

MELANIE KHAMIS

Department of Economics
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EDUCATION

The London School of Economics (LSE), London, U.K. 2008
PhD at Department of International Development, February 2008
Title: An empirical investigation of the informal labor market, minimum wages and workfare programs at times of growth and crisis in urban Argentina, 1992-2005
Supervisor: Dr. Diana Weinhold, Examiners: Prof. Oriana Bandiera and Prof. Armando Barrientos

University of Warwick, Coventry, U.K. 1999
MSc in Economics (distinction in main subjects)

The London School of Economics (LSE), London, U.K. 1998
BSc in Economics (upper second class honors)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Latin America, Transition Countries

EMPLOYMENT

Wesleyan University, Middletown, CT, USA from July 2011 onwards
Assistant Professor in Economics, associated with Latin American Studies

Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn, Germany 2008 to 2011
Postdoctoral Research Associate

Department for International Development (DFID), London, U.K. 2003-2007
Government Economist

The World Bank Group, Washington D.C., U.S.A. 2006-2007
Consultant

The World Bank Group, Buenos Aires, Argentina 2004-2005
Consultant

The World Bank Group, Washington D.C., U.S.A 2002
Summer Internship

The International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington D.C., U.S.A 2000-2001

Research Assistant
Maxwell Stamp PLC, London, U.K. 1999-2000
Economic Consultant

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Wesleyan University 2011-2012
Department of Economics and Latin American Studies
Fall 2011
Econ301 Microeconomic Analysis
Econ261 Latin American Economic Development
Spring 2012
Econ 301 Microeconomic Analysis
Econ 366 The Economics of Developing Countries

Universitaet Bonn, Department of Economics, Bonn, Germany 2010
Lecturer for MSc course in Development Economics

Rutgers University, Department of Economics, New Brunswick, U.S.A. 2009
Guest lectures on 'Informality in the Labor Market' for Economics of Population course

London School of Economics (LSE), Department of International Development 2006
London, U.K.
Teacher for MSc course on Poverty measurement

RESEARCH (Published and forthcoming)

Crisis and Recovery in Argentina: Labor market, poverty, inequality and pro-poor growth dynamics, in Stephan Klasen and Felicitas Nowak-Lehmann eds., *Poverty, Inequality and Migration in Latin America*, Peter Lang Verlag, 2008

Ethnic Fragmentation, Conflict, Displaced Persons and Human Trafficking: An Empirical Analysis (with Randall Akee, Arnab Basu and Nancy Chau), forthcoming in Gil S. Epstein and Ira N. Gang eds., *Migration and Culture, Frontiers of Economics and Globalization*, Volume 8, Emerald Publishing (IZA DP No.5142)

Does the minimum wage have a higher impact on the informal than on the formal labor market? Evidence from quasi-experiments, (IZA DP No.3911), forthcoming in *Applied Economics* 2013

Is informal sector work an alternative to workfare benefits? The case of pre-program expansion and economic crisis, (IZA DP No.4614), accepted in *Review of Development Economics*

A Note on Informality in the Labor Market, (IZA DP No.4676), *Journal of International Development* 2011 (early view online)

The Persistence of Informality: Evidence from Panel Data, joint with Aslan Akay, (IZA DP No. 6163), forthcoming in *Research in Labor Economics* 2012

WORKING PAPERS

Risk Attitudes and Incidence of Informality among Workers: Evidence from a Transition Country (with Thomas Dohmen and Hartmut Lehmann)

Comparative Advantage, Segmentation and Informal Earnings: A Marginal Treatment Effects Approach (with Omar Arias), (IZA DP No.3916)

Consumption and Social Identity: Evidence from India (with Nishith Prakash and Zahra Siddique), (IZA DP No.5406)

Rubble Women: The Long-Term Effects of Postwar Reconstruction on Female Labor Market Outcomes (with Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel and Mutlu Yuksel), (IZA DP No.6148)

RESEARCH FUNDING AND AWARDS

Volkswagen Foundation Project (with Hartmut Lehmann) (2011-2014)

Alexander von Humboldt TransCoop on Human Trafficking (with Randall Akee, Arnab Basu, Nancy Chau and Hilmar Schneider) (2009-2011)

World Bank 1st Round Funding for Informality Project Proposal (with Hartmut Lehmann) (2009)

LSE Research Student Scholarship (2006/2007)

Michio Morishima Travel Award (2007)

PRESENTATIONS

2011

ASSA, LERA Poster Session; Wesleyan University; Dalhousie University; 3rd Annual Meeting on Risky Behaviors (discussant); IZA; 6th IZA/World Bank Conference, Mexico (2 papers presented); IZA/World Bank Workshop on Institutions and Informal Employment in Emerging and Transition Economies (presenter and discussant)

2010

ASSA, ACES; IZA; Stockholm University; Enforcement, Evasion and Informality: Theory and Practice Conference at University of Michigan; EALE/SOLE; The Empirics of Law Enforcement and Compliance (discussant); Ruhr-Universitaet Bochum; SAEe Madrid; Universitaet Goettingen

2009

4th IZA/World Bank Conference; IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting of Labor Economists; Latin American Studies Association (presenter and discussant); IZA; The Shadow Economy, Tax Evasion and Social Norms Conference, Universitaet Muenster; EALE (presenter and discussant); 1st CIER/IZA Conference; IZA/Volkswagen Foundation Topic Week on Transition Economies (presenter and discussant); World Bank; IZA Prize Conference; College of William & Mary; Cornell University; Rutgers University; NEUDC (poster)

2008

Royal Economic Society; 3rd IZA/World Bank Conference; Society of Labor Economists (poster); 5th IZA Annual Migration Meeting (AM²) and 2nd IZA Migration Topic Week (discussant); Nordic Conference in Development Economics; IZA; Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association; IPEA; IZA Prize Conference (poster)

2007

2nd IZA/World Bank Conference

2006

STICERD, LSE; World Bank
2005

Poverty, Inequality and Policy in Latin America Symposium, Universitaet Goettingen

REFEREEING

American Economic Review, Applied Economics, The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics, Industrial & Labor Relations Review, International Journal of Manpower, Journal of Applied Economics, Labour Economics (twice), Singapore Economic Review, OECD Report 'Is Informal Normal? Towards More and Better Jobs in Developing Countries', Research in Labor Economics, The Review of Regional Studies, The Manchester School

ORGANISATION OF WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Organizer: IZA Workshop: Understanding Informal Employment in Transition: The case of Georgia, Bonn, Germany (2011)

Organizer: IZA Workshop: Legal and Illicit Immigration: Theory, Empirics and Policy, Bonn, Germany (2010)

Scientific Committee: 3rd EALE/SOLE Conference at UCL, London, U.K. (2010)

Organizer: Graduate Workshop in Development Economics, Bonn, Germany (2009)

Organizer: 1st CIER/IZA Workshop: Research in Labor Economics, Beijing, China (2009)

Scientific Committee: 4th IZA/World Bank Conference, Bonn, Germany (2009)

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Economic Association, Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association, UK Government Economic Service (2003-2007),

STICERD affiliate (2005-2007)

Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA) Research Fellow (since June 2011)

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), German (native), Spanish (good), French (intermediate)

COMPUTER SKILLS

Microsoft Office, STATA, EViews, Aremos, Bloomberg, Datastream, HTML, Latex