

ALINA KOVALENKO

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, University of Texas at Austin, May 2020 (Expected)
M.S., Economics, University of Texas at Austin, 2017
M.A., Economics, University of Colorado Denver, 2015
B.S., International Economics, Donetsk National University, 2012

REFERENCES

Stephen Trejo (Chair)
Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin
512-475-8512
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Sandra Black
Department of Economics
Columbia University
212-854-3676
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Richard Murphy
Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin
512-475-8425
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Tom Vogl
Department of Economics
University of California San Diego
858-534-4553
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TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

Fields: Labor Economics, Public Economics, Health Economics
Subfields: Education Economics, Natural Resource Economics

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2019	Summer Research Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2015 – 2019	Graduate Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
2008 – 2012	Honors Scholarship, Donetsk National University

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2017 – 2019	Research Assistant to Professor John Hatfield, McCombs School of Business, University of Texas at Austin
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018 – 2019	Economic Principles of Managerial Decisions, University of Texas at Austin, Teaching Assistant for Prof. John Hatfield
Spring 2017	Energy Economics, University of Texas at Austin, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Michael Sadler
Fall 2016	International Trade and Investment, University of Texas at Austin, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Shalah Mostashari
Summer 2016	Microeconomic Theory, University of Texas at Austin, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Matt Clements

2015 – 2016	Introduction to Macroeconomics, University of Texas at Austin, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Shalah Mostashari and Prof. Michael Sadler
2014 – 2015	Introduction to Econometrics, University of Colorado Denver, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Ryan Brown and Prof. Andrea Velasquez
Spring 2014	Principles of Microeconomics, University of Colorado Denver, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Claire Duquenois
Fall 2013	Intermediate Macroeconomics, University of Colorado Denver, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Annie Walker

CONFERENCES

November, 2019	National Tax Association 112 th Annual Conference, Tampa, FL, <i>Job Market Paper</i>
November, 2019	Southern Economic Association 89 th Annual Meeting, Fort Lauderdale, FL, <i>Job Market Paper</i>
September, 2019	STATA Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Houston, TX, Poster Session, <i>Job Market Paper</i>

WORKING PAPERS

“Natural Resource Booms, Human Capital and Earnings: Evidence from Linked Education and Employment Records” (*Job Market Paper*)

This paper examines the role of the local economic conditions in human capital accumulation decisions. I exploit geographic and temporal variation in the recent fracking oil and gas boom, which improved labor market opportunities for young men and women. Using administrative panel data on the universe of students attending public schools in Texas, I find that cohorts exposed to the fracking boom during high school experienced higher absence rates, higher incidence of grade retention and lower rates of high school graduation. These effects are largest for students in the bottom of the ability distribution, who were likely on the margin of dropping out. By linking students to their administrative employment records, I show that increased work and earnings during high school, concentrated in food and retail sectors, play a large role in explaining negative impacts on human capital. Next, I follow up on these students as they transition into post-secondary education and find lower rates of college enrollment, with effects driven by community colleges. Finally, I show that students experience benefits to employment and earnings that persist up to six years past expected high school graduation.

“Economic Development and Risky Behaviors”

Although rapid development of an area generally leads to better economic outcomes like higher standards of living and wages, it can have some negative social impacts as well. Using recent economic shocks associated with localized fracking booms, this paper documents one such externality - increased incidence of risk-taking behaviors. I exploit plausibly exogenous geographic distribution of shale deposits and temporal expansion of the drilling activity in the Marcellus region. Using detailed county-level data from 2002-2015, I find that counties with fracking potential are associated with higher rates of gonorrhea infections (an increase of 12%), as well as arrests for disorderly conduct and drunkenness (3% and 5% respectively). The pattern of results is consistent with substantial positive income effects and a small change in the composition of workers.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Intergenerational Transmission of Economic Conditions”, with Konstantin Kunze
 “The Impact of Industry-Specific Economic Shocks on College and Major Choice”

OTHER SKILLS

Languages: English (fluent), Russian (fluent), Ukrainian (native)
 Programs: Stata, SAS (Certified Base Programmer, 2013), QGIS