grants from the National Institute of Aging to study this issue. His professional service includes 8 years as co-editor of Journal of Human Resources and a current stint as Deputy Editor of Demography.