

# Stefanie Schurer

The University of Sydney  
School of Economics  
Room 370, Merewether Building (H04)  
The University of Sydney  
NSW 2006 Australia

Phone: [+61] (0)2-86271831  
Mobile: [+61] (0)424298907  
[stefanie.schurer@sydney.edu.au](mailto:stefanie.schurer@sydney.edu.au)  
[www.stefanie-schurer.com](http://www.stefanie-schurer.com)  
[Google scholar citations](#)

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## CURRENT POSITION

Associate Professor (with tenure), School of Economics, University of Sydney 2017-  
Charles Perkins Centre, leader of *Economics of Human Development* research node 2016-  
Associate Editor, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization 2017-

## AFFILIATIONS

Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics, University of Chicago, 2015-  
Affiliate of the Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group, 2016-  
Fellow of ARC Centre of Excellence for Children and Families over the Life Course, 2014-  
CESifo Research Network Affiliate, 2014-  
IZA Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor, Bonn, 2012-  
Health, Econometrics, and Data Group (HEDG), University of York, 2007-

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTEREST

Economics of Human Development; Policy Evaluation; Health, Family, Labour, and Education Economics.

## EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Economics	Ruhr Graduate School in Economics, Germany (summa cum laude)	2008
	<i>Committee:</i>	<i>Prof. Christoph M. Schmidt, Prof. Andrew M. Jones</i>	
	Visiting	University of York, United Kingdom	2006
M.Sc.	Economics	University of York, United Kingdom (with merit, GPA 65.6)	2004
Cert.	Economics	University of York, United Kingdom (with distinction, GPA 74.5)	2003
B.A.	Polit. Science	University of Potsdam, Germany (with excellence, GPA 1.4)	2002

## PAST POSITIONS

Senior Lecturer (Assistant Professor), School of Economics, University of Sydney, 2014-2016.  
Senior Lecturer (Assistant Professor), School of Economics and Finance, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, 2011-2013 and RMIT University, Melbourne 2013.  
Research Fellow, Melbourne Institute of Applied Economic and Social Research University of Melbourne, 2008-2010.  
Consultant, World Bank, Madagascar country office, Antananarivo, 2001-2002.

On maternity leave January-June 2013

## LANGUAGES

German (native), English (fluent), French (advanced), Spanish (basic), Swedish (beginner)

## NATIONALITY

German citizen, Australian permanent resident

## PUBLICATIONS

- [22] Kassenboehmer, S., Leung, F. Schurer, S. (2017). University education and noncognitive skill development. *Oxford Economic Papers*, Accepted November 2017.
- [21] Elkins, R., Schurer, S. (2017). Introducing a GP copayment in Australia: Who would carry the cost burden? *Health Policy*. 121(5), 543-552.
- [20] Fletcher, J., Schurer, S. (2017). Origins of adulthood personality: The role of adverse childhood experiences. *BE Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy* 17(2).
- [19] Elkins, R., Kassenboehmer, Schurer, S. (2017). The stability of personality traits during adolescence and young adulthood. *Journal of Economic Psychology* 60, 37-52.
- [18] Schurer, S. (2017). Does education strengthen life skills of adolescents? *IZA World of Labor*. June 366.
- [17] Schurer, S. (2017). Bouncing back from health shocks: Locus of control and labour supply. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 133, 1-20.
- [16] Schurer, S., Kuehnle, D., Scott, A., Cheng, T. (2016). A man's blessing or a woman's curse? The family-earnings gap of doctors. *Industrial Relations: A Journal of Economy and Society* 55(3), 385-414.
- [15] Schurer, S., Alspach, M., MacRae, J., Martin, G. (2016). The medical cost of mood disorders: A coarsened exact matching approach. *The Economic Record* 92(296), 81-93.
- [14] Schurer, S., Yong, J. (2016). Happiness, income, and heterogeneity. *Singapore Economic Review* 61(3), 1-23. By invitation for special issue in memory and honor of Prof. Ezra J. Mishan, Guest editor: Euston Quah, Nanyang Technological University.
- [13] Schurer, S. (2015). Lifecycle patterns in the socioeconomic gradient of risk preferences. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 119, 482-495.
- [12]\* Cobb-Clark, D., Kassenboehmer, S., Schurer, S. (2014). Healthy habits: What explains the connection between diet, exercise, and locus of control? *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 98, 1-28.
- [11] Schurer, S., Shields, M., Jones, A.M. (2014). Socioeconomic inequalities in bodily pain over the lifecycle: Longitudinal evidence from Australia, Britain and Germany. *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A*, 177(4), 783-806.
- [10] Johnston, D., Schurer, S., Shields, M. (2014). Maternal Gender Role Attitudes, Human Capital Investment, and Labour Supply of Sons and Daughters. *Oxford Economic Papers* 66(3), 631-659.
- [9]\* Cobb-Clark, D., Schurer, S. (2013). Two economists' musings on the stability of locus of control. *The Economic Journal* 123(570), F358-F400.
- [8] Johnston, D., Schurer, S., Shields, M. (2013). Exploring the intergenerational persistence of mental health: Evidence from three generations. *Journal of Health Economics* 32(6), 1077-1089.
- [7] Roy, J., Schurer, S. (2013). Getting stuck in the blues: The persistence of depression in Australia. *Health Economics* 22(9), 1139-1157.
- [6]\* Cobb-Clark, D., Schurer, S. (2012). The stability of the Big-Five personality traits. *Economics Letters* 115(1), 11-15.
- [5] Jones, A.M., Schurer, S. (2011). How does heterogeneity shape the socioeconomic gradient in health satisfaction. *Journal of Applied Econometrics* 26(4), 549 – 714.
- [4] Joyce, C. Schurer, S., Scott, A., Humphreys, J., Kalb, G. (2011). Are doctors satisfied with their work? Results from the MABEL longitudinal survey of doctors. *Medical Journal of Australia* 194(1), 30-33.
- [3] Scott, A., Schurer, S., Jensen, P., Sivey, P. (2009). The effects of an incentive program on quality of care in diabetes management. *Health Economics* 18(9), 1091-1108.
- [2] Karanasos, M., Schurer, S. (2008). Is the relationship between inflation and its uncertainty linear? *German Economic Review* 9, 265-286.
- [1] Karanasos, M., Schurer, S. (2005). Is the reduction in output growth related to its uncertainty? The Case of Italy. *WSEAS Transactions in Business and Economics* 2(3), 116-122.

\* Top-3 most cited papers.

## THE CONVERSATION

Elkins, R., Schurer, S. (2017). If GPs pass on cost from rebate freeze, poorer, sicker patients will be hardest hit. *The Conversation*, 31 January 2017.

Elkins, R., Schurer, S. (2017). FactCheck: are bulk-billing rates falling, or at record levels? The Conversation, 10 February 2017.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

Early life health investment and childhood development: Evidence from special care nursery assignment in Australia's Northern Territory (with Kevin Schnepel). In preparation for submission.

Do welfare restrictions improve child health? Estimating the impact of income management in the Northern Territory (with Mary-Alice Doyle and Sven Silburn). In preparation for submission.

The effect of quarantining welfare on school attendance in Indigenous communities (with Deborah Cobb-Clark, Nathan Kettlewell, and Sven Silburn). Submitted *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Baby bonuses and early-life health outcomes: Using a regression discontinuity approach to evaluate the causal impact of an unconditional cash transfer (with John Lynch, Aurelie Meunier, and Rhiannon Pilkington). Submitted *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.

Bonus skills: Examining the effect of an Australian unconditional cash transfer on child development. LCC Working Paper nr 2017-04 (with Jason Gaitz). Submitted *American Economic Journal: Applied*.

Survey item-response behavior as a proxy for unobserved ability: Theory and application. IZA Discussion Paper Nr 8874 (with Sonja Kassenboehmer). Submitted *Journal of Political Economy*.

Non-cognitive skill development over the lifecourse: The role of father involvement in a child's education (with Rosemary Elkins). Submitted *Journal of Human Resources*.

Understanding the mechanisms through which adverse childhood experiences affect lifetime economic outcomes? (with Kristian Trajkovski). Submitted *Economica*.

## **WORK-IN-PROGRESS**

Early signs of exceptional upward mobility and parenting behaviour (with Francisco Azpitarte and Kirsten Hancock)

Do parenting styles affect the effectiveness of educational investments? Theory and empirical evidence

Do non-cognitive skills moderate the impact of socioeconomic disadvantage on student performance? (with Rachael Gibson and Rebecca Edwards)

Exploring the link between obesity and economic preferences (with Chiara Pastore and Agnieszka Tymula)

Child maltreatment and life-time health outcomes: Evidence from the National Child Development Study (with Tara Hariharan)

Preschool participation, school attendance and academic achievement (with Georgie Nutton, John McKenzie and Sven Silburn)

Evidence on occupational up- and downward mobility from three OECD countries (with Angus Wheeler)

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS**

### **HONORS AND AWARDS**

2017	SOAR Fellowship, University of Sydney
2014	Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Award

2013	RMIT University Early Career Researcher of the Year Award
2007	Fellowship of the Overseas Development Institute (declined)
2006	Handelsblatt Fellowship, 2nd Meeting of Nobel Laureates in Lindau
2004-2007	Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach Foundation Postgraduate Fellowship, Ruhr Graduate School in Economics
2004-2007	Economic and Social Research Council Postgraduate Fellowship, University of York (declined)
2004	Teaching Fellowship, University of York (declined)
2003-2004	Postgraduate Fellowship, German Academic Exchange Service
2001	Carlo Schmid Fellowship, German Academic Scholarship Foundation

#### **CATEGORY 1 GRANTS (TOTAL: \$3.8 Million)**

- 2015-2020 National Health and Medical Research Council Centre for Research Excellence (A\$ 2,500,000). EMPOWER. With John Lynch (University of Adelaide) and others.
- 2015-2017 National Health and Medical Research Council Partnership Grant (A\$924,761) with Sven Silburn (Menzies School of Health Research, Charles Darwin University) and others. Improving the developmental outcomes of Northern Territory children: a datalinkage study to inform policy and practice in health, family services and education
- 2014-2017 Australian Research Council Discovery Early Career Award (DECRA) (Fellowship). Exceptional Upward Mobility Against All Odds: Non-cognitive skills and Early Childhood Disadvantage. (A\$380,000)

#### **SMALLER GRANTS (TOTAL \$30K)**

- 2015 Australian Research Council Centre for Research Excellence' (Life Course Centre). Seed Funding (A\$30,000). The role of human capabilities in facilitating change: Evidence from a randomised controlled trial to assist at risk patients in losing and maintaining weight (with Agnieszka Tymula).

#### **SYDNEY UNIVERSITY INTERNAL GRANTS (Total \$230K)**

- 2017 DVC-Research SOAR Fellowship \$150,000.
- 2017 Sydney Policy Lab's 2017 Collaborative Projects grants \$22,500 (with Amy Conley Wright).
- 2017 Strategic Research Excellence Initiative (SREI) award: Behavioral Economics Applied Policy (BEAP) Lab \$25,000.
- 2016 FASS Faculty Research Support Scheme \$21,827 (with Agnieszka Tymula).
- 2015 FASS Research Incubator \$5,000.
- 2015 FASS Workshop funding \$5,000.

#### **CURRENT DATA-COLLECTION PROJECTS**

**Since Nov 2014:** Ongoing

**Data:** Linked administrative data Northern Territory on all children born in the NT since 1994. Perinatal, Healthy Children under 5, Immunisation, Hospitalisation data, School attendance data, Australian Early Development Census, NAPLAN, Child Protection Services, Criminal justice system, and information on various early childhood interventions (N=4000 children per birth cohort).

**Aim:** Study dynamics and determinants of human and health capital formation over the life course. Cost-effectiveness evaluation of various early-childhood interventions such as Families as First Teachers.

**Funding:** NHMRC Partnership grant

**Collaborators:** Sven Silburn (Menzies School of Health Research, Charles Darwin University)

**Since Jan 2016:** Ongoing

**Data:** Linked administrative data on all children born in South Australia since 1999 (same data sources as Project 1 NT), survey and medical examination data. Two randomised control trials will be conducted with the Women's and Children's Hospital and General Practice to improve parenting. (N= 17,000 children per birth cohort).

**Aim:** Study dynamics and determinants of human and health capital formation over the life course, evaluate cost-effectiveness of various early childhood parenting interventions.

**Funding:** NHMRC Centre for Research Excellence

**Collaborators:** John Lynch (School of Public Health, University of Adelaide)

**Since July 2015:** Ongoing

**Data:** Experimental and survey data from at-risk patients who are part of a randomised control trial at the RPA Hospital (N=400).

**Aim:** Identify personality and preference profiles that are associated with success in lifestyle interventions and assess the malleability of personality and preferences.

**Funding:** ARC Life Course Centre Seed Funding

**Collaborators:** Agnieszka Tymula, Ian Caterson, Nicholas Fuller (both Boden Institute)

**Since April 2015:** Completed

**Data:** Survey data and linked administrative data on first-year students at University of Sydney (N=720).

**Aim:** Study the returns to non-cognitive skills of disadvantaged students at University of Sydney.

**Funding:** ARC Early Career Discovery Grant

**Collaborators:** Rebecca Edwards, Colm Harmon.

## TEACHING

[Teaching evaluations in brackets]

*Scheduled:*

Intermediate Microeconomics, Year 2, 2018, Undergraduate level, University of Sydney

Health Economics and Policy Evaluation, Master, 2018, Postgraduate level, University of Sydney

*Completed:*

Health Economics and Policy Evaluation (July-October 2015, 2016), Postgraduate level, University of Sydney, Course Coordinator. New course design. [2015 average 4.2; 2016, average 4.7; 5 is the best score]

Econometric modelling in health economics (January 2014), Ludwig-Maximilian University Munich, Germany, short course, February 2014.

Financial Econometrics. Postgraduate, RMIT University, Australia (July-Oct 2013), Course coordinator  
Advanced Econometrics B (ECON 409), Honours-year, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (July-October 2011, 2012), Course coordinator [Very good 1.5-2.1; 1 is the best score]

Applied Econometrics (ECON 303), Year 3, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand (September-October 2011, July-October 2012), Course coordinator. [Very good 1.8-2.1; 1 is the best score]

Business Statistics (QUAN 102), Year 1, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand (May-June 2011). [Excellent 1.4; 1 is the best score]

Mini-lecture at Ruhr Graduate School in Economics on Modelling Heterogeneity in Health Econometrics, 1st year PhD level (July 2009).

Teaching Assistant: Microeconometrics at Ruhr Graduate School in Economics, 1st Year PhD level (May-July 2006 & May-July 2007).

Research Seminar in Applied Economics: The Economics of Substance Abuse, graduate level at University of Bochum (May-July 2007).

## SUPERVISION

*Completed*

[1] 2011 - John Roy, Honours thesis. The persistence of mental health problems (dynamic panel data analysis). Victoria University of Wellington. (Funded summer research internship)

[2] 2012 - Michael Alspach, Honours thesis. The economic burden of depression (Matching estimator and administrative panel data analysis in collaboration with Compass Health, NZ). Victoria University of Wellington. (Funded summer research internship)

[3] 2015 - Edward Francmanis, Master thesis, University of York. Early-Life Health Investments and Human Capital Formation: Evidence from Special Care Nursery Assignment in the Northern Territory. Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney (scholarship funded). Joint with Dr Kevin Schnepel.

[4] 2015 - Tara Hariharan, Honours thesis. Adverse childhood experiences and adulthood health outcomes. Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney.

- [5] 2015-2016. Rosemary Elkins, Master thesis project and Charles Perkins Centre Summer Scholar. Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney. (Funded summer research internship)
- [6] 2016-Jason Gaitz, Honours thesis. Baby bonus and human capital development. Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney.
- [7] 2016- Chiara Pastore, Master thesis, University of York. Health behaviors and economic preferences. Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney (scholarship funded) (with Agnieszka Tymula).
- [8] 2017: Yuhan Xu, CPC Summer Scholar (with Marian Vidal Fernandez and Susan Carrick). (Funded summer research internship).
- [9] 2017: Aurelie Meunier, University of York, Master thesis, Baby Bonus and children's health outcomes, Charles Perkins Centre, University of Sydney (scholarship funded) (with John Lynch).

*Current*

- [10] Since 2014 -Shun (Felix) Leung, PhD thesis, University of Sydney (scholarship funded).
- [11] Since 2017: Mary-Alice Doyle, Master thesis.
- [12] Since 2017: Nathan Kettlewell, postdoctoral researcher (with Deborah Cobb-Clark)
- [13] Since 2017: Schrisch Mohammed Hussein, PhD thesis, ANU (with Juergen Meineke)
- [14] [15] [16] Since 2017: Honours students: Angus Wheeler, Kristian Trajkowski, Rachael Gibson

**RECENT PRESENTATIONS & RESEARCH VISITS**  
**VISITING SCHOLAR**

Visiting Scholar, University of Chicago, Department of Economics and Centre for the Economics of Human Development; Host: James J. Heckman (April-June 2015; May 2016; Oct-Nov 2017).  
 Visiting Scholar Centre for Economic Studies (CES), Ludwig-Maximilian University, Munich, Germany via CES Research Visitor Program (13 January-8 February 2014).

**RECENT SEMINARS/CONFERENCES**

*Seminars and Conferences in 2017:* University of Chicago (13 November), Cornell University (7 November), RMIT University (13 October), University of Melbourne (11, 12 October), University of Otago (15 September), Victoria University of Wellington (14 September), Australian National University (April, August), University of Technology Sydney (5, 6 April), Macquarie University (31 March). Scheduled: Inaugural Meeting of the Australasian Society of Labour Economists, ANU, Canberra 7-9 Dec, Special session: "Economics of Human Development". ARC Life Course Centre Conference, 26 October, European Association of Labour Economists Meeting, St Gallen, 21-23 September, Verein fuer Socialpolitik, Vienna, 5-6 September. WOLFE Workshop, University of York 4 September, Australian Conference of Economists, Special Session: "Economics of Human Development", 21 July, Department of Health and Behavioral Insights Unit Meeting, 13 July 13, Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Meeting, Raleigh, NC, 5-6 May.

*Seminars and Conferences in 2016:* University of Queensland (24 October), University of Chicago (25, 27 May) IZA Bonn (4-9 July), University of Munich LMU (14 June), Women's and Children's Health Network Adelaide (26 April), Early Child Development Workshop, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, 28-29 August, Bavarian Graduate Program in Economics Mini Workshop, 29-30 June, Ce Squared Workshop and CENEA, CEMMAP, Warsaw 27-28 June, Essen Health Conference on Fertility, 27-29 May

*Seminars and Conferences in 2015:* University of Chicago (9 June), University of Wisconsin-Madison (13 May), Congress of the European Economic Association, August (Rep by Sonja Kassenboehmer), Australian Conference of Economists, July (Represented by Felix Leung), Western Economic Association International, Wellington, New Zealand, 8-11 January.

**LEADERSHIP**

- Nomination into and core member of the University of Sydney steering committee to draft the academic strategy for “Westmead: Beyond the Sum of its Parts” (delegated by the Vice Chancellor of University of Sydney) 2017-
- Nomination into the Northern Territory Prime Minister and Cabinet Proof of Concept Study “Indigenous Early Childhood Interventions” as part of Malcolm Turnbull’s Innovation Statement. 2015-
- Establishing a [research node](#) within the Charles Perkins Centre: “Economic of Human Development” 2014-

## ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

- Scheduled:* Co-organisation of Labour Econometrics Workshop (LEW), School of Economics, University of Sydney, August 2018 (with Kevin Schnepel and Deborah Cobb-Clark).
- Organisation of a 1-day mini-workshop, “Participation in crime and STEM education: the role of a child’s gender and sibling-gender composition” 1 December 2017, School of Economics, University of Sydney.
- Co-organisation of a 1-day workshop “The Social Science of Obesity” 1 April 2016. Charles Perkins Centre (with Alfredo Paloyo and Deborah Cobb-Clark)
- Organisation of one-day workshop “Workshop on early childhood and adolescence: interventions to improve parenting, health, and behavioral outcomes”, 4 Dec 2015. Charles Perkins Centre. (with Kevin Schnepel).
- Organisation of 1 ½ -day workshop “Upward Mobility, Cognitive and Non-cognitive skills, and the Role of Policy”, 13-14 November 2014, Charles Perkins Centre.
- Organisation of 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Applied Health Economics Workshop at Victoria University Wellington in collaboration with the Health Services Research Centre, 31 October 2011 and 2012.
- Organisation of the weekly Microeconometrics Workshop at the Department of Economics, University of Melbourne (July 2009-June 2010).
- Organisation of a 1-day-workshop on “Methods in panel and cohort data” (16 April 2010) at the Department of Economics and Melbourne Institute, University of Melbourne.

## REFERENCES

### **John Cawley**

Professor  
Cornell University  
Policy Analysis and Management  
2312 Martha Van Rensselaer Hall  
Ithaca, New York  
Phone: +1 607-255-0952  
Email: [jhc38@cornell.edu](mailto:jhc38@cornell.edu)

### **James J. Heckman**

The Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor  
in Economics and the College  
The University of Chicago  
Department of Economics  
Centre for the Economics of Human Development  
5757 S. University Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637  
Phone: +1 773 702-0300 (Assistant Maria Beck)  
Email: [jheckman@uchicago.edu](mailto:jheckman@uchicago.edu)

### **Robert Slonim**

Professor & Research Director of the Behavioural  
Economics Team of the Australian Government  
The University of Sydney  
School of Economics  
Merewether Building Room 370  
Sydney, NSW 2006  
Phone: +61 2 9036 9187  
Email: [robert.slonim@sydney.edu.au](mailto:robert.slonim@sydney.edu.au)

### **Joachim Winter**

Professor  
Ludwig-Maximilian Universität München  
Department for Empirical Economic Research  
Ludwigstraße 33  
80539 Munich  
Phone: +49 89 2180 2459  
Email: [Winter@lmu.de](mailto:Winter@lmu.de)