The Economics of Fertility

Wednesday January 17, 2001
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knox Hall
WMU

Susan L. Averett Associate Professor Lafayette College

Dr. Susan L. Averett is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics and Business at Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania, where she has taught since 1991. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Colorado in 1991, after receiving her B.S. in Economics from Colorado State University in 1986. Dr. Averett was on the faculty at the Pennsylvania State University from 1991-1995. In 1999, she received the Michael E. Beine Award for outstanding dissertation award from the Econometric Society. She received her Master’s in Economics from the University of Texas at Austin in 1993, and her B.A. in Economics from Colorado College with high honors in 1989. She has published articles on the economics of fertility and family policy, with a focus on the role of the public sector in supporting and incentivizing families. Her research examines the role of government policies in shaping fertility and family formation decisions, and the impact of these decisions on economic outcomes such as the well-being of children and families. Her work has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Bureau of Economic Research.

Working for Families? Unpaid Leave and the Family and Medical Leave Act

Wednesday February 21, 2001
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knox Hall
WMU

Katharine Ross Phillips Research Associate The Urban Institute

Dr. Katharine Ross Phillips is a Research Associate in the Law and Economics Policy Center of The Urban Institute. She received her Ph.D. in Economics from Johns Hopkins University in 1999 and received her B.A. in Psychobiology from Smith College in 1995 and received her Ph.D. in Psychology from the University of Maryland. She has published articles on the economics of family leave policies, including the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the impact of unpaid leave on family formation and child care decisions. Her work examines the role of government policies in promoting family-friendly workplaces and the effects of these policies on economic outcomes such as labor force participation, labor market outcomes, and family formation decisions. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Bureau of Economic Research.

How Family Structure Affects Labor Market Outcomes

Wednesday March 21, 2001
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knox Hall
WMU

Joyce P. Jacobson Professor of Economics Wesleyan University

Dr. Joyce P. Jacobson is a Professor of Economics at Wesleyan University, where she has taught since 1995. She received her B.A. in Economics from Oberlin College in 1980 and her Ph.D. in Economics from Stanford University in 1991. She has published articles on the economics of family structure and labor market outcomes, including the impact of family structure on labor market decisions and the role of government policies in promoting family-friendly workplaces. Her work examines the role of government policies in promoting family-friendly workplaces and the effects of these policies on economic outcomes such as labor force participation, labor market outcomes, and family formation decisions. Her research has been supported by grants from the National Science Foundation and the National Bureau of Economic Research.
Does Federal Child Care Policy Make Sense?

Wednesday
September 13, 2000
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauss Hall
W&MU

David M. Blau
Professor of Economics
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Dr. David M. Blau is Professor of Economics and Fellow of the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He earned a B.A. in Economics from Antioch College in 1971. Professor Blau received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1980 and after a two-year post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University, he spent a short time at the University of Miami, before joining the faculty at UNC-Chapel Hill in 1982. He is a labor and population economist with broad interests in research that link the opposite ends of the life cycle: the economies of child care and the economics of aging. His current research focuses on the entire spectrum of child care topics, including issues related to both the demand and supply of child care and the effects of child care on child development. He has been a leader in efforts to frame the child care debate in the language and logic of economics. Among his many publications in this field are “Child Care Costs and Family Labor Supply” and “Turnover in Child Care Arrangements” (both with F. K. Robins, Review of Economics and Statistics); “Paternity, Employment and Child Care Costs” and “Child Care Demand and Labor Supply: Young Mothers Over Time” (both with F. K. Robins, Demography); “The Child Care Labor Market,” “The Production of Quality in Child Care Centrally,” and “The Effect of Child Care Characteristics on Child Development” (all with S. Hsiao, Journal of Human Resources); “The Supply of Child Care Labor” and “The Demand for Quality in Child Care” (both with A. Hsiao, Journal of Political Economy); and “The Effect of Child Care Characteristics on School Development” (all with S. Lee, Journal of the Economics of Education). 

Thinking About Child Care Policy

Wednesday
October 12, 2000
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauss Hall
W&MU

Barbara R. Bergmann
Professor Emerita
University of Maryland and American University

Dr. Barbara R. Bergmann has a distinguished career in economics and social policy. After earning her B.A. in Mathematics and Economics at Cornell University in 1948, she attended Harvard University where she earned her Ph.D. in Economics in 1950. In 1962, she began her first academic appointment as Associate Professor of Economics at Bryn Mawr College. Dr. Bergmann went to the University of Maryland in 1969, where she has been Professor Emerita since 1988. She is also Professor Emerita at American University after having served there as Distinguished Professor of Economics from 1981 to 1997. Perhaps Dr. Bergmann’s greatest contribution to the field of economics has been her commitment to the integration of social science thought with social policy. Her current research includes the topics of child care, welfare and poverty, women’s place in the economy and the family, as well as the labor market problems of women and African Americans. She is the author or co-author of numerous books and articles in both scholarly journals and interstate publications. Her previous books include: In Defense of Affirmative Action: What the United States Can Learn From France, and The Economic Emergence of Women: Her Two Most Memorable books are in Social Security: The Future (with S. M.workers), and What Child Care System for America? (with S. M. workers). In 1960, she wrote a monthly column on economic affairs for the New York Times Sunday Business Section.

Parent’s Work-Time and the Family

Wednesday
November 15, 2000
3:00 P.M.
3508 Knauss Hall
W&MU

Cordelia W. Reimers
Professor of Economics
Huston College and CUNY

Dr. Cordelia W. Reimers is Professor of Economics at Huston College and the Graduate School of the City University of New York where she has taught since 1982. She earned her B.S. in History from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1958, and received her Ph.D. in Economics from Columbia University in 1977. Prior to joining the faculty at Huston College, she was an Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Affairs at Pennsylvania State University. She has also served as a senior economist at the Council for Economic Advisers and as a visiting scholar at the Russell Sage Foundation while serving as Council. Professor Reimers is also a member of the 1999 special session on Families and the Labor Market, 1999-1999. Analyzing the 1999 Census, she contributed chapters for The 1999 Economic Review of the President and Annual Report of the Council of Economic Advisers. On Work, Retirement and the Economic Well-Being of the Elderly and Benefits of a Strong Labor Market.

Professor Reimers’s academic research has focused on social and economic welfare in labor market outcomes and social security and retirement behavior. Recent book chapters on the topic of employment, discrimination, “The Effect of Teflon Labor Markets on Unionization of Hispanics and African Americans: the 1996 Experience,” “Compensation for the Latino Worker,” and “Unfilled Unemployment and Changes in the Wages Distributions of Mexican American, Black, and Non-Hispanic White Men.” Also, she has co-authored a number of articles on Social Security and retirement behavior with Margaret Hsu, including “The Benefits of Social Security for Men and Women: Myopic and Paralyzed Behavior” (Journal of Human Resources), “The Increased Budget Constraint Under Social Security Retirement: From Retirement Behavior” (Journal of Labor Economics), and “Is It Worth Eliminating the Retirement Tax?” (American Economic Review).

Dr. Reimers has received several funding awards from universities and government agencies, including the Social Security Administration, the John F. Kennedy Foundation, and the National Science Foundation. She has served on numerous professional committees, including the Commission on the State of Women in the Economics Profession (CSEWP), a commission of the American Economic Association. This series is directed by Dr. Emily P. Hoffman, Professor of Economics, and Dr. Jean Kinsey, Senior Economist at the W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Kalamazoo, Michigan.