

Johanna Rayl

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Contact Information

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Lola May Ittner

Fields

Research: Energy and Environmental Economics, Public Economics, Industrial Economics Teaching: Energy and Environmental Economics, Public Economics, Industrial Economics

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, 2026 (Anticipated)

Committee: Mar Reguant (Chair), Piotr Dworczak, Chris Udry, Silvia Vannutelli

M.A., Economics, University of Chicago, 2019

B.A., Environmental Analysis, cum laude, Pomona College, 2016

Fellowships & Awards

Vising Scholar, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Microecononic and Regional Teams, 2024

University Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2022-2023

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2018

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2025

MMSS Senior Seminar (Gastón Illanes)

Curriculum Development, University of Chicago, 2016-2017

Global Energy and Climate Challenge (Michael Greenstone and John Deutch)

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Michael Greenstone, Energy Policy Institute of the University of Chicago, 2016-2018

Summer Research Intern, Yusuke Kuwayama, Resources for the Future, 2015

Conferences

Group for Research in APplied Economics (GRAPE) Inequality-aware Market Design (IMD) Seminar,

2024

Refereeing

JAERE

Job Market Paper

"Redistribution with Limited Information: Fuel Subsidies and Cash Transfers in Indonesia" with

Budy Resosudarmo

We study optimal design of cash and in-kind progressive reforms to fuel subsidies in a setting with limited information: cash transfers and fuel subsidies in Indonesia. In 2005, the government shifted spending away from a costly and regressive consumer fossil fuel subsidy and towards a targeted cash transfer program, which was hindered by the government's limited ability to identify low-income households. In our model, a planner with distributional preferences may prefer in-kind over cash mechanisms if the targeting benefits of self-selection over the in-kind good outweigh the inefficiencies associated with subsidization. We take this model to the data, estimating household preferences for fuel by exploiting large exogenous shocks to fuel prices, and solving for the optimal policy given a limited government information set. Targeted cash transfers outperform optimal fuel subsidies in most cases.

Works in progress

"The Effects and Effectiveness of Emergency Price Controls during Natural Disasters" with Michael Disasters Nodio Lucas John Noth

Dinerstein, Nadia Lucas, Ishan Nath

"Paid Maternity Leave and Childrens' Outcomes in the Long Run" with Tessa Bonomo

Approved US Census Bureau Project

"Income Downscaling with Nightlights" with Tamma Carleton, James Rising

Working papers

"Does the Value of Reliability Capitalize in Water Markets" with Yusuke Kuwayama, Tyler Treakle

Published papers

"Private Markets and Public Assistance for Natural Disaster Supplies" with Michael Dinerstein,

Nadia Lucas, Ishan Nath, AEA Papers and Proceedings, 2025

Languages

English (fluent), Spanish (limited working proficiency)

References

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