

# TARA WATSON

Williams College  
Department of Economics  
Schapiro Hall  
24 Hopkins Hall Drive  
Williamstown, MA 01267

[Tara.Watson@williams.edu](mailto:Tara.Watson@williams.edu)

---

## Current Positions

**Williams College, Associate Professor**, July 2011 to present. Department of Economics.

**National Bureau of Economic Research, Research Associate**, October 2011 to present. Health Economics Program.

## Education

**Harvard University, Ph.D. in Economics**, June 2003.  
Thesis Title: The Determinants and Consequences of Residential Isolation.

**Wesleyan University, B.A. in Economics**, May 1996.  
Phi Beta Kappa and University Honors.

## Research Fields

Primary: Health Economics, Urban Economics, Economic Demography.  
Additional Fields of Study: Labor Economics, Public Economics.

## Previous Research and Teaching Experience

**Williams College, Assistant Professor**, July 2004 to June 2011. Department of Economics.

**National Bureau of Economic Research, Faculty Research Fellow**, December 2006 to September 2011. Health Economics Program.

**University of Michigan, Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research**, August 2007 to July 2009.

**Princeton University, Postdoctoral Research Associate**, September 2003 to July 2004. Office of Population Research and Center for Research on Child Wellbeing.

**National Bureau of Economic Research, Research Assistant**, June to August 1999.  
Research Assistant to Claudia Goldin and Lawrence Katz.

**Harvard University, Teaching Fellow**, September 2000 to May 2001.  
Teaching Fellow for Social Analysis 10 taught by Martin Feldstein.

**Brookings Institution, Research Assistant**, August 1996 to July 1998.  
Research Assistant to Clifford Winston.

### Articles

Watson, Tara, 2010. "Inside the Refrigerator: Immigration Enforcement and Chilling in Immigrant Medicaid Participation." **National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 16278**.

Watson, Tara, and Sara McLanahan, 2011. "Marriage Meets the Joneses: Relative Income, Identity, and Marital Status." *Journal of Human Resources* 46: 568-586. (Earlier draft: National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 14773, March 2009.)

Beeson, Patricia, Lara Shore-Sheppard, and Tara Watson, 2010. "Local Fiscal Policies and Urban Wage Structures." *Public Finance Review* 38: 540-584.

Watson, Tara, 2009. "Inequality and the Measurement of Residential Segregation by Income." *Review of Income and Wealth* 55: 820-844. (Earlier draft: National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 14908, April 2009.)

Fertig, Angela, and Tara Watson, 2009. "Minimum Drinking Ages and Infant Health Outcomes." *Journal of Health Economics* 28: 737-747. (Earlier draft: National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 14118, June 2008.)

Watson, Tara, 2006. "Public Health Investments and the Infant Mortality Gap: Evidence from Federal Sanitation Interventions on U.S. Indian Reservations." *Journal of Public Economics* 90: 1537-1560.

Watson, Tara, 2006. "Inequality, Metropolitan Growth, and Residential Segregation by Income," in *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs*. Gary Burtless and Janet Rothenberg Pack, eds.

Morrison, Steven. A., Clifford Winston, and Tara Watson, 1999. "Fundamental Flaws of Social Regulation: The Case of Airplane Noise." *Journal of Law and Economics* 42: 723-43.

### Shorter Pieces

Watson, Tara, "Marriage Meets the Joneses," Vox EU, May 5, 2009, (<http://www.voxeu.org/index.php?q=node/3533>).

Watson, Tara, "Book Review: The Geography of American Poverty: Is There a Need for Place-Based Policies? by Mark D. Partridge and Dan S. Rickman," *Journal of Regional Science*, 2007, 47(5), pp.1002-1004.

Watson, Tara, "New Housing, Income Inequality, and Distressed Metropolitan Areas," *Brookings Metropolitan Policy Program Policy Brief Series*, 2007.

### **Work in Progress**

Watson, Tara, Lucie Schmidt, and Lara Shore-Sheppard, “The Effect of Safety Net Programs on Food Insecurity,” in progress.

Watson, Tara, and Dean Yang, “Barriers to Medicaid Participation Among Immigrants: Experimental Evidence,” in progress.

Gordon, Nora, and Tara Watson, “School Choice and ‘Excess’ School Segregation: Does School Choice Policy Explain Which Districts Have Schools More Segregated than their Neighborhoods?,” in progress.

### **Grants**

University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, Research Program on Childhood Hunger Small Grant, “The Effect of Safety Net Programs on Food Insecurity.” Grant Period June 2011 to September 2012.

West Coast Poverty Center Small Grant Competition, “Inside the Refrigerator: Welfare Reform, Immigration Enforcement, and Chilling Effects in Immigrant Medicaid Participation.” Grant Period September 2009 to August 2010.

University of Michigan National Poverty Center Small Grant Competition, “Barriers to Medicaid Participation Among Immigrants.” Grant Period March 2009 to March 2010.

Williams College Department of Economics Henry George Fund, “Excess School Segregation: Are Schools More Segregated than Neighborhoods, and Why?” Grant Period August 2009.

### **Invited Presentations and Seminars (Non-Job Market)**

2012: Williams College Faculty Lecture Series (expected March), University of Maryland at Baltimore (expected March).

2011: Population Association of America Economic Demography Workshop, SUNY University at Albany.

2010: American Society for Health Economists Meetings, National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute, University of New Hampshire, Wesleyan University, Williams College, University of California at Irvine.

2009: American Public Policy and Management Annual Meeting, Communities Mobilizing for Change on Alcohol Research Lecture Series, Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Public Finance Review Special Conference, Robert Wood Johnson Scholars in Health Policy Program Annual Meeting, Southeastern Health Economics Study Group Conference, University of Michigan.

2008: Harvard University, RAND Corporation, Robert Wood Johnson Scholars in Health Policy Program Annual Meeting, Society of Labor Economists, Southern Economic Association, University of Michigan, University of Notre Dame.

2007: University of Michigan, Eastern Economic Association Meetings.

### Invited Presentations and Seminars (continued)

2006: American Society of Health Economists, Regional Science and Urban Economics Conference, University of California at Berkeley, University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

2005: Brookings-Wharton Conference on Urban Affairs.

2004: MacArthur Network Conference, Population Association of America.

2003: Columbia University, National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute, Princeton University.

### Fellowships and Honors

**Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research**, August 2007 to July 2009.

**Harvard Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy Doctoral**

**Fellow**, September 1999 to June 2003.

**Social Science Research Council Program in Applied Economics Fellow**, September 2001 to August 2002.

**Lincoln Land Institute Dissertation Fellow**, August 2001.

**National Science Foundation Graduate Student Fellow**, September 1998 to August 2001.

**Wesleyan University, Phi Beta Kappa Society and University Honors**, May 1996.

### Referee/Reviewer/Discussant Experience

*AcademyHealth Conference, American Economic Association meetings, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, Berkeley Electronic Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, Canadian Journal of Economics, Contemporary Economic Policy, Eastern Economic Journal, Health Economics, Housing Policy Debate, National Science Foundation, Journal of Economic Education, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Research, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs, Journal of Urban Economics, Mellon 23 Workshop on Economic History and Development, Proceedings of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economics of the Household, Review of Economic Inequality, Social Forces, Social Science and Medicine, State and Local Government Review.*

### Media Coverage

Inequality and the Measurement of the Residential Segregation by Income, covered by: Wall Street Journal Real Time Economics blog, April 2009, The Republic newspaper (Columbus, IN) and Bloomberg News, November 2011.

Minimum Drinking Age Laws and Infant Health Outcomes, covered by: Foxnews.com, Reuters Health, and more than a dozen other media outlets, May-June 2009.

### **Courses (Williams College)**

Econ 019 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (Winter Study 2005, Winter Study 2006, expected Winter Study 2011)  
 Econ 110 Introductory Microeconomics (Fall 2005, Spring 2006)  
 Econ 205 Public Finance (Fall 2004)  
 Econ 255 Econometrics (Spring 2006, Spring 2007, Spring 2010, Spring 2011, expected Spring 2012)  
 Econ 456 Poverty and Place (Fall 2006, this course included the supervision of 18 original empirical research projects.)  
 Econ 468 Your Money or Your Life: Health Disparities in the United States (Fall 2009, this course included the supervision of 9 original empirical research projects, Fall 2011.)  
 Econ 510 Econometrics (CDE Masters Level, Fall 2005, Fall 2006, Fall 2009, Fall 2011)  
 Econ 511 Econometrics Combined Section (CDE Masters Level, Fall 2004)

### **College-Wide Service**

Committee on Educational Policy, elected by the Faculty (February 2010-present)  
 Committee on Undergraduate Life (September 2006-June 2007 and September 2009-February 2010)  
 Chair Minority Coalition Funding Subcommittee of CUL (September 2009-February 2010)  
 Co-chair Diversity Subcommittee of CUL (September 2006-June 2007)  
 Panelist for Students for Social Justice Dinner on Health Reform (Fall 2009)  
 Speaker for Women's Center Lunch on Health Reform (Fall 2009)  
 Mead Internship Committee (September 2005-May 2006)  
 Advisory Committee on Shareholder Responsibility (January 2006-June 2007)

### **Departmental Service**

Economics Department Hiring Committee (September 2011-June 2012)  
 Economics Department Director of Research (September 2009-June 2010)  
 Economics Department Graduate/Post-graduate Advisor (September 2005-June 2007)  
 Co-organizer Brown Bag Lunch (September 2005-December 2006)

### **Research Supervision and Advising**

Wendy Magoronga, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2011)  
 Alexa Lutchten, Thesis Advisor and Van Duyne Supervisor (Summer 2010-Spring 2011)  
 Leland Brewster, Thesis Advisor (Fall 2010-Spring 2011)  
 Leland Brewster, Research Assistant Supervisor (Spring 2010)  
 Corey Paulish, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2009)  
 Joanna Hoffman, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2009)  
 Aatif Abbas, Research Assistant Supervisor (Summer 2006)  
 David Phillips, Independent Study (Fall 2010 and Winter 2011)  
 Courtney Gainer, Independent Study (Fall 2006 and Winter 2007)  
 Amelia Hawkins, Independent Study (Winter 2006)  
 Mia Desimone, Second Reader of Anthropology Thesis (2009-2010)  
 Candice Corvetti, Second Reader of Thesis (2006-2007)  
 Andrew Pocius, Second Reader of Thesis (2005-2006)  
 Andra Hibbert, Second Reader of Thesis (2004-2005)