

Maria Fitzpatrick

Web Bio

Information

Biography

Biographical Statement

Maria Donovan Fitzpatrick is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Policy and Management. She is also an Affiliate in the CESifo Research Network. Her main area of focus is the economics of education. Specifically her research interests are focused on early childhood education policies and teacher labor markets.

Before arriving at Cornell Maria Fitzpatrick was a Searle Freedom Trust postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Economic Policy Research at Stanford University. She received her Ph.D. in economics from the University of Virginia, where she was both an Institute for Education Sciences and Spencer Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellow. She obtained her B.A. in economics from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Professional

Research

Current Research Activities

In her research, Dr. Fitzpatrick's focuses on two broad themes:

Early childhood education policies: Recent decades have seen increased interest in early childhood education and care programs as a way to promote children's development and family well-being. This increased interest has led to increased government intervention of various forms, from regulation to government provision. Fitzpatrick's work has examined the effects of government provision of early childhood education (namely universal pre-k) on children's long-term academic achievement and family decision making about child care use and parental labor supply. More recently, Fitzpatrick and her colleagues are examining the effects of both government provision in and regulation of the early childhood care industry on the supply side (workers and firms) of the industry.

Teacher labor markets: The quality of children's schooling experiences has been closely linked to the quality of the individuals students receive as teachers. Many local, state and federal policies are putting increased focus towards improving schools while the recent downturn has put the fiscal decisions of the public sector under close scrutiny. Understanding how teachers make decisions about where to work and how long to work, particularly in response to their government provided wages and benefits, is therefore an imperative.

Fitzpatrick's work has focused on whether public school employees value their retirement benefits at the same level it costs taxpayers to provide them. She is investigating how incentives between state and local governments that arise implicitly in the structure of teacher compensation affect the pattern of teacher wages. With colleagues, she is also examining how responsive teachers are to retirement incentives and what effect the removal of senior teachers has on children's academic achievement.

Extension

Education

Education

- B.A., economics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2000
- M.A., economics, University of Virginia, 2004
- Ph.D., economics, University of Virginia, 2008

Courses

Courses Taught

PAM 5010: Education Policy

PAM 6370: Microeconomics for Policy Analysis

Websites

Related Websites

http://www.human.cornell.edu/pam/people/maria_fitzpatrick.cfm

<http://www.cpp.cornell.edu/>

<http://www.cesifo-group.de/portal/page/portal/ifoHome>

<http://ciser.cornell.edu/NYCRDC/home.shtml>

Administration

Publications

Selected Publications

“Revising Our Thinking about the Relationship between Maternal Labor Supply and Preschool.” Forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*.

“What a Difference a Day Makes: Estimating the Effects of Kindergarten on Children’s Test Scores.” with David Grissmer and Sarah Hastedt. 2011. *Economics of Education Review*. Vol. 30: Issue 2, pp. 269-279.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0272775710001184>

"Preschoolers Enrolled and Mothers at Work? The Effects of Universal Pre-Kindergarten." 2010. *Journal of Labor Economics*. Vol 28: No 1, pp. 51-85.
<http://www.jstor.org/stable/full/10.1086/648666>

"Starting School at Four: The Effect of Universal Pre-Kindergarten on Children's Academic Achievement," 2008. *The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*: Vol. 8: No. 1 (Advances), Article 46. Available at:
<http://www.bepress.com/bejeap/vol8/iss1/art46>.