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Curriculum Vitae

KATHARINE G. ABRAHAM

Address: Joint Program in Survey Methodology Date of Birth: August 28, 1954
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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Harvard University, 1982.
Dissertation title: "Vacancies, Unemployment and Wage Growth"

B.S. in Economics, with a minor in Statistics, Iowa State University, 1976.

Carleton College, 1972-1974.

Employment

- 2002- Professor, Joint Program in Survey Methodology; Adjunct Professor, Department of Economics; and Faculty Associate, Maryland Population Research Center, University of Maryland
- 2002 Visiting Professor, Woodrow Wilson School, and Visiting Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Princeton University.
- 1993-2001 Commissioner, Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.
- 1991-1997 Professor of Economics, University of Maryland (on leave 1993-1997).
- 1987-1991 Associate Professor of Economics, University of Maryland.
- 1985-1988 Research Associate, Brookings Institution.
- 1987 Guest researcher, Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin fuer Sozialforschung.
- 1985-1987 Associate Professor of Industrial Relations, Sloan School of Management, MIT (on leave).
- 1980-1985 Assistant Professor of Industrial Relations, Sloan School of Management, MIT.

Professional Activities and Affiliations

Chair, Committee on Economic Statistics, American Economic Association, 2006-

Board Member, Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, 2005-

Member, Committee on National Statistics, National Research Council, 2004-

Member, Advisory Committee on Labour Statistics, Statistics Canada, 2003-

Member, Social Security Advisory Board Technical Panel on Assumptions and Methods, 2003.

Chair, Panel Studying the Design of Nonmarket Accounts, Committee on National Statistics, National Research Council, 2002-2004.

National Bureau of Economic Research, Research Associate, 1987-1995, 2002-; Faculty Research Fellow, 1982-1985; Research Analyst, 1980-1982.

Industrial Relations Research Association, Executive Board, 1995-1998.

Conference on Research in Income and Wealth, Member, 1988-1993, 2003-

Brookings Institution, Guest Scholar, 1988-1991.

Editorial Board, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, 2003-

Advisory Board, Journal of Economic Perspectives, 2003-

Board of Reviewers, Industrial Relations, 1984-1993.

Associate Editor, Quarterly Journal of Economics, 1985-1992.

Assistant Editor, Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, 1985-1987.

Reviewer for: Economic Letters, Economic Journal, Feminist Economics, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Labor Economics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Industrial Organization, Harvard University Press, John Wiley, Economic Research Service, General Accountability Organization (last five years).

Professional associations: American Economic Association, American Statistical Association, National Association for Business Economics, Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession.

Honors and Awards

Distinguished Lecturer on Economics in Government, Annual Meetings of the Allied Social Science Association, American Economic Association and Society of Government Economics, 2005.

Fellow of the American Statistical Association, elected 2003.

Provost's Distinguished Lecturer, University of Notre Dame, 2003

D. Sc., Iowa State University, 2002.

Julius Shiskin Memorial Award for Economic Statistics, 2002.

Distinguished Achievement Citation, Iowa State University Alumni Association, 1999.

Waugh Lecturer, Annual Meeting of the American Agricultural Economic Association, 1997.

College of Behavioral and Social Sciences Excellence in Teaching Award, 1990.

American Statistical Association/National Science Foundation/Bureau of Labor Statistics Senior Research Fellow, 1989-1990.

Outstanding Young Alumnus, Iowa State University, 1988.

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow, 1977-1980.

Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi, Iowa State University, 1976.

Publications

A. Books

Beyond the Market: Designing Nonmarket Accounts for the United States, edited with C. Mackie, Washington, D.C.: National Academies Press, 2004.

Job Security in America: Lessons from Germany, with S.N. Houseman, Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution, 1993.

New Developments in the Labor Market: Toward a New Institutional Paradigm, edited with R.B. McKersie, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1990.

B. Journal Articles

"Nonresponse in the American Time Use Survey: Who is Missing from the Data and How Much Does It Matter?", with A. Maitland and S. Bianchi, Public Opinion Quarterly, forthcoming.

"Financial Aid and Students' College Decisions: Evidence from the District of Columbia Tuition Assistance Grant Program," with M. A. Clark, Journal of Human Resources, Summer 2006, pp. 578-610.

"What We Don't Know Could Hurt Us: Some Reflections on the Measurement of Economic Activity," Journal of Economic Perspectives, Spring 2005, pp. 3-18.

"Microdata Access and Labor Market Research: The U.S. Experience," Allgemeines Statistisches Archiv, June 2005, pp. 121-139.

"Towards a Cost-of-Living Index: Progress and Prospects," Journal of Economic Perspectives, Winter 2003, pp. 45-58.

"Working to Improve the Consumer Price Index," with J. Greenlees and B. Moulton, Journal of Economic Perspectives, Winter 1998, pp. 27-36.

"Firms' Use of Outside Contractors: Theory and Evidence," with S.K. Taylor, Journal of Labor Economics, July 1996, pp. 394-424.

"Real Wages and the Business Cycle," with J.C. Haltiwanger, Journal of Economic Literature, September 1995, pp. 1215-1264.

"Job Security and Work Force Adjustment: How Different Are U.S. and Japanese Practices?" with S.N. Houseman, Journal of the Japanese and International Economies, December 1989, pp. 500-521; revised version in C.F. Buechtemann, ed., Employment Security and Labor Market Behavior, Ithaca, New York: ILR Press, 1993, pp. 180-199.

"Returns to Seniority in Union and Nonunion Jobs: A New Look at the Evidence," with H.S. Farber, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, October 1988, pp. 3-19.

"Job Duration, Seniority and Earnings," with H.S. Farber, American Economic Review, June 1987, pp. 278-297.

"Help Wanted Advertising, Job Vacancies and Unemployment," Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, 1987:1, pp. 207-243.

"Cyclical Unemployment: Sectoral Shifts or Aggregate Disturbances?", with L.F. Katz, Journal of Political Economy, June 1986, pp. 507-522.

"Length of Service and Promotions in Union and Nonunion Work Groups," with J.L. Medoff, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, April 1985, pp. 408-420.

"Length of Service and Layoffs in Union and Nonunion Work Groups," with J.L. Medoff, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, October 1984, pp. 87-97.

"Structural/Frictional versus Deficient Demand Unemployment: Some New Evidence," American Economic Review, September 1983, pp. 708-724.

"Are Those Paid More Really More Productive?: The Case of Experience," with J.L. Medoff, Journal of Human Resources, Spring 1981, pp. 185-216.

"Experience, Performance and Earnings," with J.L. Medoff, Quarterly Journal of Economics, December 1980, pp. 703-736.

C. Book Chapters and Papers in Conference Volumes

"A Framework for Nonmarket Accounting," with C. Mackie, in D. Jorgenson, S. Landefeld and W. Nordhaus, eds., A New Architecture for the U.S. National Accounts, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2006, pp. 161-192.

"Work and Retirement Plans among Older Americans," with S.N. Houseman, in R. Clark and O. Mitchell, eds., Re-inventing the Retirement Paradigm, New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2005, pp. 70-91.

"Changes in Unemployment Duration and Labor Force Attachment," with R. Shimer, in A.B. Krueger and R.M. Solow, eds., The Roaring Nineties, New York: The Russell Sage Foundation, 2002, pp. 367-420.

"Why Do Different Wage Series Tell Different Stories?" with J. Spletzer and J. Stewart, Papers and Proceedings of the Hundredth and Eleventh Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association, May 1999, pp. 34-39.

"Divergent Trends in Alternative Wage Series," with J. Spletzer and J. Stewart, in J.C. Haltiwanger, M. Manser and R. Topel, eds., Labor Statistics Measurement Issues, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1998, pp. 293-325.

"Earnings Inequality in Germany," with S.N. Houseman, in R.B. Freeman and L.F. Katz, eds., Differences and Changes in Wage Structures, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995, pp. 371-403.

"Labor Adjustment Under Different Institutional Structures," with S.N. Houseman, in F. Buttler et al, eds., Institutional Frameworks and Labor Market Performance, London: Routledge, 1995, pp. 285-315.

"Does Employment Protection Inhibit Labor Market Flexibility? Lessons from Germany, France, and Belgium," with S.N. Houseman, in Rebecca M. Blank, ed., Social Protection versus Economic Flexibility, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1994, 59-93.

"Female Workers as a Buffer in the Japanese Economy," with S.N. Houseman, Papers and Proceedings of the Hundredth and Fifth Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association, May 1993, pp. 45-51.

"Mismatch and Labour Mobility: Some Final Remarks," in F. Padoa-Schioppa, ed., Mismatch and Labour Mobility, London: Centre for Economic Policy Research, 1991, pp. 453-481.

"Restructuring the Employment Relationship: The Growth of Market-Mediated Work Arrangements," in K.G. Abraham and R.B. McKersie, eds., New Developments in the Labor Market: Toward a New Institutional Paradigm, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1990, pp. 85-119.

"Flexible Staffing Arrangements and Employers' Short-term Adjustment Strategies," in R.A. Hart, ed., Employment, Unemployment and Labour Utilization, London: Unwin Hyman, 1988, pp. 288-311.

"Employment Security and Employment Adjustment," with S.N. Houseman, Proceedings of the Fortieth Annual Meeting of the Industrial Relations Research Association, December 28-30, 1987, pp. 44-54.

"Length of Service and the Operation of Internal Labor Markets," with J.L. Medoff, Proceedings of the Thirty-Fifth Annual Meeting of the Industrial Relations Research Association, December 28-30, 1982, pp. 208-318.

"Unemployment, Unsatisfied Demand for Labor, and Compensation Growth, 1956-1980," with J.L. Medoff, in M.N. Baily, ed., Workers, Jobs and Inflation, Washington, D.C.: The Brookings Institution, 1982, pp. 49-88.

D. Notes, Comments and Reviews

Comment on J. Abowd, et al, "The LEHD Infrastructure Files and the Creation of the Quarterly Workforce Indicators," in Producer Dynamics: New Evidence from Micro Data, T. Dunne, J.B. Jensen and M.J. Roberts, eds., Chicago: University of Chicago Press, forthcoming.

Comment on J. Abowd, et al, "The Relation among Human Capital, Productivity, and Market Value: Building Up from Micro Evidence," in Measuring Capital in the New Economy, C. Corrado, J. Haltiwanger and D. Sichel, eds., Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2005, pp. 198-203.

Review of At Home and Abroad: U.S. Labor Market Performance in International Perspective, Francine D. Blau and Lawrence M. Kahn, New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 2002, in Journal of Economic Literature, June 2004, pp. 532-533.

Comment on T. Bewley, "Labor Market Behavior," presented at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Conference, "How Humans Behave: The Implications for Economic and Economic Policy," Chatham, Massachusetts, June 8-10, 2003. Available online at <http://www.bos.frb.org/economic/conf/conf48/papers/abraham.pdf>.

Comment on M. Boskin et al, "The CPI Commission: Findings and Recommendations," and R.J. Gordon and Z. Griliches, "Quality Change and New Products," Papers and Proceedings of the Hundredth and Ninth Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association, May 1997, pp. 94-95.

Comment on M. Boskin, "The CPI Commission," Business Economics, April 1997, pp. 64-67.

Contribution to "Statistics Under the Spotlight: Improving the Consumer Price Index," Proceedings of the Section on Government Statistics, Papers Presented at the Meeting of the American Statistical Association, August 4-8, 1996, pp. 54-56.

Comment on J. Bishop, "Improving Job Matches in the U.S. Labor Market," Brookings Papers on Economic Activity: Microeconomics, 1993:1, pp. 391-396.

Review of A. Weiss, Efficiency Wages: Models of Unemployment, Layoffs and Wage Dispersion, Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990, in Industrial and Labor Relations Review, January 1993, pp. 420-421.

Comment on P. Sherer and K. Lee, "Cores, Peripheries and More"; J. Rebitzer and T. Kochan, "The Management of Contract Workers and the Risks of Accidents"; and P. Way, "Staffing Strategies," Proceedings of the Forty-Fourth Annual Meeting of the Industrial Relations Research Association, January 3-5, 1992, pp. 340-343.

Review of J.D. Owen, Reduced Working Hours: Cure for Unemployment or Economic Burden, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989, in Journal of Economic Literature, September 1991, pp. 1199-1201.

Comment on S. Korenman and B. Okun, "Gender Differences in Cyclical Unemployment," in R. Eberts and E. Groshen, eds., Issues in Contemporary Labor Economics and Implications for Public Policy, New York: W.E. Sharpe, 1991, pp. 197-200.

Comment on L.M. Solnick, "Male and Female Quitting: The Case of Professionals and Managers," Proceedings of the Forty-third Annual Meeting of the Industrial Relations Research Association, December 28-30, 1990, pp. 129-131.

Comment on S.J. Davis and J.C. Haltiwanger, "Gross Job Creation and Destruction: Microeconomic Evidence and Macroeconomic Implications," in O. Blanchard and S. Fischer, eds., NBER Macroeconomic Annual, vol. 4, Cambridge, Massachusetts: MIT Press, 1990, pp. 169-177.

Comment on R. Hujer, O. Loewenbein and H. Schneider, "Wages and Unemployment," in H. Koenig, ed., Economics of Wage Determination, Berlin: Springer-Verlag, 1990, pp. 325-327.

Comment on T.M. Smeeding, L. Rainwater and R. Simpson, "Comparative Cross-National Research on Income and Economic Well-Being: The Luxembourg Income Study," Survey of Current Business, March 1989, pp. 67-68.

Comment on L.H. Summers, "Why Is the Unemployment Rate So Very High Near Full Employment?" Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, 1986:2, pp. 384-389.

"Structural/Frictional versus Deficient Demand Unemployment: Reply," American Economic Review, March 1986, pp. 273-276.

Comment on D.J.B. Mitchell, "Shifting Norms in Wage Determination" Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, 1985:2, pp. 600-605.

Comments on T.N. Daymont and P.J. Andrisani, "Some Causes and Consequences of Disability Benefit Receipt," and D.R. Williams, "Evidence on the Racial Difference in the Discouraged Worker Effect Among Male Teenagers," Proceedings of the Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting of the Industrial Relations Research Association, December 28-30, 1983, pp. 207-209.

E. Congressional Testimony

Joint Economic Committee, testimony on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' monthly Employment Situation report, multiple occasions, 1993 to 2001.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations, testimony on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' budget request, multiple occasions, 1993 to 2001.

Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, testimony on the statistics collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics on women's earnings as compared to men's, June 8, 2000.

Subcommittee on Human Resources, House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, testimony on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' continuing efforts to improve the accuracy of the Consumer Price Index, April 29, 1998.

Subcommittee on Human Resources, House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, testimony on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' continuing efforts to improve the accuracy of the Consumer Price Index, April 30, 1997.

House Committee on the Budget, testimony on the Bureau of Labor Statistics response to the final report of the Advisory Commission to Study the Consumer Price Index, March 12, 1997.

Senate Committee on Finance, testimony on the Bureau of Labor Statistics response to the final report of the Advisory Commission to Study the Consumer Price Index, February 11, 1997.

Senate Committee on the Budget, testimony on the Bureau of Labor Statistics response to the final report of the Advisory Commission to Study the Consumer Price Index, January 30, 1997.

Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, House Committee on Government Reform and Oversight, testimony on the Statistical Consolidation Act of 1995, March 22, 1996.

Senate Committee on Finance, testimony on the Consumer Price Index, March 13, 1995.

Subcommittee on Immigration, Refugees and International Law, House Committee on the Judiciary, testimony on the use of immigration policy to alleviate occupational shortages, July 21, 1987.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, House Committee on Appropriations, testimony on behalf of the Consortium of Social Science Associations in support of funding for research and evaluation in the budget of the Employment and Training Administration of the Department of Labor, April 30, 1987.

Subcommittee on General Oversight and the Economy, House Committee on Small Business, testimony on the number of available jobs as compared to the number of unemployed persons, May 17, 1983.

F. Other

“Meeting Policy-Makers’ Information Needs: Lessons from the U.S. Experience,” in A. Deaton and V. Kozel, eds., The Great Indian Poverty Debate, Delhi: Macmillan India Ltd., 2005, pp. 27-34.

“Work and Retirement Plans among Older Americans,” with S. N. Houseman, Employment Research, W.E. Upjohn Institute newsletter, October 2004, pp. 1-4.

“An Academic Economist in the Federal Bureaucracy,” Newsletter of the Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession, Fall 2004, pp. 4-5.

“Data for Managing Tight Labor Markets: The New Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey,” Chance, Spring 2003, pp. 58-62.

"A View from the Federal Statistical System," Seventh Annual Frederick V. Waugh Memorial Lecture delivered at the 1997 Meeting of the American Agricultural Economic Association, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, December 1997, pp. 1394-1400.

"The State of Our Economic Intelligence: Where We've Been and Where We're Going," speech printed in proceedings of conference on the Employment Act of 1946, Jerome Levy Economics Institute, April 25-26, 1996, pp. 12-17.

"The Consumer Price Index: What Does It Measure?" Challenge, May/June 1995, pp. 59-62.

"Job Security in America: A Better Approach," with S.N. Houseman, Brookings Review, Summer 1993, pp. 34-35.

The Maryland Human Resource System, with J.C. Haltiwanger, report prepared for the Joint Committee on Economic Development of the Maryland legislature, November 1989.

"Too Few Jobs," Washington Post op-ed piece, 1982.

Unpublished Papers

"Effects of Survey Non-response on Inferences about Volunteer Work," with S. Helms and S. Presser, in process.

"Health-related Activities in the American Time Use Survey," with L.B. Russell and Y. Ibuka, in process.

"Labor Market Dynamics During the Transition of a Socialist Economy," with M. Vodopivec, October 1993.

"The Distributional Effects of Employment Adjustment Practices in Japan versus the United States," with S.N. Houseman, September 1990.

"Regional Labor Market Responses to Demand Shocks: A Comparison of the United States and Germany," with S.N. Houseman, paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management meetings, San Francisco, October 18-20, 1990.

"Has the Natural Rate of Unemployment Fallen?," June 1988.

"Aggregate Downturns and Secular Adjustments," with L.F. Katz, December 1985.

"Involuntary Terminations Under Explicit and Implicit Employment Contracts," with J.L. Medoff, National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper No. 634, February 1981.

"An Economic Analysis of the Department of Labor's h(2) Program," with J.L. Medoff, March 1979.