

TARA WATSON

Williams College
Department of Economics
Schapiro Hall
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Williamstown, MA 01267
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Current Positions

Williams College, Professor, July 2017 to present. Department of Economics. (Previously Assistant Professor 2004-2011 and Associate Professor 2011-2017.)

National Bureau of Economic Research, Research Associate, October 2011 to present. Health Economics Program (effective 2011) and Children's Program (effective 2017).

Journal of Human Resources, Co-Editor, March 2020 to present.

Education

Harvard University, Ph.D. in Economics, June 2003.
Thesis Title: The Determinants and Consequences of Residential Isolation.

Wesleyan University, B.A. in Economics, May 1996.
Phi Beta Kappa and University Honors.

Research Fields

Applied Microeconomics including Health Economics, Economic Demography, Immigration, and Public Economics. Particular interest in U.S. Social Policy.

Selected Previous Experience

Williams College, Chair of Faculty Steering Committee, July 2020 to December 2020.

Rockefeller Institute of Government, Richard P. Nathan Fellow, September 2019 to August 2020.

United States Department of Treasury, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Microeconomic Analysis, August 2015 to November 2016. Office of Economic Policy.

Williams College, Chair of the Program in Public Health, July 2014 to June 2015, January 2017 to July 2019, and January 2021 to June 2021 (expected).

Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Visiting Scholar, August 2012 to May 2013. New England Public Policy Center.

National Bureau of Economic Research, Faculty Research Fellow, December 2006 to September 2011. Health Economics Program.

University of Michigan, Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research, August 2007 to July 2009.

Princeton University, Postdoctoral Research Associate, September 2003 to July 2004. Office of Population Research and Center for Research on Child Wellbeing.

National Bureau of Economic Research, Research Assistant, June to August 1999.
Research Assistant to Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz.

Harvard University, Teaching Fellow, September 2000 to May 2001.
Teaching Fellow for Social Analysis 10 taught by Martin Feldstein.

Brookings Institution, Research Assistant, August 1996 to July 1998.
Research Assistant to Clifford Winston.

Books

Watson, Tara and Kalee Thompson, *Chilling Effects: The Economics of Immigration in an Age of Fear* (working title), **University of Chicago Press**, forthcoming 2021.

Articles

Schmidt, Lucie, Lara Shore-Sheppard, and Tara Watson, 2020. "The Impact of the ACA Medicaid Expansion on Disability Program Applications," *American Journal of Health Economics* 6(4): 444-476.

Schmidt, Lucie, Lara Shore-Sheppard, and Tara Watson, 2019. "The Impact of Expanding Public Health Insurance on Safety Net Program Participation: Evidence from the ACA Medicaid Expansion," **National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper** w26504.

Beam, Emily, Yusufcan Masatlioglu, Tara Watson, and Dean Yang, 2019. "Do Ex Ante Incentives Generate Endowment Effects or Trust? Evidence from a Randomized Field Experiment Promoting Preventive Health Care," revision requested.

Chou, Tiffany, Adam Looney, and Tara Watson, 2017. "Measuring Loan Outcomes at Postsecondary Institutions: Cohort Repayment Rates as an Indicator of Student Success and Institutional Accountability," **National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper** 23118.

Schmidt, Lucie, Lara Shore-Sheppard, and Tara Watson, 2016. "The Effect of Safety Net Programs on Food Insecurity," *Journal of Human Resources* 51(3): 589-614. (Earlier version: National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 19558.)

Watson, Tara, 2014. "Inside the Refrigerator: Immigration Enforcement and Chilling in Immigrant Medicaid Participation." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 6: 313-338. (Earlier version: National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 16278.)

Watson, Tara, 2013. "Enforcement and Immigrant Location Choice," **National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper** 19626. (Earlier version: Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Working Paper 13-10.)

Watson, Tara, and Sara McLanahan, 2011. "Marriage Meets the Joneses: Relative Income, Identity, and Marital Status." *Journal of Human Resources* 46: 568-586.

Beeson, Patricia, Lara Shore-Sheppard, and Tara Watson, 2010. "Local Fiscal Policies and Urban Wage Structures." *Public Finance Review* 38: 540-584.

Watson, Tara, 2009. "Inequality and the Measurement of Residential Segregation by Income." *Review of Income and Wealth* 55: 820-844. (Earlier version: National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 14908.)

Fertig, Angela, and Tara Watson, 2009. "Minimum Drinking Ages and Infant Health Outcomes." *Journal of Health Economics* 28: 737-747. (Earlier version: National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 14118.)

Watson, Tara, 2006. "Public Health Investments and the Infant Mortality Gap: Evidence from Federal Sanitation Interventions on U.S. Indian Reservations." *Journal of Public Economics* 90: 1537-1560.

Watson, Tara, 2006. "Inequality, Metropolitan Growth, and Residential Segregation by Income," in *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs* 1-52. Gary Burtless and Janet Rothenberg Pack, eds.

Morrison, Steven. A., Clifford Winston, and Tara Watson, 1999. "Fundamental Flaws of Social Regulation: The Case of Airplane Noise." *Journal of Law and Economics* 42: 723-43.

Shorter Pieces

East, Chloe, Hilary Hoynes, and Tara Watson, 2020. "Coronavirus' Disproportionate Economic Impacts on Immigrants," **Econofact** website, (<https://econofact.org/coronavirus-disproportionate-economic-impacts-on-immigrants>).

Watson, Tara, 2020. "Will the Public Charge Rule Reduce Safety Net Expenditures?," **Econofact** website, (<https://econofact.org/will-the-public-charge-rule-reduce-safety-net-expenditures>).

Watson, Tara, 2019. "SNAP Benefits and the Government Shutdown," **Econofact** website, (<https://econofact.org/snap-benefits-and-the-government-shutdown>).

Looney, Adam, and Tara Watson, 2018. "Student Loans: Sharing the Risk," **Milken Quarterly**, (<http://www.milkenreview.org/articles/sharing-the-risk>).

Watson, Tara, 2018. "Proposed Immigration Rules and the Safety Net," **Econofact** website, (<https://econofact.org/proposed-immigration-rules-and-the-safety-net>).

Chou, Tiffany, Adam Looney, and Tara Watson, 2017. "A Risk-Sharing Proposal for Student Loans," **Hamilton Project** Policy Proposal 2017-04.

Watson, Tara, 2017. "Who Gains and Who Loses if We Turn off the Immigration Jobs Magnet?," **Econofact** website, (<http://econofact.org/who-gains-and-who-loses-if-we-turn-off-the-immigrant-jobs-magnet>).

Watson, Tara, 2017. "Do Safety Net Programs Impact Food Security in the United States?," **Econofact** website, (<http://econofact.org/do-safety-net-programs-impact-food-security-in-the-u-s>).

Watson, Tara, 2017. "Do Undocumented Immigrants Overuse Government Benefits?," **Econofact** website, (<http://econofact.org/do-undocumented-immigrants-overuse-government-benefits>). *Most-read Econofact memo in 2017*.

Watson, Tara, 2016. "We Must Avoid Another Lost Decade in Puerto Rico," **Treasury Notes**, U.S. Department of Treasury, (<https://www.treasury.gov/connect/blog/Pages/We-Must-Avoid-Another-Lost-Decade-in-Puerto-Rico.aspx>).

Watson, Tara, 2016. "Comments on 'Socioeconomic Segregation between Schools in the U.S. and Latin America, 1970-2012' by Anna K. Chmielewski and Corey Savage," in **Land and the City**, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy.

Watson, Tara, 2015. "Book Review: 'Legacies of the War on Poverty' by Martha J. Bailey and Sheldon Danziger, eds.," *Journal of Economic Literature* 53(1): 126-27.

Watson, Tara, 2015. "Room for Debate: Lowering the Drinking Age Has Serious Consequences," *New York Times*. (<http://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/02/10/you-must-be-21-to-drink>.)

Watson, Tara, 2014. "Aggressive immigration enforcement discourages non-citizen parents from enrolling their citizen children in Medicaid," *Usapp blog* (blogs.lse.uk/usappblog).

Watson, Tara, 2014. "Immigrants as a Potential Source of Growth for New England's Highly Skilled Workforce," *New England Public Policy Center Policy Brief* 13-5, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. (<http://www.bostonfed.org/economic/neppc/briefs/2013/pb135.htm>)

Watson, Tara, 2009. "Marriage Meets the Joneses," **Vox EU**. (<http://www.voxeu.org/index.php?q=node/3533>).

Watson, Tara, 2007. "Book Review: The Geography of American Poverty: Is There a Need for Place-Based Policies? by Mark D. Partridge and Dan S. Rickman," *Journal of Regional Science*, 47(5), pp.1002-1004.

Watson, Tara, 2007. "New Housing, Income Inequality, and Distressed Metropolitan Areas," *Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program Policy Brief Series*.

Work in Progress

Schmidt, Lucie, Lara Shore-Sheppard, and Tara Watson, "Does Old Age Social Security Benefit Low-Income Children?" in progress.

Beam, Emily, Gloria Palmisano, Tara Watson, and Dean Yang, "Information, Transaction Costs, Procrastination, and Inattention: Evidence from a Field Experiment Promoting Health Insurance Take-Up," in progress.

Butcher, Kristin, and Tara Watson, "The Impact of Immigration on the Living Arrangements and Health of the Elderly," in progress.

Zoen, Adam, and Tara Watson, "More Pot, More Pills? The Effects of Recreational Cannabis Dispensaries on Opioid Overdose Mortality," in progress.

Grants

University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, "Living Arrangements and Food Hardship among Seniors," Subaward 3200002889-20-240. Grant Period April 2020-August 2022. (PI Tara Watson, co-PIs Lucie Schmidt and Lara Shore-Sheppard, consultant Kristin Butcher.)

Russell Sage Foundation, "Does Social Security Reduce Poverty and Boost the Academic Achievement of Low-Income Children?," Award number G-1808-07222. Grant period June 2019-May 2021. (PI Tara Watson, co-PIs Lucie Schmidt and Lara Shore-Sheppard.)

Peterson Foundation U.S. 2050 Initiative, “Immigration, Care-giving Labor, and Tomorrow’s Elderly,” Grant Period April 2018 to March 2019. (PI Tara Watson, co-PI Kristin Butcher.)

Russell Sage Foundation, “The Impact of the ACA Medicaid Expansion on Public Program Participation and Labor Market Outcomes of Low-Wage Workers,” Award Number 94-17-03, Grant period December 2016 to November 2018. (PI Lara Shore-Sheppard, co-PIs Lucie Schmidt and Tara Watson.)

National Institutes of Health, R03 Small Grant Program, “The Impact of Immigration on the Living Arrangements and Health of the Elderly,” Award Number 1R03AG051861-01, Grant period September 2016 to May 2018 plus no-cost extension. (PI Kristin Butcher, Senior Investigator Tara Watson.)

University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, Understanding the Relationships between SNAP, Food Security, and Health in the National Health Interview Survey Grant Program, “The Effect of SNAP and the Broader Safety Net on Mental Health and Food Insecurity,” Grant Period August 2016 to February 2018. (PI Lucie Schmidt, co-PIs Lara Shore-Sheppard and Tara Watson.)

National Institutes of Health, R21 Exploratory/Development Grant, “Barriers to Medicaid Participation among Immigrants: A Randomized Experiment,” Award Number 1R21HD071361-01A1, Grant Period September 2012 to September 2014 plus no-cost extension. (PI Tara Watson, Other Investigator Dean Yang.)

University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, Research Program on Childhood Hunger Small Grant, “The Effect of Safety Net Programs on Food Insecurity,” Grant Period June 2011 to September 2012. (PI Tara Watson, co-PIs Lara Shore-Sheppard and Lucie Schmidt.)

West Coast Poverty Center Small Grant Competition, “Inside the Refrigerator: Welfare Reform, Immigration Enforcement, and Chilling Effects in Immigrant Medicaid Participation,” Grant Period September 2009 to August 2010. (PI Tara Watson.)

University of Michigan National Poverty Center Small Grant Competition, “Barriers to Medicaid Participation Among Immigrants,” Grant Period March 2009 to March 2010. (PI Tara Watson.)

Williams College Department of Economics Henry George Fund, “Excess School Segregation: Are Schools More Segregated than Neighborhoods, and Why?,” Grant Period August 2009. (PI Tara Watson.)

Fellowships, Honors, Workshops, and Professional Service

CeMENT Mentor for the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, November 2013 and January 2020.

GLCA Global Public Health Workshop, Denison University, May 2019.

Williams College Workshop on Inclusive Excellence via Constructive Listening to Student Thinking, January 2019.

Williams College Racial Consciousness in the STEM Classroom Workshop, January 2018 to June 2018.

Williams College Op-Ed Project Workshop, October 2017.

RAND Summer Institute Mini-Medical School for Social Scientists and Summer Institute on Demography, Economics, Psychology, and Epidemiology of Aging Participant, July 2017.

Williams College Teaching in the Diverse Classroom Workshop, February 2014 to May 2014.

Teaching Integrity in Empirical Research Workshop, October 2013.

Inaugural Teaching Poverty 101 Workshop, University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty, June 2013.

Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research, August 2007 to July 2009.

Harvard Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy Doctoral Fellow, September 1999 to June 2003.

Social Science Research Council Program in Applied Economics Fellow, September 2001 to August 2002.

Lincoln Land Institute Dissertation Fellow, August 2001.

National Science Foundation Graduate Student Fellow, September 1998 to August 2001.

Wesleyan University, Phi Beta Kappa Society and University Honors, May 1996.

Presentations and Seminars (non-job market)

2020: Saint Michael's College, American Society of Health Economists (discussant and presenter, presentation cancelled), Society of Economics of the Household conference (cancelled), Vassar College (cancelled), Women in Economics Undergraduate Research Conference (opening remarks, cancelled), Williams Economics panel on the economics of coronavirus.

2019: American Society of Health Economists (presenter and discussant), Women in Economics Undergraduate Research Conference (opening remarks).

2018: American Society of Health Economists (discussant), Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Hamilton Project Journalist Webinar, Southern Economic Association meeting, U.S. 2050 Peterson Foundation Grant Conferences.

2017: University of Colorado, The Hamilton Project, Wesleyan University, Williams College, HUBWeek Boston Econofact Panel, University of Virginia.

2016 and earlier: American Economic Association meeting (discussant), American Public Policy and Management Annual Meeting, American Society of Health Economists (x3), American Society of Health Economists (discussant), Brandeis University, Brookings-Wharton Conference on Urban Affairs, Columbia University, Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol Research Lecture Series, Eastern Economic Association Meetings, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Harvard University, Joint BU-MIT-Harvard Health Economics Seminar, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Land and the City Conference (discussant), MacArthur Network Conference, Mellon 23 Workshop on Economic History and Development (discussant), National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute (x2), National Tax Association conference, OECD Conference on Economic Insecurity, Population Association of America (x2), Population Association of America Economic Demography Workshop, Princeton University, Public Finance Review Special Conference, RAND Corporation, Regional Science and Urban Economics Conference, Research Program on Childhood Hunger Small Grant

Conference, Robert Wood Johnson Scholars in Health Policy Program Annual Meeting (x2), Society of Labor Economists (x3), Southern Economic Association, Southeastern Health Economics Study Group Conference, SUNY University at Albany, University of California at Berkeley, University of California at Irvine, University of Connecticut, University of Maryland at Baltimore, University of Michigan (x2), University of Nevada at Las Vegas, University of New Hampshire, University of Notre Dame, University of Washington West Coast Poverty Center, Urban Economics Association Conference (discussant), USDA Food and Nutrition Service, Wellesley College, Wesleyan University, Williams College Economics (x3), Williams College Faculty Lecture Series.

Referee/Reviewer Experience

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (x5), American Economic Journal: Economic Policy (x7), American Economic Review (x3), American Journal of Health Economics (x2), Berkeley Electronic Journal, Contemporary Economic Policy (x2), Canadian Journal of Economics, Demography (x7), Economic Inquiry (x2), Economics of Education Review (x2), Economics and Human Biology, Economics of Education Review, Education Finance and Policy, Forum for Health Economics and Policy, Health Economics (x5), Housing Policy Debate (x2), Industrial Relations, Journal of Health Economics (x8), Journal of Health Politics, Health Policy, and Law, Journal of the European Economics Association, Journal of Human Resources (x12), Proceedings of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Journal of the Japanese and International Economies, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Labor Research, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management (x7), Journal of Population Economics (x2), Journal of Public Economics (x8), Journal of Regional Science, Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, Journal of Urban Economics (x2), Labour Economics (x2), National Science Foundation (x5), Quarterly Journal of Economics (x13), Review of Economic Inequality, Review of Economics of the Household (x2), Review of Economics and Statistics (x3), Russell Sage Foundation, Science, Social Forces, Social Problems, Social Science and Medicine (x2), Social Service Review, Southern Economic Journal (x2), State and Local Government Review (x5), Urban Geography, Urban Studies(x2), USDA/University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research (x2), Williams College Women in Economics Research Conference.

College-Wide and Departmental Service

Elected Member, Faculty Steering Committee (July 2020 to present)
Co-Organizer, Promoting Inclusion in Economic Research Conference (July 2019 to present)
Leader, Public Health Self-Study (January 2019 to present)
Economics Department Director of Research (July 2009 to June 2010, July 2014 to June 2015, July 2017 to June 2018, and July 2020 to present)
Advisory Committee for Program in Public Health (September 2011 to present)
Chair, Faculty Steering Committee (July 2020 to December 2020)
Strategic Planning Working Group on Faculty and Staff Development (May 2019 to June 2020)
Catholic Chaplain Search Committee (January 2020 to May 2020)
Chair, Program in Public Health (July 2014 to June 2015, and January 2017 to June 2019)
Committee on Priorities and Resources (July 2017 to June 2019)
Economics Department Bolin Committee (July 2018 to June 2019)
Co-Organizer, Women in Economic Research conference (July 2018 to April 2019)
New Faculty Mentor (January 2014-December 2014, September 2017-June 2018)
Committee on Academic Standing (January 2017 to June 2017)
Bookstore Committee (July 2014 to June 2015)
Organizer, Williams Poverty Initiative Panel on First Generation Faculty (February 2015)
Chair, Economics Curriculum Committee (July 2013 to June 2014)
Economics Department Hiring Committee (July 2011 to June 2012)
Bolin Fellow Selection Committee (December 2011-January 2012)
Elected Member, Committee on Educational Policy (February 2010-June 2012)
Committee on Undergraduate Life (September 2006-June 2007 and September 2009-February 2010)

Chair, Minority Coalition Funding Subcommittee of CUL (September 2009-February 2010)
Panelist, Students for Social Justice Dinner on Health Reform (Fall 2009)
Speaker, Women's Center Lunch on Health Reform (Fall 2009)
Co-chair, Diversity Subcommittee of CUL (September 2006-June 2007)
Mead Internship Committee (September 2005-May 2006)
Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility (January 2006-June 2007)
Economics Department Graduate/Post-graduate Advisor (2005-2006 and 2006-2007)
Co-organizer, Brown Bag Lunch (2005-2006 and Fall 2006)

Research Supervision and Advising

Bashudha Dhamala, Research Assistant Supervisor (Fall 2020)
Mina Burns, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2020)
Peter Le, Research Assistant Supervisor (Spring 2020)
Ahna Pearson, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2019)
Marccone Correia, Independent Study (Spring 2019)
Betty Chen, Second Reader of Thesis (Spring 2019)
Adam Zoen, Thesis Advisor (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)
Coly Elhai, Thesis Advisor (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)
Ben Gips, Independent Study (Fall 2018-Winter 2019)
Anna Passanante, Research Assistant co-Supervisor (Summer 2018)
Arno Cai, Research Assistant Supervisor (Spring-Summer 2018 and Spring 2020)
Ryan Kelley, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2018)
Kathy Bi, Thesis Advisor (Spring 2018)
Sichao Liu, Thesis Co-Advisor (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)
Anand Butler, Research Assistant Supervisor (Fall 2017-Spring 2018)
Yinga Xia, Research Assistant Supervisor (Winter 2017)
Mie Mizutani, Research Assistant Supervisor (Winter 2017)
Catherine Jiang, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2014 and January 2015)
Lei Brutus, Research Assistant Co-Supervisor (Summer 2014)
Sam Woodbury, Second Reader of Thesis (Spring 2014)
Wendy Magoronga, Thesis Advisor (Spring 2012)
Wendy Magoronga, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2011 and Summer 2012)
Alexa Lutchén, Thesis Advisor and Van Duyne Supervisor (Summer 2010-Spring 2011)
Leland Brewster, Thesis Advisor (Fall 2010-Spring 2011)
Leland Brewster, Research Assistant Supervisor (Spring 2010)
Corey Paulish, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2009)
Joanna Hoffman, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2009)
Aatif Abbas, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2006)
David Phillips, Independent Study (Fall 2010-Winter 2011)
Courtney Gainer, Independent Study (Fall 2006-Winter 2007)
Amelia Hawkins, Independent Study (Winter 2006)
Mia Desimone, Second Reader of Anthropology Thesis (Spring 2010)
Candice Corvetti, Second Reader of Thesis (Spring 2007)
Andrew Pocius, Second Reader of Thesis (Spring 2006)
Andra Hibbert, Second Reader of Thesis (Spring 2005)

Courses (Williams College)

Econ 019 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (Winter 2005, Winter 2006, Winter 2012, Winter 2015)
Econ 110 Introductory Microeconomics (Fall 2005, Spring 2006)
Econ 205 Public Finance (Fall 2004, Spring 2017, Fall 2017)
Econ 255 Econometrics (Spring 2006, Spring 2007, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, Spring 2012, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2017, Fall 2018)*

Econ 456 Poverty and Place (Fall 2006)*

Econ 468 Your Money or Your Life: Health Disparities in the United States (Fall 2009, Fall 2011, Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Spring 2021 expected)*

Econ 503 Econometrics Advanced Section (CDE Masters Level, Fall 2017, Fall 2018)

Econ 510 Econometrics (CDE Masters Level, Fall 2005, Fall 2006, Fall 2009, Fall 2011)

Econ 511 Econometrics Combined Section (CDE Masters Level, Fall 2004)

*Courses each included the supervision of 7-18 original empirical projects.

Personal Information

Married, three children.

U.S. citizen, born in Washington, D.C.

Updated 01.04.21.