

# TARA WATSON

Williams College  
Department of Economics  
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## Current Positions

**Williams College, Professor**, July 2017 to present. Department of Economics.

**Williams College, Chair of the Program in Public Health**, July 2014 to June 2015, and January 2017 to present.

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

## 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, Urban Economics, Labor Economics, Public Economics.

## Selected Previous Experience

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

**Williams College, Assistant Professor and Associate Professor**, July 2004 to June 2017. Department of Economics.

**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.

### Articles

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

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** w23118.

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 draft: 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 draft: National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 16278.)

Watson, Tara, 2013. "Enforcement and Immigrant Location Choice," **National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper** 19626. (Previous version: Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Working Paper 13-10.) Revision requested, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.

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 draft: National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 14908, April 2009.)

Fertig, Angela, and Tara Watson, 2009. "Minimum Drinking Ages and Infant Health Outcomes." *Journal of Health Economics* 28: 737-747. (Earlier draft: National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 14118, June 2008.)

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

Looney, Adam, and Tara Watson, October 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**

Thompson, Kalee, and Tara Watson, *Undocumented: The High Costs of Immigration Enforcement* (working title), **University of Chicago Press**, in progress.

Schmidt, Lucie, Lara Shore-Sheppard, and Tara Watson, “The Effect of SNAP and the Broader Safety Net on Mental Health and Food Insecurity,” in progress.

Schmidt, Lucie, Lara Shore-Sheppard, and Tara Watson, “The Impact of the ACA Medicaid Expansion on Disability Program Participation,” in progress.

Schmidt, Lucie, Lara Shore-Sheppard, and Tara Watson, “The Impact of Expanding Public Health Insurance on Safety Net Program Participation: Evidence from the ACA Medicaid Expansion,” in progress.

Beam, Emily, Tara Watson, and Dean Yang, “Barriers to Medicaid Participation among Immigrants: A Randomized Experiment,” in progress.

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

Gordon, Nora, and Tara Watson, “School Choice and ‘Excess’ School Segregation: Does School Choice Policy Explain Which Districts Have Schools More Segregated than their Neighborhoods?” in progress.

### **Fellowships, Honors, and Professional Service**

**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.

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

**Teaching Integrity in Empirical Research Workshop Participant**, October 2013.

**Inaugural Teaching Poverty 101 Workshop Participant**, 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.

### Grants

**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 with one year 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 one year 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.)

**Presentations and Seminars (non-job market)**

2019: University of Texas at Austin (expected May).

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: OECD Conference on Economic Insecurity.

2015: University of Connecticut, Society of Labor Economists.

2014: American Society of Health Economists (presenter and discussant), Lincoln Institute of Land Policy Land and the City Conference (discussant), Williams College, USDA Food and Nutrition Service.

2013: Brandeis University, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Joint BU-MIT-Harvard Health Economics Seminar, Society of Labor Economists, Urban Economics Association, Williams College Brown Bag Lunch.

2012: Williams College Faculty Lecture Series, University of Maryland at Baltimore, Research Program on Childhood Hunger Small Grant Conference, Wellesley College, University of Washington West Coast Poverty Center, National Tax Association.

2011: Population Association of America Economic Demography Workshop, SUNY University at Albany.

2010: American Economic Association meeting (discussant), American Society for Health Economists Meetings, National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute, Mellon 23 Workshop on Economic History and Development (discussant), University of California at Irvine, University of New Hampshire, Wesleyan University, Williams College.

2009: American Public Policy and Management Annual Meeting, Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol Research Lecture Series, Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Public Finance Review Special Conference, Robert Wood Johnson Scholars in Health Policy Program Annual Meeting, Southeastern Health Economics Study Group Conference, University of Michigan.

2008: Harvard University, RAND Corporation, Robert Wood Johnson Scholars in Health Policy Program Annual Meeting, Society of Labor Economists, Southern Economic Association, University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame.

2007: University of Michigan, Eastern Economic Association Meetings.

2006 and earlier: American Society of Health Economists, Brookings-Wharton Conference on Urban Affairs, Columbia University, MacArthur Network Conference, National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute, Population Association of America, Princeton University, Regional Science and Urban Economics Conference, University of California at Berkeley, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Urban Economics Association Conference (discussant).

### **Referee/Reviewer Experience**

2018: American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Journal of Health Economics, Economics of Education Review, Journal of the European Economics Association, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources (x2), Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Public Economics(x2), Journal of Regional Science, National Science Foundation, State and Local Government Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics.

2017 and earlier: American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (x2), American Economic Journal: Policy (x6), American Economic Review (x2), Berkeley Electronic Journal, Contemporary Economic Policy (x2), Canadian Journal of Economics, Demography (x3), Economic Inquiry (x2), Economics of Education Review, Economics and Human Biology, Economics of Education Review, Education Finance and Policy, Forum for Health Economics and Policy, Health Economics (x3), Housing Policy Debate (x2), Industrial Relations, Journal of Health Economics (x4), Journal of Health Politics, Health Policy, and Law, Journal of Human Resources (x10), 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 (x5), Journal of Population Economics (x2), Journal of Public Economics (x5), Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, Journal of Urban Economics (x2), Labour Economics (x2), National Science Foundation (x4), Quarterly Journal of Economics (x12), Review of Economic Inequality, Review of Economics of the Household, 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 (x3), Urban Geography, USDA/University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research (x2).

### **College-Wide Service**

Chair, Program in Public Health (July 2014 to June 2015, and January 2017 to present)  
Committee on Priorities and Resources (July 2017 to present)  
Committee on Academic Standing (January 2017 to June 2017)  
Bookstore Committee (July 2014 to June 2015)  
Advisory Committee for Program in Public Health (September 2011 to present)  
Organizer, Williams Poverty Initiative Panel on First Generation Faculty (February 2015)  
New Faculty Mentor (January 2014-December 2014)  
Bolin Fellow Selection Committee (December 2011-January 2012)  
Committee on Educational Policy, elected by the Faculty (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)  
Co-chair Diversity Subcommittee of CUL (September 2006-June 2007)  
Panelist for Students for Social Justice Dinner on Health Reform (Fall 2009)  
Speaker for Women's Center Lunch on Health Reform (Fall 2009)  
Mead Internship Committee (September 2005-May 2006)  
Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility (January 2006-June 2007)

### Departmental Service

Economics Department Bolin Committee (2018-2019)  
 Organizing Committee for Women in Economics Research Conference (2018-2019)  
 Economics Department Director of Research (2009-2010, 2014-2015, and 2017-2018)  
 Economics Curriculum Committee Chair (2013-2014)  
 Economics Department Hiring Committee (2011-2012)  
 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

Adam Zoen, Thesis Advisor (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)  
 Coly Elhai, Thesis Advisor (Fall 2018-Spring 2019)  
 Benjamin Gips, Thesis Co-Advisor (Fall 2018)  
 Anna Passanante, Research Assistant co-Supervisor (Summer 2018)  
 Arno Cai, Research Assistant Supervisor (Spring-Summer 2018)  
 Ryan Kelley, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2018)  
 Kathy Bi, Thesis Advisor (Spring 2018)  
 Sichao Liu, Thesis Co-Advisor (2017-2018)  
 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 Lutchen, 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 and Winter 2011)  
 Courtney Gainer, Independent Study (Fall 2006 and 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, expected Spring 2019)

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)

\*Included the supervision of 7-14 original empirical projects.

\*\*Included the supervision of 18 original empirical projects.

\*\*\*Included the supervision of 9-14 original empirical projects.

**Personal Information**

Married, three children.

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

Updated 1.8.19