
Agricultural & Applied Economics
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Laura Schechter
University of Wisconsin, Madison

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

UW Madison, Agricultural & Applied Economics: Assistant Professor, 2005-Present.

UW Madison: Alfred Toepfer Faculty Fellow, 2008-Present.

UW Madison, Center for Demography and Ecology: Faculty Affiliate, 2008-Present.

DEGREES

Ph.D. University of California Berkeley, Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2005.

M.Sc. University of California Berkeley, Agricultural & Resource Economics, 2000.

B.A. University of California Berkeley, Development Studies (Spanish minor), 1996.

PUBLICATIONS

"The Apple and Your Eye: Visual and Taste Rank-Ordered Probit Analysis with Correlated Errors," 2010. *Food Quality and Preference*, 21(1): 112-120.

"Detecting Problems in Survey Data using Benford's Law," with G. Judge, 2009. *Journal of Human Resources*, 44(1): 1-24.

"To Deceive or Not To Deceive: The Effect of Deception on Behavior in Future Laboratory Experiments," with J. Jamison and D. Karlan, 2008. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 68(3-4): 477-488.

"Theft, Gift-Giving, and Trustworthiness: Honesty is Its Own Reward in Rural Paraguay," 2007. *American Economic Review*, 97(5): 1560-1582.

"Risk Aversion and Expected-Utility Theory: A Calibration Exercise," 2007. *Journal of Risk and Uncertainty*, 35(1): 67-76.

"An Empirical Non-Parametric Likelihood Family of Data-Based Benford-Like Distributions," with M. Grendar and G. Judge, 2007. *Physica A: Statistical Mechanics and its Applications*, 380: 429-438.

"Traditional Trust Measurement and the Risk Confound: An Experiment in Rural Paraguay," 2007. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 62(2): 272-292.

"Measuring Vulnerability," with E. Ligon, 2003. *Economic Journal*, 113(486): 95-102.

WORKING PAPERS

"Evaluating Different Approaches to Estimating Vulnerability," with E. Ligon, 2004. World Bank, Social Protection Discussion Paper No. 0410.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Vote Buying and Reciprocity," with F. Finan.

"The Value of Social Networks in Rural Paraguay," with E. Ligon.

WRITE-UPS IN THE (NOT SO) POPULAR PRESS

"Figuring the Net Worth of Trust," 2007. *Grow: Wisconsin's Magazine for the Life Sciences*, 1(1): 27.

"Young Guns: 5 Hot Minds in Economics," 2006. *Yale Economic Review*, 3(1): 30-37.

"To Deceive or not to Deceive? The Economic Consequences of Deception," 2006. *Yale Economic Review*, 3(1): 3.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

USDA-AFRI, 2010–2013 (\$300,000) (with Bradford Barham and Jean-Paul Chavas).
Taylor-Hibbard award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, 2008.
BASIS-CRSP, 2008–2011 (\$600,000) (with Dean Karlan and Jonathan Zinman).
Graduate School Research Committee Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2007–2008 (\$25,000).
USDA Hatch Grant, 2006–2009 (\$50,000).
Chronic Poverty Research Centre Grant, 2006 (\$50,000) (with Michael Carter).
Graduate School Research Committee Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2006–2007 (\$20,000).
Small Grant in Behavioral Economics, Russell Sage Foundation, 2006–2007 (\$2,500).
Small Grant in Behavioral Economics, Russell Sage Foundation, 2002.
Mini-Grant, Institute of Business and Economic Research, 2002.
Mini-Grant, Center for International and Development Economics Research, 2002.
Program in Applied Economics Fellowship, Social Science Research Council, 2001–2002.
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation Fellowship, 1999–2001.
Phi Beta Kappa, University of California, Berkeley, 1996.
Truman Scholarship Finalist, 1995.

TEACHING

University of Wisconsin, Madison. Agricultural & Applied Economics:
Undergraduate level 'Growth and Development'. 2005, 2006.
Undergraduate level 'Latin American Economic Development'. 2006, 2008, 2009.
Undergraduate level 'Economic Problems of Developing Areas'. 2008.
PhD level 'Development Economics'. 2006, 2008.
University of California, Berkeley. Agricultural & Resource Economics:
PhD level 'Math for Economists'. 2003.

WORK EXPERIENCE

World Bank: Short Term Consultant for Peter Lanjouw, 2004.
World Bank: Summer Intern for Steve Knack and Vinaya Swaroop, 2001.
Peace Corps, Paraguay: Agricultural Extensionist, 1996–1998.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2008-2009: BREAD at Duke, MWIEDC at U of Minnesota.
2007-2008: MWIEDC at UW Madison, SITE at Stanford.
2006-2007: BREAD at Yale, CPRC in Manchester, ESA in Tucson.
2005-2006: NEUDC at Brown.
2003-2004: NEUDC at Yale.

INVITED SEMINARS

2008-2009: Dartmouth, Princeton, University of Maryland, University of Wisconsin (Center for Demography and Ecology), Yale.
2007-2008: Duke, Ohio State (Ag Econ), Texas A&M (Ag Econ), University of Maryland.
2006-2007: Purdue (Ag Econ).
2005-2006: Iowa State (Ag Econ), University of Wisconsin (Sociology), World Bank, Yale.

OTHER INFORMATION

Languages

English (native), Spanish (fluent), Guarani (fluent), and Mandarin Chinese (basic).

Referee

AEJ: Applied Economics, Alaska EPSCoR, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, American Economic Review, Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics, Choices, Contemporary Economic Policy, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Empirica, Experimental Economics, International Economic Review, International Economics and Economic Policy, Journal of African Economies, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of International Development, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Land Economics, National Science Foundation, Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, Review of Economic Studies, United States - Israel Binational Agricultural Research and Development Fund (BARD), World Development.

Outside Service

Selected Papers and Posters Committee, AAEA 2008–2012.

Topic Leader for International Development section of 2008 AAEA meetings.

University Committees

Graduate Committee, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW Madison 2008–2009.

International Committee, College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, UW Madison 2008–2009.

Personnel Committee, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW Madison 2007–2008.

Undergraduate Committee, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW Madison 2006–2007.

Graduate Committee, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics, UW Madison 2005–2006.

Admissions Committee, Department of Agricultural & Resource Economics, UC Berkeley 2003–2004.