

LAURA CONNOLLY

Curriculum Vitae

CONTACT INFORMATION

Michigan Technological University
College of Business
1400 Townsend Drive
Academic Office Building 125
Houghton, MI 49931

Office: Academic Office Building 125
Phone: (906) 487-2809
Email: leconn@mtu.edu
Website: www.lauraeconnolly.com
CV Last Updated: July 2024

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Economics 2018 – present
Michigan Technological University, Houghton, MI

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics (Research Area: Labor Economics) 2018
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL

B.A. Mathematics; B.A. Economics (minor in Public Policy) 2013
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labor Economics, Economics of Gender, Public Policy, Applied Microeconomics

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. “Regional Economic Impact of University Research Expenditures” with Jenny Apriesnig, Emanuel Xavier-Oliveira and Kathleen Halvorsen, *Studies in Higher Education*, 1 – 26.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/03075079.2024.2376262>
2. “Labor Mobility and the Affordable Care Act: Heterogeneous Impacts of the Preexisting Conditions Provision” with Matt Hampton and Otto Lenhart, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* (2024), 43(1), 157 – 191. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pam.22521>
3. “Understanding the Gender Wage Gap Among City Managers” with Jennifer Connolly, *Journal of Economic Insight* (2023), 49(2), 37 – 105.
<https://journalofeconomicinsight.com/index.php/joei/article/view/1308>
4. “Is There a Glass Cliff in Local Government Management? Examining the Hiring and Departure of Women” with Lang Kate Yang and Jennifer Connolly, *Public Administration Review* (2022), 82(3), 570 – 584. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13471>
5. “The Effects of a Trade Shock on Gender-Specific Labor Market Outcomes in Brazil,” *Labour Economics* (2022), Vol. 74. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2021.102085>
6. “Who Creates Stable Jobs? Evidence from Brazil” with Peter Brummund, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics* (2019), Vol. 81(3), 540 – 563. <https://doi.org/10.1111/obes.12273>
7. “Evaluating the Impact of the Labor Market Conditions Index on Labor Market Forecasts” with Alice Sheehan, *Studies in Nonlinear Dynamics and Econometrics* (2018), Vol. 22 (1).
<https://doi.org/10.1515/snede-2016-0102>

WORKING PAPERS & WORKS IN PROGRESS

[“Temporal Changes to the Added Worker Effect Associated with Spousal Job Loss”](#) with Nicholas A. Jolly
(*Under Review*) GLO Discussion Paper, No. 1454

Abstract: This paper utilizes the 1968-2019 survey waves of the Panel Study of Income Dynamics to analyze the added worker effect for wives of husbands who lose their job through no fault of their own. Specifically, we focus on the potential changes to the added worker effect over time. For wives who were non-employed prior to their husbands’ job loss, our results show that the added worker effect has declined over time; the effect is U-shaped for wives working part-time pre-displacement. Further, heterogeneity exists across age groups. The added worker effect is largest and more persistent across decades for women who are relatively younger at the time of their husbands’ job loss, ages 20-39. Although the magnitude of the added worker effect declined from the 1970s to the 2000s, it is still a mechanism through which households adjust to spousal job loss, particularly part-time working wives shifting to full-time employment. Finally, displaced husbands are increasingly more likely to be employed part-time following their own displacement.

“Revisiting The Effect of the Affordable Care Act Medicaid Expansion on Migration” with Matt Hampton and Otto Lenhart

Abstract: We revisit the impact of the Affordable Care Act’s Medicaid expansion on interstate migration to determine the longer-run migratory effects of the policy. Using American Community Survey data from 2010-2019 and a difference-in-differences (DiD) research design, we test for changes in migratory trends between expansion and non-expansion states. In contrast with prior findings examining short-run effects, we find evidence of increased migration from non-expansion to expansion-states among those with Medicaid coverage after the policy change. Staggered DiD methods indicate that increases in net migration to expansion states are driven by reduced out-migration from expansion states.

“Labor Market Dynamics and Trade with China: The Case of Brazil” with Peter Brummund

Abstract: Many countries continue to integrate into the world economy, increasing their reliance on international trade. Increased trade often creates large gains dispersed across the economy and losses focused on some sectors and workers. The negative impacts of trade can be mitigated if workers can easily adjust to the changing landscape, and the ability to adjust may differ by gender. We analyze the impact of both increased imports from China and exports to China on labor market adjustments in Brazil, separately by gender. We use administrative panel data for the formal labor market in Brazil for years 2004 to 2013. In contrast to previous findings, our results show that microregions more exposed to increased exports see an increase in both in-migration and out-migration, whereas microregions more exposed to increased imports see a decrease in out-migration. We also find that exposure to trade increases worker transitions to the traded sector and reduces transitions to non-employed; males consistently exhibit slightly stronger responses than females.

“What’s in a Job Ad? An Exploration of Gender Differences in Preferred Job Attributes” with Cali Curley and Jennifer Connolly

Abstract: Despite women’s gains in the labor market in recent decades, gender differentials in top management positions persist. We examine women’s underrepresentation in top management positions by focusing on labor supply and gender preferences for job attributes associated with top management positions. We use a survey of mid-level managers in local government organizations and a discrete choice model to determine preferences for workplace flexibility, stability, and public engagement across men and women. Then, we determine how these preferences impact career aspirations related to pursuing higher-level management positions via city management, the chief executive officer in most local government organizations. The literature often surveys undergraduate students with limited work experience. Thus, our sample is of particular interest since each respondent is actively employed and has exposure to higher-level management positions in their respective organization. The results will help inform whether job attributes commonly associated with top management positions are a barrier towards improving women’s representation.

EXTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS FUNDED

1. PI, “Regional Economic Impacts of Dredging the Menominee River Harbor” with Jenny Apriesnig and Travis White, Funded by the City of Menominee (2023); Project Value: \$69,218.
2. Co-PI, Economic Impact Analysis* with Jenny Apriesnig and Emanuel Xavier-Oliveira; Funded by a federal government agency (2023 – 2025); Economic Analysis Value: \$156,547.
*Note: Full details cannot be listed due to “Do Not Share” clause from sponsor.
3. Co-PI, "EPA Environmental Finance Center for the Great Lakes Region (EPA Region 5)" with Timothy Colling, Martin Auer, Gary Campbell, Robert Handler, Donald Lafreniere, Daisuke Minakata, Emanuel

Xavier-Oliveira, Funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (2023 – 2028); Year 1 Project Value: \$119,998.

4. Co-PI, “Eagle Mine Economic Impact Study” with Emanuel Xavier-Oliveira, Jenny Apriesnig, Mari Buche, and Gary Campbell, Funded by Business for Social Responsibility and Lundin Mining (2021); Project Value: \$84,659.

INTERNAL RESEARCH GRANTS FUNDED

1. PI, “Economic Impact of Houghton’s Airport Service (CMX)” with Jenny Apriesnig and Emanuel Xavier-Oliveira, Funded by MTU’s University Relations and Enrollment Office (2022); Project Value: \$23,741.
2. Co-PI; “Regional Economic Impact of Michigan Tech’s Research Expenditures” with Jenny Apriesnig and Emanuel Xavier-Oliveira (2022), Funded by MTU’s Vice President for Research Office; Project Value: \$20,032.
3. PI, “Does CEO Gender Matter? Implications for Establishment Performance and the Glass Cliff Phenomenon in the State of Michigan,” Funded by MTU’s Research Excellence Fund (2020); Project Value: \$6,491.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

1. “Local Economic Impacts of Deepening the Menominee Harbor” with Jenny Apriesnig and Travis White. Prepared for the City of Menominee, 2024.
2. “Eagle Mine Economic Impact Report” with Emanuel Xavier-Oliveira, Jenny Apriesnig, Mari Buche, Gary Campbell, Roger McElrath, and Marianna Riquelme. Prepared for Lundin Mining, 2022.
3. “Economic Impact of Changes in Passenger Air Service at Houghton County Memorial Airport” with Jenny Apriesnig and Emanuel Xavier-Oliveira. Prepared for Michigan Tech’s University Relations and Enrollment Office, 2022.
4. “Regional Economic Impact of Michigan Tech’s Externally Sponsored Research Expenditures” with Jenny Apriesnig and Emanuel Xavier-Oliveira. Prepared for Michigan Tech’s Vice President for Research Office, 2022.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED SEMINARS

2024: Southern Economic Association (Scheduled November 2024); Midwest Economic Association Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Sessions

2023: Southern Economic Association; U.S. International Trade Commission Seminar Series (Invited); Marquette University Research Seminar (Invited); Midwest Economic Association SOLE Sessions

2022: Southern Economic Association; Liberal Arts College Labor and Public Economics Conference; Midwest Economic Association SOLE Sessions

2021: Southern Economic Association

2020: Southern Economic Association; Eastern Economic Association

2019: Southern Economic Association; Association for Public Policy and Management (International)

2018: Southern Economic Association; Southeastern International/Development Economics Workshop

2017: Southern Economic Association; Eastern Economic Association; American Economic Association (Poster Session); Wake Forest University Seminar Series

2016: Southern Economic Association; U.S. International Trade Commission Office of Economics

2015: Southern Economic Association (2x)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Courses taught at Michigan Technological University

EC 3400, Economic Decision Analysis (17 sections)

Average of 118 students per section; Average student evaluation of 4.53/5

EC 3002, Microeconomic Theory (3 sections)

Average of 30 students per section; Average student evaluation of 4.65/5

EC 4710, Labor/Human Resource Economics (3 sections)

Average of 14 students per section; Average student evaluation of 4.85/5

Courses taught at University of Alabama

EC 308, Intermediate Microeconomics (3 sections)

AWARDS & HONORS

Faculty Reassigned Time Award, MTU College of Business	AY 2024 – 2025
Top 10% Student Teaching Evaluation, Michigan Technological University (5x)	2019 - present
Dean’s Teaching Showcase, MTU College of Business	Spring 2020
Outstanding Dissertation Award, UA Culverhouse College of Business	April 2019
Summer Excellence in Research Grant, UA	Summer 2017, 2015

SELECTED UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Faculty Advisor, Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity	Spring 2021 - present
Member, Dissertation Committee (Jennifer Rachels; Environmental Policy)	Spring 2020 - present
Member, Essential Education Course List Working Group	AY 2023-24
Member, Economics Assistant Teaching Professor Search Committee	AY 2023-24
Member, Environmental Policy Search Committee (Tenure Track)	AY 2023-24
Chair, External Engagement Committee (College)	AY 2023-24
Member, University AI Working Group	AY 2023-24
Member, Socially Responsible Technology PhD Program Committee	Spring 2023 – Fall 2023
Mentor, McNair Scholars Summer Research Program	Summer 2023
Member, Economics Assistant Teaching Professor Search Committee	AY 2022 - 2023
Member, University Teaching Space Renovations Committee	AY 2022 - 2023
Member, Faculty Scholarship Committee (College)	AY 2022 - 2023
Auditor, Enterprise Program WERC Environmental Design Contest	Spring 2022
Member, Economics Committee (College)	AY 2020-21; 2021-22
Reviewer, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Proposal	Spring 2021 & 2022
Judge, Blue Key Honor Society’s Winter Carnival Queen	Fall 2018; Spring 2022
Undergraduate Marshall, Commencement, College of Business	Fall 2021
Mentor, Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship	Summer 2021
Judge, Pavlis Honors College Undergraduate Research Symposium	2019, 2020, & 2021
Member, Strategic Planning Committee (College)	AY 2019 - 2020

Reviewer, Research Excellence Fund Proposals (3x)
Member, Undergraduate Program Committee (College)
Volunteer, MTU Career Closet

AY 2018-19; 2019-20
AY 2018 - 2019
2018, 2019, 2023, 2024

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Referee: Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, World Development; International Review of Applied Economics; Resources Policy; Applied Economics; Economics and Human Biology; Review of Regional Studies; Southern Economic Journal; Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy; Contemporary Economic Policy; Public Administration Review; Public Administration; SN Business & Economics

Conference Session Chair: Southern Economic Association (2016; 2018; 2020 (x2); 2022 – organizer and chair; 2023)

Conference Discussant: Midwest Economics Association SOLE Sessions (2022; 2023; 2024); Southern Economic Association (2015 (2x); 2016; 2018; 2020; 2024 (scheduled))

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Student Economist Trainee, US International Trade Commission, Office of Economics Summer 2016
AEA Summer Economics Fellow

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS & COVERAGE

“Women city managers face a glass cliff as local governments are more likely to hire them when budgets are collapsing” (with Lang Kate Yang and Jennifer M. Connolly). *London School of Economics United States Politics and Policy Blog*. <https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2022/03/31/women-city-managers-face-a-glass-cliff-as-local-governments-are-more-likely-to-hire-them-when-budgets-are-collapsing/>

Panelist, “COVID-19 Impact on Economics.” MTU’s COVID-19 Town Hall Series hosted by the Health Research Institute. Fall 2020. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xv33dIaSGc8>

Interviewee, “Local businesses see impact from shutdown.” *The Daily Mining Gazette*. April 21, 2020. <https://www.mininggazette.com/news/2020/04/local-businesses-see-impact-from-shutdown/>