

CHRISTA MARR

Department of Economics, History, and Political Science

Fitchburg State University

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, Clark University (2014)

Fields: Applied Econometrics, Public Economics, Spatial Economics

Dissertation: *Exploring Income Inequality in the United States through Redistribution Preferences, Intergenerational Mobility, and Political Polarization*

M.A. Economics, Clark University (2012)

B.A. Economics & International Studies, *Summa Cum Laude*, University of Southern Maine (2008)

GPA: 3.99

Certifications

Courses towards *Certificate in College Teaching*, Worcester College Consortium (2010)

Professional Experience

Assistant Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, History, and Political Science. Fitchburg State University, Fitchburg, Massachusetts. (2015-Present)

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics. Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida. (2014-2015)

Skills

STATA, R, LatentGOLD, ArcGIS, GeoDa, CHAID, Excel

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Fitchburg State University

Urban Economics, Department of Economics, History, and Political Science, Spring 2017

Capstone for Economics Majors, Department of Economics, History, and Political Science, Fall 2016

Geographic Economic Systems, Departments of Economics, History, and Political Science and Earth and Geographic Sciences, Fall 2016

Econometrics, Department of Economics, History, and Political Science, Spring 2016

Current Events and Service Learning, Honors Program, Spring 2016-2017

Intermediate Microeconomics, Department of Economics, History, and Political Science, Fall 2015-2016

Public Finance, Department of Economics, History, and Political Science, Fall 2015-2016

Introduction to Microeconomics, Department of Economics, History, and Political Science, Fall 2015-Spring 2017

Rollins College

Statistics for Social Science, Interdisciplinary, Hamilton Holt Evening School, Spring 2015.

Intermediate Microeconomics, Department of Economics, Fall 2014-Spring 2015.

Economics of Contemporary Issues, Department of Economics, Fall 2014.

Clark University

Introduction to Statistics, Department of Economics, Fall 2013-Spring 2014

Principles of Economics (Microeconomics), Dept. of Economics, Spring 2013

Statistics, Department of Math, College of Professional and Continuing Education (COPACE),

Spring-Summer 2012

Teaching Assistant

Clark University

Introduction to Microeconomics, Department of Economics, Clark University, Spring 2012

Introduction to Statistics, Department of Economics, Clark University, Spring 2010-Fall 2011

Intermediate Macroeconomics, Department of Economics, Clark University, Spring 2011

Intermediate Microeconomics, Department of Economics, Clark University, Fall 2009

Research

Publications

"Robust Determinants of Intergenerational Mobility in the Land of Opportunity" with Andros Kourtellos and Chih Ming Tan, European Economic Review, 81, p. 132-147, 2016.

Working Papers

"Local Measures of Intergenerational Mobility of Income, Cognitive, and Noncognitive Skills" with Andros Kourtellos and Chih Ming Tan, 2016 (*under review*)

Abstract: Using NLSY data we investigate whether the observed patterns of intergenerational persistence in cognitive and non-cognitive abilities are consistent with the predictions of the genetic hypothesis. In doing so we employ the varying coefficient model to estimate nonparametric (local) measures of intergenerational mobility of income, cognitive, and non-cognitive skills as smooth functions of log parent permanent income. Our findings show that intergenerational mobility exhibits nonlinear patterns. Individuals with different parental income are characterized by different degrees of intergenerational mobility. Moreover, we find evidence that suggests that the genetic component in the overall intergenerational transmission mechanism is much stronger than the epigenetic for both sons and daughters.

"Understanding Changes in Attitudes towards Redistribution and Government after the Great Recession" with Chih Ming Tan, 2016 (*under review*)

Abstract: Using the first release of the three-wave, four-year General Social Survey panel dataset, we find that changes in redistribution preferences are associated with changes in confidence in government after the Great Recession. We use latent class analysis to systematically account for heterogeneity and uncover four distinct preference groups. A variety of personal characteristics define group membership, yet movement between and within groups can be partially explained by changes confidence in government. Republicans in particular are more likely to associate government mistrust with low (no) demand for government action in reducing income differences. We also find that those who are downwardly mobile as well as those who become unemployed over the observed period demand more redistribution. This paper suggests potential effects of the Great Recession on redistribution preferences, confidence in government, and the relationship between the two.

"Assessing the Effect of Income Inequality and Intergenerational Mobility on Political Polarization: A State-Level Analysis," 2016

Abstract: This paper explores how income inequality and intergenerational mobility affect political polarization in the United States in years surrounding the financial crisis. Following Garand (2010), I look at how state-level income inequality directly and indirectly impacts polarization of state legislators. I find that state income inequality has a stronger direct impact on senator polarization from 2006 to 2011 than from Garand's (2010) 1985 to 2002 analysis. Polarization within the electorate also has a stronger impact on senator partisanship. Results show that intergenerational income mobility impacts political polarization indirectly through their impact on demand for redistribution. Higher income persistence leads to stronger individual demand for redistribution, which leads Congressmen to vote more liberally. There is limited evidence to show that state-level mobility directly impacts senator roll-call polarization.

"Feminization of Labor and Profit Rates: Evidence from OECD Countries" with Adem Elveren and Yvonne Renard, 2016.

Abstract: The paper examines the effect of the feminization of employment on the profit rates on 21 OECD countries for the 1970-2008 period. We find that increases in female labor force participation leads to increases in profits over the year 1970-2010. We use fertility as an instrument for labor force participation to deal with potential reverse causality.

Selected Honors, Grants, Fellowships and Awards

Junior Faculty Mentoring Workshop, Committee for the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, 2015
Graduate Student Association Travel Award, Clark University, 2013
Sheftel Travel Award, Department of Economics, Clark University, 2013
Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Economics, Clark University, 2012

Summer Research Assistantship, Department of Economics, Clark University, 2011-13
Sheftel Fund Grant, Department of Economics, Clark University, 2011
Faculty Development Grant with Chih Ming Tan, Clark University, 2010-2011
Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Clark University, 2010

Presentations

Presentations of "Local Measures of Intergenerational Mobility of Income, Cognitive, and Noncognitive Skills":

- Siena College Department of Economics Seminar Series. Loudonville, New York, April 2016.
- 79th International Atlantic Economic Conference. *Human Capital: Intergenerational Transfers and Individual Accumulation*. Boston, Massachusetts, October 2015.

Presentations of "Robust Determinants of Intergenerational Mobility in the Land of Opportunity":

- 2015 Econometric Society World Congress. *Redistribution*. Montreal, Quebec, August 2015.

Presentations of "Understanding Changes in Attitudes towards Redistribution and Government after the Great Recession":

- 78th International Atlantic Economic Conference. *Demographic Economics*. Savannah, Georgia, October 2014.
- Canadian Economics Association 47th Annual Conference of the CEA. *Giving, Redistribution and Social Preferences*, Canadian Public Economics Group Session. Montreal, Quebec, June 2013.
- Eastern Economics Association 39th Annual Conference. *Some Lessons from the 2008 Financial Crisis*. New York, New York, May 2013.
- Clark University Graduate Student Council 11th Annual Multidisciplinary Conference. *Economic Exchanges*. Worcester, Massachusetts, April 2013.
- Clark University Graduate Student Council Multidisciplinary Conference. Worcester, Massachusetts, April 2012.
- Eastern Economic Association 38th Annual Conference. *Modeling Uncertainty and Heterogeneity in Economic Growth and Development*. Boston, Massachusetts, March 2012. (Under alternative title: "Chutes and Ladders: Understanding the Intérplay Between Preferences for Redistribution and Intergenerational Mobility.")
- University of Southern Maine Department of Economics Presentation Event. Portland, Maine, December 2012.

Other presentations and professional service:

- Teaching Assistant Grading Workshop, Clark University Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning (CETL). Host and Organizer. Worcester, Massachusetts, November 2012 and February 2013
- Northeastern Agricultural and Resource Economics (NAREA) Annual Conference. Professional Service. Lowell, Massachusetts, June 2012
- "Exploring Affirmative Action in Higher Education." Thinking Matters Conference. *Economics of Inequality* Session. Portland, Maine, April 2006.

Professional Affiliations

Member of American Economic Association, Eastern Economics Association, Canadian Economics Association, Committee for the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP).