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The Economics of Work and Family 2000-01

Department of Economics

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The Economics of Fertility

Wednesday, January 17, 2001
3:00-4:30 P.M.
3508 Knuss Hall
WMU

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 H. Boris Outstanding Teaching Award in 1997 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 missing most notably 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 Birth?" (with Leslie A. Whittington), "Choosing 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 "Potential Child Care and Children's Cognitive Development" (with Lisa Germonetti and Jennifer Potter).


The Economics of Fertility

Wednesday, February 21, 2001
3:00-4:30 P.M.
3508 Knuss Hall
WMU

Katherin Ross Phillips
Research Associate
The Urban Institute

Dr. Katherin 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 been a Research Associate bro in the Population Studies Center of the University of Pennsylvania and the Rockefeller Foundation at Princeton University in 1998.

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 is the role that market work and changes in the work and domestic arrangements of low-income, primarily caretakers in the wake of welfare reform. She is currently working with the National Survey of America's Families, a new national survey data collection effort by the Urban Institute.


Katherin Ross Phillips
Research Associate
The Urban Institute
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Economics
Werner Sichel Lecture-Seminar Series

The Economics of Work and Family
Public Lectures on Wednesdays
3:00 p.m., 3508 Knauss Hall

Fall Semester
David M. Blau
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
September 12, 2000
Barbara R. Bergmann
American University and University of Maryland
October 11, 2000
Cordelia W. Reimers
Hunter College and CUNY
November 15, 2000

Winter Semester
Susan L. Averett
Lafayette College
January 17, 2001
Katherine Ross Phillips
The Urban Institute
February 21, 2001
Joyce F. Jacobson
Wesleyan University
March 21, 2001

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This series is directed by Dr. Emily P. Hoffman, Professor of Economics, and Dr. Jean Kimmel, Senior Economist at the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

Does Federal Child Care Policy Make Sense?

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

David M. Blau
Professor of Economics
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

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 earned a B.A. in Economics from Amherst College in 1973. Professor Blau received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin at Madison 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 two broad areas of research interest that fit at opposite ends of the life cycle: the economics of child care and the economics of aging.

His child care research ranges nearly the entire spectrum of child care topics, 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 debate 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. R. Holmstrom, Review of Economics and Statistics; 1994), "Fulltime, Employment and Child Care Costs" and "Child Care Demand and Labor Supply of Young Mothers Over Time" (both with P. R. Holmstrom, Demography; 1995), "The Child Care Labor Market," "The Production of Quality in Child Care Centers," and "The Effect of Child Care Characteristics on Child Development." (Journal of Human Resources; 1998), "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 has received two grants from the National Institute of Aging to study this area. His professional service includes 6 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 Knauss Hall

Barbara R. Bergmann
Professor Emerita
University of Maryland and American University

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 began her first academic appointment, as Professor of Economics at Brandeis University. Dr. Bergmann went to the University of Maryland in 1965 where she has been Professor Emerita since 1988. She is also Professor Emerita at American University after having served there as Distinguished Professor of Economics from 1988 to 1997.

Perhaps Dr. Bergmann's greatest contribution to the field of economics has been her commitment to the integration of sound economic thought with responsible social policy. Her current research includes the topics of child care, welfare and poverty, women's place in the economy, and the family, and the labor market problems of women and African Americans. She is the author or co-author of over 100 journal articles and book chapters in both scholarly journals and nonacademic publications. Her previous books include: In Defense of Affirmative Action. What the United States Can Learn from France, and The Economic Impact of Wages. Her two most recent books are Is Social Security Broken? A Cartoon Guide to the Issues (cartoons by Jim Bush) and What Child Care Cost Women for America? (with Suzanne Helburn, forthcoming in the year 2001).

In the early 1980s, she wrote a monthly column on economic affairs for the New York Times Sunday Business Section.

Professor Bergmann has a long record of public service, including time spent as economist at the New York Regional Office of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; senior staff economist on the Council of Economic Advisors to President John F. Kennedy; senior staff at the Brookings Institution and senior economic advisor at the Agency for International Development of the Department of State. She also has been very active in professional societies, serving as President of the Eastern Economic Association, Vice President of the American Economic Association, President of the American Association of University Professors, and President of the International Association for Feminist Economics.

Parents Work Time and Family Thirty Years of Change

Wednesday, November 15, 2000
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauss Hall

Cordelia W. Reimers
Professor of Economics
Hunter College and CUNY

Dr. Cordelia W. Reimers is Professor of Economics at Hunter College and the Graduate School of the City University of New York where she has taught since 1982. She earned her B.S. in History from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1958, and received her Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University in 1977. Prior to joining the faculty at Hunter College, she was an Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University. She also has served as a senior economist at the Council of Economic Advisers and as a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation.

While serving at the Council, Professor Reimers was lead author on the 1990 report "Families and the Labor Market, 1960-1989: Analyzing the Time Crunch." Also while at the Council, she co-authored chapters for the 1999 Economic Report of the President and Annual Reports of the Council of Economic Advisers on "Work, Retirement and the Economic Well-Being of the Elderly" and "Benefits of a Strong Labor Market." Professor Reimers' academic research has focused on racial and ethnic differences in labor market outcomes and on Social Security and retirement behavior. Recent book chapters on the topic of racial and ethnic differences include: The Effect of Tighter Labor Markets on Employment of Hispanics and African Americans (1999), Compensation for the Latino Worker, and "Unskilled Immigration and Changes in the Wage Distributions of Mexican American, Black, and Non-Hispanic White Male Dropouts." Also, she has co-authored a number of articles on Social Security and retirement behavior with Margaret Honig, including: "Responses to Social Security by Men and Women: Myopic and Parasitic Behavior" (Journal of Human Resources), "The Perceived Benefit Constraint Under Social Security: Evidence from Entry Behavior" (Journal of Labor Economics), and "Is It Worth Eliminating the Retirement Test?" (American Economic Review).

Dr. Reimers has received several funding awards from university and government agencies, including the Social Security Administration, and has served on numerous professional committees, including the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP), a subcommittee of the American Economic Association.