

# Miriam Larson-Koester

## Contact Information:

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## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Economist, Federal Trade Commission

2018-Present

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Applied Econometrics, Industrial Organization

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, Cornell University	2018
<i>Committee:</i> Francesca Molinari ( <i>chair</i> ), Richard Mansfield, Victoria Prowse	
M.A. Economics, Cornell University	2015
B.A. Economics, <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , Mount Holyoke College	2012

## RESEARCH

### *Publications*

Is There Still Son Preference in the United States? (with Francine D. Blau, Lawrence M. Kahn, Peter Brummund, and Jason Cook). Forthcoming at *Journal of Population Economics*. [link](#) [NBER](#)

### *Working Papers*

Occupation Gender Segregation: Empirical Evidence from a Matching Model with Transfers (Job Market Paper, [link](#)) .

I examine whether women remain concentrated in certain occupations because workers prefer to work with their own gender. I build a structural model in which workers maximize utility over occupation, wage, and the gender composition of their occupation, and firms maximize profit over the gender and wages of their employees. Using a Bartik instrumental variables strategy, I find that women strongly prefer to enter female-dominated occupations, but men show no evidence of gender preference. Given these estimates, equilibrium simulations indicate that equal pay for equal work laws could in fact increase segregation by preventing employers from compensating for gender preference.

Intrahousehold Interaction and Married Family Labor Supply. [link](#)

Little is known about the role of household decision-making in the dramatic increase in labor supply of married women in the U.S. over the past half-century. In this paper, I use a bivariate probit and a Nash best-response game to look for changes in how married households supply labor over time in Census and PSID data. Consistent with past literature, I find in general that husbands prefer a household where one spouse specializes in home production and the other in market work, while wives prefer either both spouses work or both stay at home. Identification of these asymmetric effects comes from exclusion restrictions and sufficient variation in the characteristics of husbands and wives that push them to work in the market or at home. Next, I allow the interaction between spouses

to depend on whether there are children in the home. I find that children increase complementarity of labor supply decisions for men and substitutability for women, but this has reversed over time for men. Lastly, I look at variation by spouse's labor income. Higher income husbands decrease the return to working for wives, but higher earning wives increase the return for husbands, consistent with a preference against being out-earned.

## GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Sage Fellowship, Cornell University, 2012-2013.

Virginia Galbraith Graduate Fellowship, Mount Holyoke College College Department of Economics, 2012.

High Honor in Economics, for thesis:

The Effect of Child Care Subsidies on the Employment of Mothers, Mount Holyoke, 2012.

Phi Beta Kappa, Mount Holyoke College, 2012.

## TEACHING

TA, Labor Economics (Cornell ILRE 2400) for Prof. George Jakubson	Spring 2018
TA, Labor Economics (Cornell ILRE 2400 and 5400) for Prof. Gary Fields	Fall 2017
TA, Econometrics (Cornell Econ 3140) for Prof. Francesca Molinari	Spring 2016
TA, Intro to Econometrics (Mount Holyoke Econ 220) for Prof. Sarah Adelman	Spring 2012
Tutor, Economics Department (Mount Holyoke College)	Fall 2011

## OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

<i>RA</i> for Prof. Mallika Thomas, Labor Economics, Cornell University ILR	2016-2017
<i>RA</i> for Prof. Richard Mansfield, Labor Economics, Cornell University ILR	Fall 2015
<i>RA</i> for Prof. Lawrence Kahn, Labor Economics, Cornell University ILR	2014-2015
<i>RA</i> for Prof. Levon Barseghyan, Economics, Cornell University	Spring 2014
<i>RA</i> for Prof. Kevin Hallock, Labor Economics, Cornell University ILR	Fall 2013
<i>Junior Fellow Intern</i> National Center for Education Statistics, Washington D.C.	Summer 2011
<i>Undergraduate Researcher</i> , NSF-REU in mathematics at Central Michigan University	Summer 2010
<i>Global Affairs Officer</i> Department of State, U.S. Embassy, Berlin, Germany	Summer 2009

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

*Refereed manuscripts for*, China Economic Review, Southern Economic Journal

*Chair*, Panel: Learning about Substitution and Welfare from Data, FTC Microeconomics Conf., 2019

*Co-coordinator*, Bureau of Economics Seminar Series, FTC, 2019-Present

*Co-organizer*, Labor Work in Progress Seminar, Cornell University, 2016-2017.

*Mentor*, Graduate Student Association for Economics Mentorship Program, Cornell University, 2015-2017