

Kirsten Cornelson

Business Address

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Citizenship	Canadian
Languages	English, French
Research Interests	Social interactions Race and gender differences in economic outcomes Marriage and fertility behaviour
Teaching Interests	Labour economics Public economics Quantitative methods

Education

2008-2010; 2012-present	PhD, Economics, University of Toronto Dissertation: Essays in Labour Economics Committee: Dwayne Benjamin (supervisor), Michael Baker, Aloysius Siow
2008	M.A., Economics, University of Toronto
2007	B.A., Economics and International Relations, Mount Allison University

Awards

2014-2016	University of Toronto Doctoral Completion Award
2012-2013	Tom Easterbrook Award
2012-2013	CLSRN Fellowship
2012-2013	Dorothy J. Powell Graduate Scholarship in International Economics
2010-2012	SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship
2007-2008	Ontario Graduate Scholarship
2005-2007	Millennium National In-Course Award

Publications and Research Papers

Job Market Paper

Cornelson, Kirsten (2016). “Residential segregation and social segregation by race.”

Published papers

Cornelson, Kirsten and Aloysius Siow (2016). “A quantitative review of *Marriage Markets: How Inequality is Remaking the American Family* by Carbone and Cahn.” *Journal of Economic Literature*, 51(1): pp. 1-16.

Completed Working Papers

Cornelson, Kirsten (2016). “Media role models and educational attainment: evidence from *The Cosby Show*.” Ph.D Thesis Chapter.

Baker, Michael and Kirsten Cornelson (2016). “Title IX and the Spatial Content of Female Employment—Out of the Lab and into the Labor Market”. NBER Working Paper no. 22641.

Baker, Michael and Kirsten Cornelson (2016). “Gender based occupational segregation and sex differences in sensory, motor and spatial aptitudes.” NBER working paper no. 22248.

Cornelson, Kirsten (2012) “Immigration, institutions and the labor market.” Second year paper.

Work in progress

Baker, Michael and Kirsten Cornelson. “Gender Skill Differences and Occupational Choice in Canada.”

Baker, Michael and Kirsten Cornelson. “Stature, Occupational Choice and Tipping.”

Professional Experience

Non-Academic

2010-2012 Economist, Royal Bank of Canada

Provided economic analysis of current data and events, for use by internal and external clients. Performed data analysis for long-term research reports. Supported senior members of the Economics team in their preparation of presentations and reports

Teaching

Summer 2013, Course Instructor, University of Toronto
Fall/Winter 2013

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory

2007-2010, 2012-2013 Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto

Intermediate Microeconomic Theory; Economics of Labour; Economic Analysis of Law; Public Economics

2005-2007 Teaching Assistant, Mount Allison University

Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics

Research

2008, 2012-present Research Assistant, University of Toronto

*Michael Baker, labour economics
Matthew Turner, labour economics*

2007 Research Assistant, Mount Allison University

Craig Brett, public economics

Conferences and Invited Seminar Presentations

2016 Canadian Economics Association Annual Meeting
2016 American Economics Association Annual Meeting
2015 Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group Summer Schools on Socioeconomic Inequality
2015 CIREQ Family Economics Workshop

References

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Dissertation Abstract

“Residential Segregation and Social Segregation by Race” (Job market paper)

This paper provides a method to quantitatively assess the importance of residential segregation in explaining social segregation by race in the United States. I present a transferable utility model of social interactions, and argue that the causal effect of distance on social interactions can be captured by individuals’ disutility of travel. I show that, with an estimate of this parameter, I can predict the frequency of cross-racial interactions that would occur if distance was the *only* factor influencing individuals’ interaction decisions. By comparing this to an actual measure of cross-racial interactions, I can assess the extent to which racial homogamy in social interactions is driven by physical distance vs preferences. I implement this decomposition using a novel measure of cross-racial interactions derived from Flickr photographs. I use face detection and race classification software to learn about the frequency with which each Flickr user socializes with members of different races. Geotags on the photos allow me to link Flickr users to cities and neighbourhoods. My measures of the disutility of distance come from two sources: the existing literature on spatially differentiated goods, and my own estimates derived from travel patterns in the Flickr data. I find that preferences play a much stronger role than residential segregation in explaining the disproportionate tendency of Flickr users to socialize with members of their own race. In my preferred specification, residential segregation explains about one-third of the gap between individuals’ actual frequency of cross-racial interactions and the frequency that would occur in a perfectly integrated society. My results suggest that our power to influence cross-racial interactions through residential desegregation policies may be relatively limited.

“Media Role Models and Educational Attainment: Evidence from *The Cosby Show*”

This paper assesses the influence of role models on educational attainment by examining the impact of a popular 1980’s sitcom: *The Cosby Show*. The show portrayed an upper-middle class black family, and frequently emphasized the importance of a college education. If role model effects exist, black teenagers should have responded more strongly to this message. I test this hypothesis by relating educational attainment to city-level *Cosby* ratings during a respondent’s teenage years, using Thursday NBA games as an instrument. I find that *Cosby* increased college attainment by 1.5% among the black sample, but had no effect in the white sample.

“Title IX and the Spatial Content of Female Employment—Out of the Lab and into the Labor Market” (with Michael Baker)

Sports participation is a leading environmental explanation of the male advantage in some spatial skills. We exploit the large increase in females’ high school sports participation due to Title IX to test this hypothesis. We relate Title IX induced increases in females’ sport participation to the spatial content of their occupational employment as captured by Dictionary of Occupational Titles codes, and a test of three dimensional spatial rotation. We find little evidence that this increase in sports participation had an impact on either of these measures.