

# Kathryn N Vasilaky

## Education

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**Ph.D. Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2011**    *University of Maryland*, College Park, MD

**B.A. Economics & Mathematics, 2003**    *Columbia University*, New York, NY

## Dissertation

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“Development, Technology Adoption and Social Networks,” August 2011, Chair: Kenneth Leonard.

## Fields of Interests

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Development Economics, Experimental Economics, Computational Methods.

## Work Experience

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**Assistant Professor**    *California Polytechnic State University*    2017 – Present

*Classes:* Survey of Economics (Winter 2018) & Programming for Economics & Analytics (Spring 2018)

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow**    *Columbia University*    2013 - 2016

*Classes co-Taught:* Challenges in Sustainable Development

**Consultant**    *World Bank*    2016

*Division:* Poverty and Equity Group

**Consultant**    *World Bank*    2013

*Division:* Development Prospects Group

**Lecturer**    *United States Naval Academy*    2011

*Classes Taught:* Intermediate Statistics

**Consultant**    *World Bank*    2009 - 2010

*Division:* Development Economics Research Group

**Research Associate**    *Clinton Health Access Initiative*    2009 - 2010

*Study:* Malaria Diagnostics Clinical Trial

**Graduate Teaching Assistant**    *University of Maryland*    2008

*Sections Taught:* Dynamic Optimization

**Associate Economist**    *Federal Reserve Bank of New York*    2003 - 2005

## **Refereed Publications**

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1. Vasilaky, Kathryn and Asif Islam (2018) “By Team or By Tournament? Sharing Information Among Female Farmers in Rural Uganda,” *World Development*. Vol 103, March 2018, pp. 216-225.
2. Vasilaky, Kathryn and Kenneth Leonard, (2018) “As Good as the Networks They Keep?: Improving Outcomes through Weak Ties in Rural Uganda” *Economic Development and Cultural Change*. Vol 66, No. 4 pp. 755-792.
3. Vasilaky, Kathryn, (2013) “Female Social Networks and Farmer Training: Can Randomized Information Exchange Improve Outcomes.” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol 95, No. 2 pp. 376-383.

## **Invited Seminar Presentations**

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1. 2016: New York University, “An Iterative Approach to the Tikhonov Inverse Problem with a Stopping Rule.”
2. 2016: Paris School of Economics, “Learning Digitally: Evaluating the Impact of Farmer Training via Mediated Videos.”
3. 2015: Microsoft Research, Cambridge, MA, “Informal Risk Sharing and Formal Insurance: Substitutes or Complements?”
4. 2015: Microsoft Research, NY, NY, “Mechanisms of Information Exchange in Social Networks in Rural Uganda?”
5. 2014: Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne “Informal Networks within Index Insurance: Randomizing Social Distance in Group Insurance.”
6. 2014: Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique LAMETA “Informal Networks within Index Insurance: Randomizing Social Distance in Group Insurance.”
7. 2011: Development Economics Research Group, World Bank, “Mothers, Daughters and Sisters; Is Competitiveness Socialized?”
8. 2010: Yale University, “Randomizing Social Networks in Rural Uganda: New Links do Improve Outcomes.”
9. 2005: Federal Reserve Bank of New York NY, “DYNARE: Bayesian Estimation in Matlab.”

## **Conference Presentations**

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1. October 2017: Experimental Economics Association, Richmond, Virginia, “Groundwater Depletion in Northern India, Myself or Others?”
2. March 2016: Centre for the Study of African Economies - University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, “Towards a Deeper Understanding of Female Competitiveness and the Gender Gap: Evidence from Patrilocal and Matrilocal Cultures.”

3. November 2015: Northeast Development Conference, Providence, Rhode Island, "Learning Digitally: Evaluating the Impact of Farmer Training via Mediated Videos?"
4. October 2015: Experimental Economics Association, Dallas, Texas, "Childhood, Girlhood, Motherhood: Is Competitiveness Socialized?"
5. March 2015: Centre for the Study of African Economies - University of Oxford, Oxford, UK, "As Good as the Networks They Keep? Mechanisms of Information Exchange in Social Networks in Rural Uganda?"
6. December 2014: Symposium on Economic Experiments, Bergen, Norway, "Informal Networks within Index Insurance: Randomizing Social Distance in Group Insurance."
7. November 2014: Northeast Development Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, "Informal Networks within Index Insurance: Randomizing Social Distance in Group Insurance?"
8. November 2014: Northeast Development Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, "Informal Networks within Index Insurance: Randomizing Social Distance in Group Insurance?"
9. September 2014: Postdoctoral Data Science Panel, New York, NY, "Data Science in the Social Sciences."
10. September 2012: Workshop on Information in Networks, New York, NY, "As Good as the Networks They Keep? Mechanisms of Information Exchange in in Rural Uganda."
11. July 2010: World Meeting of the Economic Science Association, Copenhagen, Denmark "Institutional Incentives for Information Exchange: Information Games in Rural Uganda."
12. May 2009: Midwest International Economic Development Conference Minneapolis, MN, "The Effects of School Quality on Fertility in Ukraine."
13. May 2009: Population Association of America (PAA) Detroit, MI, "The Effects of School Quality on Fertility in Ukraine."

## Working Papers

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1. Vasilaky, Kathryn, Rahel Diro, Geoff McCarney, and Daniel Osgood, (2017) "Scaling the Demand for Index Insurance." *Journal of Development Studies*, R&R.
2. Buehren, Niklas, Joao Montalvao, Markus Goldstein, Kenneth Leonard and Kathryn Vasilaky (2017), "Girls' Empowerment, Sibling Rivalry, and Competitiveness: Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial and a Lab Experiment in Uganda," Gender Innovation Lab, Office of the Chief Economist for Africa at the World Bank.
3. Leonard, Kenneth, Kathryn Vasilaky, Magda Tsaneva, and Jeffrey Flory (2017), "Towards a Deeper Understanding of Female Competitiveness and the Gender Gap: Evidence from Patrilocal and Matrilocal Cultures," University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.
4. Vasilaky, Kathryn and Sofia Martinez and Radost Stanimirova and Daniel Osgood (2017), "Diversification or Defection?: Randomizing Information About Members in Insurance Groups," Columbia University Academic Commons.
5. Vasilaky, Kathryn and Aurlie Harou and Dan Osgood (2017), "Timely Disaster Response and its Impacts on Poverty in the Philippines."
6. Vasilaky, Kathryn and Katherine Alfredo and Aurlie Harou (2017), "Groundwater Depletion in Northern India, Myself or Others?"

7. Vasilaky, Kathryn (2017), “An Iterative Tikhonov Approach to the Inverse Problem,” Columbia University Academic Commons.

## Reports

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Meja-Mantilla, Carolina and Ruth Hill and Kathryn Vasilaky (2017). “Input Adoption among Small-Holder Farmers: Potential and Constraints,” Poverty and Equity Global Practice, Africa Region, The World Bank.

Montalvao, Joao, Markus Goldstein, Kenneth Leonard and Kathryn Vasilaky (2016), “Girls’ Empowerment, Sibling Rivalry, and Competitiveness: Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial and a Lab Experiment in Uganda.” World Bank Research Paper Vol. 12, No. 33.

Vasilaky, Kathryn and Kenneth Leonard (2015), “Policy Implications of Social Networks and Learning,” Gender Innovation Lab Policy Brief, World Bank Report Number 103850.

## Grants, Honors and Awards

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◇ 2016-2018: Co-Investigator, *Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Grand Challenges*, “Multi-modal Satellite Rainfall Measurement for Index Insurance” Grant Number OPP1150740, Amount: \$100,000.

◇ 2015-2017: Co-Investigator, *World Bank, International Finance Corporation*, “Evaluating the Timeliness of Disaster Response” Grant Number 7176127, Amount: \$200,000.

◇ 2015-2017: Principal Investigator, *Earth Clinic Grant, Columbia University*, “SMS Based System for Rainfall Reporting,” Amount: \$31,000.

◇ 2015-2017: Principal Investigator, *Cross Cutting Initiatives Grant, Columbia University*, “India Water Depletion Study,” Amount: \$32,000.

◇ 2009-2010: PhD Thesis, *Africa Gender Innovation Lab of the World Bank*, “Social Networks in Uganda,” Amount: \$20,000.

## Visiting Positions

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◇ Visiting Scholar, Toulouse School of Economics; Toulouse, France; September - December 2014.

◇ Visitor, Microsoft Research; Cambridge, Massachusetts; August 17, 2015 - August 22, 2015.

## Professional Service

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### Referee:

1. *Review of Economics and Statistics*
2. *The Economic Journal*
3. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*
4. *World Development*
5. *Climatic Change*
6. *International Food Policy Research Institute*

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## Membership in Professional Societies

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1. American Economic Association
2. Experimental Economics Association