

Kathryn N Vasilaky

Education

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

M.A. Economics, 2007 *University of Maryland, College Park, MD*

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

Dissertation

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

Fields of Interests

Development Economics, Experimental Economics, Data Science.

Work Experience

Assistant Professor *California Polytechnic State University* 2017 – Present

Classes: Survey of Economics; Programming for Economics & Analytics; Experimental Economics

Instructor *Girls Who Code* 2016

Classes Taught: Introduction to CS 101 Intensive

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 and Optimal Control

Associate Economist

Federal Reserve Bank of New York

2003 - 2005

Division: International Research

Refereed Publications

1. Vasilaky, Kathryn, Michelle Brock, Power(ful) Guidelines for Experimental Economists, (2020) Journal of the Experimental Science Association, conditionally accepted.
2. Ovaisi, Zohreh, Ragib Ahsan, Kathryn Vasilaky, Elena Zheleva, "Correcting for Selection Bias in Learning-to-rank Systems." (2020) 29th International World Wide Web Conference (WWW/WebConf).
3. Buehren, Niklas, Joao Montalvao, Markus Goldstein, Kenneth Leonard and Kathryn Vasilaky, "Spillover Effects of Girls? Empowerment on Brothers? Competitiveness: Evidence from a Lab-in-the-Field Experiment in Uganda," *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, forthcoming.
4. Vasilaky, Kathryn and Sofia Saenz Martinez and Radost Stanimirova and Daniel Osgood, "Group Heterogeneity and the Demand for Index Insurance." *Games*. Vol 11, No. 1, 15.
5. Vasilaky, Kathryn, Rahel Diro, Geoff McCarney, and Daniel Osgood, (2019) "Can Education Unlock Scale? The Demand Impact of Educational Games on a Large-Scale Unsubsidised Index Insurance Programme in Ethiopia." *Journal of Development Studies*, DOI: 10.1080/00220388.2018.1554207.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Haack, Robert A., Kerry O. Britton, Eckehard G. Brockerhoff, Joseph F. Cavey, Lynn J. Garrett, Mark Kimberley, Frank Lowenstein, Amelia Nuding, Lars J. Olson, James Turner, and Kathryn N. Vasilaky. "Effectiveness of the International Phytosanitary Standard ISPM No. 15 on Reducing Wood Borer Infestation Rates in Wood Packaging Material Entering the United States." *PLoS ONE*, 9(5): e96611. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0096611>

Working Papers

1. Vasilaky, Kathryn and Katherine Alfredo and Aurélie Harou, "Groundwater Depletion in Northern India, Myself or Others?" (*in preparation*)

2. Meja-Mantilla, Carolina and Ruth Hill and Kathryn Vasilaky, "Is the Price Right? Vanishing Returns to Input Adoption." World Bank Research Paper 8627 (*under review*)
3. Flory, Jeff, Kenneth Leonard, Magda Tsaneva, and Kathryn Vasilaky, "Towards a Deeper Understanding of Female Competitiveness and the Gender Gap: Evidence from Patrilocal and Matrilocal Cultures." (*in preparation*)
4. Baul, Tushi, Dean Karlan, Kentaro Toyama and Kathryn Vasilaky, "Learning Digitally via Mediated Farmer Edutainment in India?" (*in preparation*)
5. Vasilaky, Kathryn, "Robust Ridge Regression with a Stopping Rule." (*in preparation*)
6. Vasilaky, Kathryn and Aurélie Harou, and Chia-Ying Lee and Dan Osgood, "Timely Disaster Response and its Impacts on Poverty in the Philippines." (*in preparation*)

Invited Seminar Presentations

1. 2018: University of Montpellier, "Learning Digitally via Mediated Farmer Edutainment in India."
2. 2016: New York University, "An Iterative Approach to the Tikhonov Inverse Problem with a Stopping Rule."
3. 2016: Paris School of Economics, "Learning Digitally: Evaluating the Impact of Farmer Training via Mediated Videos."
4. 2015: Microsoft Research, Cambridge, MA, "Informal Risk Sharing and Formal Insurance: Substitutes or Complements?"
5. 2015: Microsoft Research, NY, NY, "Mechanisms of Information Exchange in Social Networks in Rural Uganda?"
6. 2014: Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne "Informal Networks within Index Insurance: Randomizing Social Distance in Group Insurance."
7. 2014: Institut National de la Recherche Agronomique LAMETA "Informal Networks within Index Insurance: Randomizing Social Distance in Group Insurance."
8. 2011: Development Economics Research Group, World Bank, "Mothers, Daughters and Sisters; Is Competitiveness Socialized?"
9. 2010: Yale University, "Randomizing Social Networks in Rural Uganda: New Links do Improve Outcomes."
10. 2005: Federal Reserve Bank of New York NY, "DYNARE: Bayesian Estimation in Matlab."

Conference Presentations

1. October 2019: Experimental Economics Association, Los Angeles, California, "Revealing Group Choices: the Demand for Index Insurance"
2. September 2019: Advances in Field Experiments, Chicago, Illinois, "Revealing Group Choices: the Demand for Index Insurance"
3. September 2019: Experimental Economics Association, Dijon, France, "Group Heterogeneity and the Demand for Index Insurance"

4. October 2018: Advances in Field Experiments, Boston, Massachusetts, “Groundwater Depletion in Northern India, Myself or Others?”
5. September 2018: Science of Diversity & Inclusion Initiative, The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, “Can Social Networks help de-bias Employee Evaluations?”
6. August 2018: French Association for Environmental and Resource Economics, Axes-en-Provence, France, “Learning Digitally via Mediated Farmer Edutainment in India.”
7. May 2018: Bay Area Behavioral and Experimental Economics Workshop, San Francisco, CA, “Changes in Competitiveness with Motherhood Stages and Culture: Evidence from Patrilocal and Matrilocal Society?”
8. October 2017: Experimental Economics Association, Richmond, Virginia, “Groundwater Depletion in Northern India, Myself or Others?”
9. 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.”
10. November 2015: Northeast Development Conference, Providence, Rhode Island, “Learning Digitally: Evaluating the Impact of Farmer Training via Mediated Videos?”
11. October 2015: Experimental Economics Association, Dallas, Texas, “Childhood, Girlhood, Motherhood: Is Competitiveness Socialized?”
12. 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?”
13. December 2014: Symposium on Economic Experiments, Bergen, Norway, “Informal Networks within Index Insurance: Randomizing Social Distance in Group Insurance.”
14. November 2014: Northeast Development Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, “Informal Networks within Index Insurance: Randomizing Social Distance in Group Insurance?”
15. September 2014: Postdoctoral Data Science Panel, New York, NY, “Data Science in the Social Sciences.”
16. 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.”
17. July 2010: World Meeting of the Economic Science Association, Copenhagen, Denmark “Institutional Incentives for Information Exchange: Information Games in Rural Uganda.”
18. May 2009: Midwest International Economic Development Conference Minneapolis, MN, “The Effects of School Quality on Fertility in Ukraine.”
19. May 2009: Population Association of America (PAA) Detroit, MI, “The Effects of School Quality on Fertility in Ukraine.”

Reports

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

- ◇ 2019-2020: Principal Investigator, *Research, Scholarly, and Creative Activities, RSCA*, “Correcting for Selection Bias in Learning-to-rank Systems,” Amount: \$8,985.
- ◇ 2019-2021: Co-Investigator, *United States Department of Agriculture, AFRI*, “Immigration Reform And Farm Labor Shortages,” Amount: \$500,000.
- ◇ 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

- ◇ Visiting Scholar, Toulouse School of Economics; Toulouse, France; September - December 2014.
- ◇ Visitor, Microsoft Research; Cambridge, Massachusetts; August 17, 2015 - August 22, 2015.

Professional Service

Referee:

Review of Economics and Statistics, The Economic Journal, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, World Development, Climatic Change, International Food Policy Research Institute

Department Service

Organizer and co-founder of PyData, faculty advisor to Economics Society, co-organizer Women in Economics, organizer Economics/Finance brownbag seminar, Beacon mentor.

Membership in Professional Societies

1. American Economic Association
2. Experimental Economics Association