

Laura Caron

Columbia University
Department of Economics
420 West 118th Street
New York, NY 10027

lkc2142@columbia.edu
laurakcaron.github.io

EDUCATION

Columbia University, PhD in Economics (2020 – present)

Fields: Applied microeconomics (labor, education, and health) and econometrics

Advisors: Alessandra Casella, Simon Lee, and Ebonya Washington

Dean's Fellow

NSF Graduate Research Fellow

Vickrey Award for best third year paper for 2022-2023 academic year

Runner up for Wueller Fellowship for best pre-dissertation proposal in 2023-2024 academic year

Anna J. Schwartz Fellowship for best prospectus defense in 2023-2024 academic year

Angell Fellowship for 2023-2034 academic year

Reubens Travel and Research Fellowship

Columbia University, MPhil in Economics (May 2023)

Columbia University, MA in Economics (May 2022)

Georgetown University, BSFS in International Political Economy with a minor in Mathematics (2016-2020)

School of Foreign Service

Dean's Medal for highest GPA

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

Alpha Sigma Nu National Honor Society

WORKING PAPERS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Impacts of Disability-Inclusive Public Education: Evidence from the Introduction of Learning Support Mandates in the US”. In progress.

“Triple Difference Designs with Heterogeneous Treatment Effects”. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2502.19620* (2025). <https://arxiv.org/abs/2502.19620>

“Switching Strategies? Peer Impacts of Moving Disabled Students to General Education Classrooms” (with Jesper Eriksen and Jeppe Johansen). In progress.

“The On-Campus Recruiting Labor Market: Experimental Evidence” (with Tarikua Erda). In progress. Pre-registered in the AEA RCT Registry.

“Women, Men, and Polya Urns. Underrepresentation at Equal Talent in the Absence of Discrimination” (with Alessandra Casella and Victoria Mooers). In progress.

“Households in Transit: COVID-19 and the Changing Measurement of Welfare” (with Erwin Tiongson). *IZA Discussion Paper No. 15670* (2022). <https://docs.iza.org/dp15670.pdf>.

“Jobs Interventions for Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons” (with Kirsten Schuettler). Jobs Working Paper; No. 47. World Bank, Washington, DC. World Bank (2020). <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33953>.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

“Empty Digital Wallets: New Technologies and Old Inequalities.” *Oxford Open Economics* 1 (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1093/ooec/odac001>.

“Disability, Employment and Wages: Evidence from Indonesia.” *International Journal of Manpower* 42 (5): 866–88 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1108/IJM-01-2020-0022>.

“Migration and Mental Health in Mexico: Domestic Migrants, Return U.S. Migrants, and Non-Migrants.” (with Katherine M. Donato and Erin Hamilton). *Front. Psychiatry* 10:970. (2020) <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyt.2019.00970>.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Columbia University, Department of Economics

Instructor of Record

Labor Economics. Evaluation 4.5/5. Summer 2024.

Teaching Assistantships

PhD Econometrics (with Professor Jushan Bai and Professor Simon Lee). Evaluation 4.8/5. Spring 2024.

Political Economy (with Professor Alessandra Casella). Evaluation 4.8/5. Fall 2023.

Intermediate Microeconomics (with Professor Ingmar Nyman). Evaluation 4.8/5. Spring 2022.

Political Economy (with Professor Alessandra Casella). Evaluation 4.5/5. Fall 2021.

Awards

Wueller Award for Best TA in Undergraduate Core Courses for the 2021-2022 academic year

Wueller Award for Best TA in PhD Courses for the 2023-2024 academic year

Georgetown University, Department of Economics

Teaching Assistantships

Macroeconomics (with Professor Carol Rogers), Georgetown University Department of Economics. Evaluation 4.1/5. Spring 2017.

RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant/Short-Term Consultant (working with Victor Sulla and Erwin Tiongson)
World Bank Social Protect Global Practice Group, Europe and Central Asia, March 2023 – October 2023.

Research Assistant/Short-Term Consultant
World Bank World Development Report 2023, February 2022 – May 2023.

Research Assistant (working with Alessandra Casella)
Columbia University Department of Economics, May 2021 – August 2021.
Research Assistant/Short-Term Temporary (working with Victor Sulla and Erwin Tiongson)
World Bank Poverty & Equity Global Practice Group, Africa, August 2019 – August 2020.

Research Assistant/Short-Term Temporary (working with Xubei Luo and Erwin Tiongson)
World Bank Poverty & Equity Global Practice Group, East Asia, April 2019 – June 2020.

Research Assistant (working with Katharine Donato)
Institute for the Study of International Migration at Georgetown University, June 2019 – October 2020.

Carroll Round Research Scholar (working with Shareen Joshi and S. Anukriti)
Georgetown University, June 2019 – December 2019.

Independent Consultant (working with Tomoko Harigaya)
Precision Agriculture for Development, Boston, MA,
Research Intern June 2018 – August 2018, Independent Consultant August 2018 – May 2019.

MSFS Research Scholar (working with Erwin Tiongson)
Master of Science in Foreign Service Program at Georgetown University, September 2017 – June 2019.

Research Assistant (working with Erik Voeten)
Georgetown University, June 2018 – August 2018.

Constituent Affairs Intern
Office of State Senator Jason Lewis, May 2017 - August 2017.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

President, Georgetown University Astronomical Society
December 2016 – May 2020.

PRESENTATIONS

2024 APPAM Fall Research Conference, November 2024.

5th IZA Labor Statistics Workshop: The Measurement of Incomes, Living Costs and Standards of Living, July 2022.

Korean Development Institute (KDI) School Impact Evaluation Conference, August 2022

Better than Cash Alliance, June 2022.

Carroll Round Conference, May 2019.

Georgetown University Undergraduate Research Colloquium, April 2019.

Other presentations

Caron, Laura, Grace Maglieri, and Patrick Seitzer. 2018. "The Legacy of the Georgetown College Observatory (D.C.)." 231:126.02.
<http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2018AAS...23112602C>.

Del Gado, Emanuela, and Laura Caron. 2018. "'L'esperienza Di Padre Angelo Secchi Negli USA' (The Experience of Father Angelo Secchi in the USA)." presented for the Science, Territory, and Civil Protection Conference, Istituto Superiore Antincendi, October 23.

Caron, Laura, Cathy Bailey, Tom Neltner, and Doug Farquhar. 2017. "Lead in the Water: Disclosing Lead Service Lines." presented for the National Conference of State Legislatures, December. <http://www.ncsl.org/research/environment-and-natural-resources/lead-in-the-water-disclosing-lead-service-lines.aspx>.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

World Bank (2023). Reimbursable Advisory Services Agreement on Modernizing the Disability Assessment System in Romania. World Bank, <https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/099030424143695132/p1711571a8038c0a41beb91eb8b2540e762>

World Bank (2023). World Development Report 2023: Migrants, Refugees, and Societies. World Bank, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2023>

Sulla, Victor; Zikhali, Precious; Cuevas, Pablo Facundo (2022). *Inequality in Southern Africa : An Assessment of the Southern African Customs Union*. World Bank, Washington, DC. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/099125303072236903/P1649270c02a1f06b0a3ae02e57eadd7a82>

Ahmed, S., Bossavie, L. L. Y., Bartl, E. M., Caron, L. K., Khadka, U., Khan, M., ... & Wang, H. (2020). *Towards Safer and More Productive Migration for South Asia* (No. 147272, pp. 1-153). The World Bank. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/33559>.

World Bank (2020). The Kingdom of Eswatini Toward Equal Opportunity: Accelerating Inclusion and Poverty Reduction. Systematic Country Diagnostic. World Bank, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34970>

World Bank (2020). The Middle Class in the Philippines: An Exploration of the Conditions for Upward Mobility. World Bank, Washington, DC. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34099>

World Bank (2020). Namibia Systematic Country Diagnostic. World Bank, Washington, DC. <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/35434>

World Bank (2020). Eswatini - Economic Recovery Development Policy Loan Project. Washington, D.C.: World Bank Group. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/366911606100452341/Eswatini-Economic-Recovery-Development-Policy-Loan-Project>

COMMENTARY & BLOG POSTS

“Digital banking is the in-thing – but it excludes many users in Tanzania and Senegal.” *The Conversation*. April 17, 2022. <https://theconversation.com/digital-banking-is-the-in-thing-but-it-excludes-many-users-in-tanzania-and-senegal-180092>

“Disability and labour markets in Indonesia.” *Devpolicy*. November 3, 2021. <https://devpolicy.org/disability-and-labour-markets-in-indonesia-20211102/>

“The Pandemic Drove Savings Rates Sky-High. They Still Haven’t Fallen to Earth” (with Erwin Tiongson). *Barron’s*. June 23, 2021. <https://www.barrons.com/articles/the-pandemic-changed-how-we-save-spelling-trouble-for-the-recovery-51624476916>

“The pandemic poverty penalty: how COVID-19 complicates our measure of household well-being” (with Erwin Tiongson). *London School of Economics COVID-19 Blog*. June 15, 2021. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/covid19/2021/06/15/the-pandemic-poverty-penalty-how-covid-19-complicates-our-measure-of-household-well-being/>

“China, India lead in Asia but new growth sources will shake up the global economy” (with Erwin Tiongson). *South China Morning Post*. November 12, 2020. <https://www.scmp.com/comment/opinion/article/3109263/china-india-lead-asia-new-growth-sources-will-shake-global-economy>

“Immigrants are still sending lots of money home despite the coronavirus job losses – for now” (with Erwin Tiongson). *The Conversation*. October 21, 2020. <https://theconversation.com/immigrants-are-still-sending-lots-of-money-home-despite-the-coronavirus-job-losses-for-now-148387>

“How Can Digital Finance Support Agriculture? Using Alternative Data Sources to Support Consumer Protection.” *Responsible Finance Forum* (blog). September 30, 2019. <https://responsiblefinanceforum.org/can-digital-finance-support-agriculture-using-alternative-data-sources-support-consumer-protection/>

“Fintechs and Big Data: Opportunities, Risks, and Approaches to Consumer Data Protection in Kenya and East Africa.” *Responsible Finance Forum* (blog). February 26, 2019. <https://responsiblefinanceforum.org/fintechs-big-data-opportunities-risks-approaches-consumer-data-protection-data-protection-kenya-east-africa/>.

“Leveraging Digital Presence for Consumer Relationships” (with Isabelle Smith). *Responsible Finance Forum* (blog). January 31, 2019. <https://responsiblefinanceforum.org/leveraging-digital-presence-consumer-relationships/>.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“The Heyden Observatory at Georgetown University.” *Historical Astronomy Division (HAD) News: The Newsletter of the Historical Astronomy Division of the American Astronomical Society*. October 2018.

SERVICE & MENTORING

Mentor, Graduate Applications International Network (GAIN). May 2024 – May 2025.

Diversity representative, Columbia University Economics Department Diversity Initiative. September 2022 – present.

Mentor to Master's students, Women in Economics Initiative. November 2022 – July 2024.

Mentor to PhD first-years, Association of Graduate Economics Students at Columbia.
September 2021 – present.

Program organizer, Columbia University Economics Department Diversity Initiative's
Undergraduate Mentoring Program. September 2021 – May 2023.

Mentor to undergraduates, Columbia University Economics Department Diversity Initiative's
Undergraduate Mentoring Program. January 2021 – May 2024.

Mentor to undergraduates, Women in Science at Columbia Mentoring Program. September
2020 – May 2023.