

KALENA E. CORTES

(Updated: May 31, 2015)

THE BUSH SCHOOL
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
4220 TAMU
1049 ALLEN BUILDING
COLLEGE STATION, TX 77843

EMAIL: kcortes@tamu.edu
PHONE: (979) 458-8030
FAX: (979) 845-4155

I. EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

A. EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

University of California, Berkeley
Ph.D. in Economics, 2002
Fields: Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Economic Demography
Advisor: Professor David E. Card
Dissertation: "Essays on the Heterogeneity of Immigrant Groups in the United States:
Testable Implications Using Human Capital Theory."

University of California, San Diego
B.A. in Economics, 1995

B. CURRENT AND PRIOR APPOINTMENTS

2011-present: Assistant Professor, Texas A&M University
2014-present: Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research
2014-present: Board of Directors, Association for Education Finance & Policy
2013-present: Greater Texas Foundation Fellow
2003-present: Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)
2013-14: Visiting Scholar, Stanford Graduate School of Education
2006-11: Assistant Professor, Syracuse University, School of Education
2009-10: Visiting Assistant Professor, Harvard Graduate School of Education
2009-10: Visiting Scholar, National Bureau of Economic Research
2003-06: Postdoctoral Fellow, Princeton University
2002-03: Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania
2000-01: Visiting Scholar, Princeton University
Department of Economics and Office of Population Research –
Conducted research for dissertation.

C. RESEARCH (Papers are available at: <https://www.nber.org/~CORTESK/research.html>)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Cortes, Kalena E. "Are Refugees Different from Economic Immigrants? Some Empirical Evidence on the Heterogeneity of Immigrant Groups in the United States." The Review of Economics and Statistics, May 2004, 86(2): 465-480.

Cortes, Kalena E. "The Effects of Age at Arrival and Enclave Schools on the Academic Performance of Immigrant Children." Economics of Education Review, April 2006, 25(2): 121-132.

Tienda, Marta, Niu, Sunny, and Cortes, Kalena E. "College Selectivity and the Texas Top 10% Law: How Constrained Are the Options?" Economics of Education Review, June 2006, 25(3): 259-272.

Perreira, Krista M. and Cortes, Kalena E. "Race-Ethnicity and Nativity Differences in Alcohol and Tobacco Use During Pregnancy." American Journal of Public Health, September 2006, 96(9): 1629-1636.

Cortes, Kalena E. "Do Bans on Affirmative Action Hurt Minority Students? Evidence from the Texas Top 10% Plan." Economics of Education Review, December 2010, 29(6): 1110-1124.

Cortes, Kalena E., *Bricker, Jesse, and Rohlf, Christopher. "The Role of Specific Subjects in Education Production Functions: Evidence from Morning Classes in Chicago Public High Schools." The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, June 2012 (Contributions), 12(1): 1935-1682.

Cortes, Kalena E., Goodman, Joshua, and Nomi, Takako. "A Double Dose of Algebra." Education Next, Winter 2013, 13(1): 70-76.

Cortes, Kalena E. "Achieving the DREAM: The Effect of IRCA on Immigrant Youth Postsecondary Educational Access." American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings, May 2013, 103(3): 428-432.

Cortes, Kalena E., *Moussa, Wael, and Weinstein, Jeffrey. "Educating Bright Students in Urban Schools." Economics of Education Review, December 2013, 37: 286-297.

Cortes, Kalena E. and *Friedson, Andrew I. "Ranking Up by Moving Out: The Effect of the Texas Top 10% Plan on Property Values." National Tax Journal, March 2014, 67(1): 51-76 (winner of the 2014 Richard Musgrave Prize for best article).

Cortes, Kalena E. and Goodman, Joshua S. "Ability-Tracking, Instructional Time and Better Pedagogy: The Effect of Double-Dose Algebra on Student Achievement." American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings, May 2014, 104(5): 400-405.

Cortes, Kalena E., Goodman, Joshua S., and Nomi, Takako. "Intensive Math Instruction and Educational Attainment: Long-Run Impacts of Double-Dose Algebra." The Journal of Human Resources, Winter 2015, 50(1): 108-158.

Black, Sandra E., Cortes, Kalena E., and Lincove, Jane A. "Academic Undermatching of High-Achieving Minority Students: Evidence from Race-Neutral and Holistic Admissions Policies." American Economic Review: Papers & Proceedings, May 2015, 105(5): 604-610.

* indicates student co-author

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Chin, Aimee and Cortes, Kalena E. "The Refugee/Asylum Seeker." Chapter in the *Handbook of the Economics of International Immigration, Volume 1A The Immigrants*, Barry Chiswick and Paul Miller (eds.), 2014.

Tienda, Marta, Cortes, Kalena E., and Niu, Sunny. "College Attendance and the Texas Top 10 Percent Law: Permanent Contagion or Transitory Promise?" Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, Policy Brief, November 2003.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

“Efficacy vs. Equity: What Happens When States Tinker with College Admissions in a Race-Blind Era?” *Revised and resubmit to Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis* (with Sandra E. Black and Jane A. Lincove).

“Apply Yourself: Racial and Ethnic Differences in College Application.”

Work in progress (with Sandra E. Black and Jane A. Lincove).

“Match or Mismatch? The Role of College Readiness, High School Peers, and Application Uncertainty on College Application Behavior” Work in progress (with Sandra E. Black and Jane A. Lincove).

“Age at Arrival and Postsecondary Attainment of U.S. Immigrant Youth”

Work in progress (with Susanna Loeb).

“College Admission Tournament and High School Student Achievement: Evidence from the Texas Top 10% Plan.” Work in progress (with Lei Zhang).

“The Effect of Extended Bilingual Education for Elementary Students.”

Work in progress (with Lindsay Daugherty).

D. GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2013-16 *“Postsecondary Educational Opportunity in Texas: Evidence from Institutional and State Policies.”* Principal Investigator. Faculty Fellowship, Greater Texas Foundation. Amount awarded \$90,000.

2012-14: *“Doubling-Up?: The Impact of Remedial Algebra on Students’ Long-run Outcomes.”* Co-Investigator. (Josh Goodman, P.I.). Institute of Education Sciences (IES), U.S. Department of Education. Amount awarded \$291,164.

2009: Summer Proposal Development Program, School of Education, Syracuse University. Amount awarded \$1,600.

2008-11: *“Transitions through Higher Education: Evidence on the Mismatch Hypothesis.”* Co-Investigator. (Isaac McFarlin, P.I.). Institute of Education Sciences (IES), U.S. Department of Education. Amount awarded \$638,000.

2008-09: *“The Effects of Absenteeism on Academic Achievement: Evidence from Morning Classes in Chicago Public Schools.”* Principal Investigator. Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University.

2008: *“The Effect of Changes in Federal Student Aid-Packaging on the Educational Choices of Low-Income and Minority Students.”* Principal Investigator. Spencer Foundation. Amount awarded \$37,800.

2008: *“The Effect of Changes in Federal Student Aid-Packaging on the Educational Choices of Low-Income and Minority Students.”* Principal Investigator. Young Investigator Development Award, Center for Poverty Research, University of Kentucky. Amount awarded \$5,000.

2007-09: *“The Effect of Changes in Federal Student Aid-Packaging on the Educational Choices of Low-Income and Minority Students.”* Principal Investigator. American Educational Research Association (AERA).

Amount awarded \$33,942.

2007-08: *“The Effects of College Quality on Student Performance and Labor Market Outcomes: A Case for Affirmative Action Policy.”*

Principal Investigator. W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research Grant. Amount awarded \$5,000.

2007: Summer Proposal Development Program, School of Education, Syracuse University. Amount awarded \$1,500.

2007: Summer Project Assistantship Program, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University. Amount awarded \$1,500.

2004-06: *“Immigrant Health and Socioeconomic Status in the U.S.”*

Principal Investigator. Ruth L. Kirschstein National Service Award Individual Fellowship. National Institutes of Health (NIH). Amount awarded \$92,272.

2003-07: *“Immigrants, Parenting, and Infant/Toddler Well-being.”*

Co-Investigator. (Krista M. Perreira, P.I.). Foundation for Child Development Program, Changing Faces of America’s Children Young Scholars Program. Amount awarded \$150,000.

E. Media Coverage

The Washington Post (Jeff Guo), January 6, 2015, “For Black Students, SAT Scores Matter a Lot – A New Study Suggests Affirmative Action Policies in College Admissions Might Be a Good Idea.”

Atlanta Journal Constitution (Maureen Downey), January 31, 2013, “A Double Dose of Algebra Improves Math and Verbal Skills as Well as College Enrollment.”

TAMUtimes (Lesley Henton), December 14, 2012, “Extra Algebra Class Improves Both Math and Verbal Skills in High Schoolers.”

Education Week (Erik Robelen), November 1, 2012, “Study Finds Benefits to a ‘Double Dose’ of Algebra.”

Houston Chronicle (Rick Casey), August 17, 2010, “Sales Point: Nice House in Bad ISD.”

The Chronicle of Higher Education (Peter Schmidt), August 9, 2010, The Ticker, “Texas Admissions-Policy Shift Hurt Lower-Ranked Minority Students.”

Inside Higher Ed (Scott Jaschik), January 12, 2009, “The 10% Fight Is Back.”

F. Textbook Inclusions

Laing, Derek. Principles of Modern Labor Economics, 2011, Norton & Co., New York, NY. Chapter 21 Immigration and Outsourcing, Economic Application 21.2: Language Acquisition, pg. 588.

Ehrenberg, Ronald G. and Robert S. Smith. Modern Labor Economics: Theory and Public Policy. (8th Edition, 2003). (9th Edition, 2006). (10th Edition, 2009). (11th Edition, 2012) Addison-Wesley, New York, NY. Chapter 10 Worker Mobility: Migration, Immigration, and Turnover, Example 10.3: Economic vs. Political Immigrants, pg. 318.

G. OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

- 2011-present: Adjunct Assistant Professor of Economics by Courtesy Appointment, Economics Department, Texas A&M University
- 2009-present: Senior Associate, Education Finance and Accountability Program, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University
- 2006-11: Assistant Professor of Economics by Courtesy Appointment, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University
- 2006-11: Senior Research Associate, Center for Policy Research, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University

H. OTHER AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2009-10: Emerging Scholars Program, University of Kentucky, Center for Poverty Research
- 2008: Association for Institutional Research (AIR) Fellow – Data Policy Institute, Institute of Education Sciences (IES), National Center for Education Statistics (NCES)
- 2001-02: Graduate Opportunity Program Dissertation-Year Award, U.C. Berkeley
- 2000-01: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Grant for Interdisciplinary Training in Demography, renewed
- 2000: Society of Woman Geographers Fellowship
- 1999-00: National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Grant for Interdisciplinary Training in Demography
- 1999-00: Lloyd Ulman Graduate Student Fellowship in Labor Economics, awarded by the Institute of Industrial Relations (IIR), U.C. Berkeley
- 1997-98: Graduate Opportunity Program (GOP) Fellowship, renewed
- 1996-97: Graduate Opportunity Program (GOP) Fellowship, U.C. Berkeley

I. INVITED SEMINARS AND REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**INVITED SEMINARS**

- 2014-15: New York University-Steinhardt School.
- 2013-14: Stanford Graduate School of Education.
- 2012-13: University of Texas at Austin, Economics Department; University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy and Rossier School of Education.
- 2010-11: Texas A&M University, The Bush School of Government and Public Service; University of Texas at Dallas; Teachers College Columbia University; MIT, Economics Department; University of Wisconsin; Vanderbilt University Peabody College; W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research; Congressional Budget Office; University of Connecticut.
- 2009-10: University of Kentucky, Center for Poverty Research; Harvard University Graduate School of Education; Tufts University, Economics Department; Harvard University, Economics Department.
- 2008-09: Urban Institute; Syracuse University, Center for Policy Research.
- 2007-08: Teachers College Columbia University; Harvard University Graduate School of Education; The Ohio State University; University of Kentucky, Center for Poverty Research.
- 2006-07: Syracuse University, Center for Policy Research; State University of New York at Binghamton; Teachers College Columbia University.

- 2005-06: MIT, Inter-University Committee on International Migration; Swarthmore College; Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia; Kansas State University; Baruch College – CUNY; CNA Corporation; Federal Trade Commission; RAND Corporation; Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC); Syracuse University, School of Education.
- 2003-04: Harvard University, The Civil Rights Project.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2014-15: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management; Southern Economic Association; American Economic Association; Association for Education Finance and Policy.
- 2013-14: American Economic Association; Association for Education Finance and Policy.
- 2012-13: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management; American Economic Association; Association for Education Finance and Policy.
- 2011-12: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management; Association for Education Finance and Policy; NBER Education Program; The Ohio State University (The Second Wave, Economics Department).
- 2010-11: American Economic Association, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (Paper Discussant).
- 2009-10: National Tax Association; Association for Education Finance and Policy.
- 2008-09: American Economic Association.
- 2007-08: Association for Education Finance and Policy; NBER Higher Education Working Group Meeting.
- 2006-07: American Economic Association (Paper Discussant); Eastern Economic Association; Association for Education Finance and Policy; Society of Labor Economists.
- 2005-06: Society of Labor Economists (Chaired Session).
- 2004-05: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management.
- 2003-04: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management; Eastern Economic Association; Population Association of America; Society of Labor Economists.
- 2002-03: Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs; Population Association of America; European Society of Population Economics.
- 2001-02: Population Association of America; Society of Labor Economists.
- 2000-01: Population Association of America.

J. ACADEMIC JOURNAL REFEREE (*number of papers reviewed*)

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics (2); Economics of Education Review (7); Education Finance and Policy (3); Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; Economic Inquiry (2); International Migration Review; IZA Journal of Migration, Journal of Health Economics; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Labor Research; Journal of Urban Economics; Labour Economics; Southern Economic Journal; The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy (2); The Journal of Human Resources (5); Journal of Population Economics (2), Journal of Public Economics, The Review of Economics and Statistics.

K. OTHER ACTIVITIES AND PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- 2005: Panelist, Texas Higher Educational Opportunity Project (THEOP) Summer

Workshop, Princeton University.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Economic Association

Population Association of America

Society of Labor Economists

European Society of Population Economics

Eastern Economic Association

American Education Finance Association

II. TEACHING AND ADVISING

A. TEACHING SUMMARY AND COURSE EVALUATIONS RESULTS

Texas A&M University *(scale of 1 to 5) **

Graduate: Policy Analysis (PSAA 615):

Fa 2011: Course average 4.01

Fa 2012: Course average 4.40

Quantitative Methods II (PSAA 635):

Sp 2012: Course average 4.60

Sp 2013: Course average 4.59

Quantitative Methods I (PSAA 631):

Fa 2012: Course average 4.59

Fa 2014: Course average 4.29 (section 602); 4.28 (section 603)

Immigrant Youth & U.S. Education Policy (PSAA 613):

Sp 2013: Course average 4.75

Sp 2015: Course average 4.64

Syracuse University *(scale of 1 to 5) **

Graduate: Statistical Thinking and Applications (EDU/EDP 647)

Fa 2006: Course Average 4.52

Sp 2007: Course Average 4.43

Fa 2007: Course Average 4.77

Fa 2008: Course Average 4.47

Economics of Higher Education (HED 800)

Fa 2006: Course Average 4.63

Affirmative Action Policy in Higher Education (HED 801)

Fa 2007: Course Average 4.55

Methods and Databases for Educational Policy (EDU 600)

Fa 2008: Course Average 4.98

Advanced Multivariate Research Methods (EDU 791)

Sp 2009: Course Average 4.84

**Student's average course evaluations are from a 5-point agreement scale with:*

1=Bad, 2=Poor, 3=Average, 4=Good, 5=Excellent.

Princeton University

Graduate: Microeconomic Analysis, Summer 2005

B. SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

MEMBER OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Wael S. Moussa, Ph.D. in Economics (2013), employed at the New York State Education Department.

Monica Young, Ph.D. in Science Education (2012), employed at the New York State Education Department.

Andrew I. Friedson, Ph.D. in Economics (2012), employed at the University of Colorado Denver, Economics Department.

Jesse Bricker, Ph.D. in Economics (2009), employed at the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

III. UNIVERSITY SERVICE

A. The BUSH SCHOOL, TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

2015 (spring): MPSA Admissions Committee
2013 (spring): Merit Fellowship Reviewer
2012-13: MPSA Curriculum Committee
2012-13: MPSA Search Committee
2012 (spring): MPSA Admissions Committee

B. SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (SOE), SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

2009 (spring): SOE Scholarship Committee
2009 (spring): University Fellowship Committee
2008 (fall): Evaluation Committee, Burstyn Collaborative Grant Competition
2008 (spring): SOE Scholarship Committee
2008 (spring): University Fellowship Committee
2007 (fall): Evaluation Committee, Burstyn Collaborative Grant Competition
2007 (spring): University Fellowship Committee
2007 (spring): Research Committee, SOE Research & Creative Grant Competition
2006-2009: Committee on Policies, Standards, and Scholarship (CSS)
2006 (fall): Evaluation Committee, Burstyn Collaborative Grant Competition

IV. OTHER

A. REFERENCES

Available upon request.

B. OTHER INFORMATION

Citizenship: U.S.A.