Application:
NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp

October 2019

Applicant:

Maria Kogelnik

Economics PhD Student (4^{th} Year), UC Santa Barbara

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Recommendation Letter Writer:

Heather Royer

Associate Professor of Economics, UC Santa Barbara

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CV — Maria Kogelnik

Email: kogelnik.maria@gmail.com

North Hall 2043, University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106, USA

Citizenship: Austria

Research Interests

Primary:	Behavioral & Experimental Economics, Health Economics
Secondary:	Labor Economics, Inequality

Education

08/2016-	**UC Santa Barbara**, Santa Barbara, USA
06/2021	Ph.D. student, *Department of Economics*
09/2015-	**University of British Columbia (UBC)**, Vancouver, Canada
08/2016	M.A. Economics, *Vancouver School of Economics*
03/2015-	**UC Berkeley**, Berkeley, USA
07/2015	Visiting Scholar at the *Institute of European Studies*, supported by a *Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation* scholarship
10/2010-	**University of Innsbruck**, Innsbruck, Austria
07/2015	M.Sc. Applied Economics B.Sc. Management & Economics
09/2014-	**McMaster University**, Hamilton, Canada
12/2014	Visiting student, *Joint Studies* scholarship
09/2012-	**University of the Balearic Islands**, Palma, Spain
02/2013	Visiting student, *Erasmus* scholarship

Affiliations

11/2017-	**Broom Center of Demography, UC Santa Barbara** *Graduate Associate* Santa Barbara, USA
02/2017-	**Halle Institute of Economic Research, Leibnitz Association** *Junior Research Affiliate* Halle, Germany

Research

Holiday, Just One Day Out of Life: Birth Timing and Post-Natal Outcomes
with Mireille Jacobson and Heather Royer
R&R at the Journal of Labor Economics

Employment Consequences of Construction Booms and Busts
with Florian Hoffmann, Thomas Lemieux, and Mirko Titze

Performance Feedback and Gender Differences in Persistence: A Laboratory Experiment

Scholarships & Awards

Jenifer Jo Williamson Fellowship for a research quarter, UC Santa Barbara, Spring 2019

Janet A. Alpert Fellowship for a research quarter, UC Santa Barbara, Spring 2019

Keith Griffin Memorial Fund Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara, AY 2017-18

PhD Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara, AY 2016-21

International Tuition Award, University of British Columbia, AY 2015-16

Scholarship for a *Graduate Visiting Scholar* at the *University of California, Berkeley*, awarded by the Austrian Marshall Plan Foundation, 2015

Scholarship for Excellent Academic Achievement, U Innsbruck, AY 2010-13

Top Performer program, U Innsbruck, 2010

Scholarship for Excellent Engineering Students, Chamber of Commerce Salzburg, AY 2006-09

Research Assistance

RA for Ryan Oprea and Sevgi Yuksel, UCSB (Summer 2019)
RA for the Experimental and Behavioral Economics Research Group, UCSB (Winter 2019)
RA for Erik Eyster, UCSB (Summer 2018)
RA for Heather Royer, UCSB (Summer 2018)
RA for Florian Hoffmann and Thomas Lemieux, UBC (Summer 2016)
RA for Matthias Sutter, University of Innsbruck (Spring 2013)

Teaching

UC Santa Barbara

Fall 2018	TA Econ 140A: Introduction to Econometrics
Spring 2018	TA Econ 101: Intermediate Macroeconomics
Winter 2018	TA Econ 1: Introduction to Microeconomics
Fall 2017	TA PSTAT 109: Statistics for Economics

University of British Columbia

Spring 2016	TA Econ 326: Methods of Empirical Research
Fall 2015	TA Econ 325: Introduction to Empirical Economics

University of Innsbruck
AY 2013-2014 Lecturer: Mathematics for Economists
AY 2011-2013 TA: Statistics and Data Analysis

Other Academic Experience

UCSD & NHH FAIR Spring School of Behavioral Economics
UCSD Rady School of Management, San Diego, USA (March 2019)

HCEO & briq Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality
briq Insitute on Behavior and Inequality, Bonn, Germany (July 2018)

Research Ethics Committee, University of Innsbruck
Prime Mandate of Student Representatives, (AY 2013-15)

Summer school in Vietnam at the *University of Technology*, Hanoi, and the *University of Social Sciences and Humanities,* Saigon: "History, Economics, Business, Culture, Media and Political Science of Vietnam and South East Asia" (September 2011)

Additional Skills

Languages:	German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), French (rusty)
Programming:	R, Stata, LaTeX
Other:	Apprenticeship Diploma in Mechanical Engineering & Mechatronics (2009)

Updated September 2019

Statement of Interest:
NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp

Maria Kogelnik
UC Santa Barbara

October 2019

As an Economics PhD student who wants to conduct research at the intersection of behavioral economics and health care, the *NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp* immediately attracted my attention. I believe this would be an excellent opportunity to be exposed to the research frontier of health economics. I am inspired by the work of the faculty teaching at the boot camp, and it seems like a great occasion to meet highly motivated PhD students with similar research interests.

One of my ongoing research projects, which is joint work with Mireille Jacobson and Heather Royer, looks at how holidays affect birth timing, delivery methods, and neo-natal health outcomes. Using data on the universe of births in California from 2000-2016, we find that about 18% fewer births happen on holidays and the day after, and this decline is mostly driven by a reduction of C-sections and high risk births. We estimate that "missing holiday births" are moved to the roughly 2-week window both before and after the holiday. Despite this change in timing, we find little evidence of any adverse health consequences for babies born around a holiday. This project has recently been invited for re-submission at the *Journal of Labor Economics*.

In my future research, I would like to use insights from behavioral economics to enhance our understanding of health care market outcomes. What I find especially interesting are situations in which people do not process available information in a way that leads them to make decisions in their best interest, for instance because they err when forming beliefs. One example would be correlation neglect, i.e. situations in which people tend to double-count the content of correlated signals, and consequently make decisions based on biased beliefs. I am interested in studying whether correlation

neglect leads to inefficient outcomes in the health care market, for instance when patients base a treatment decision on signals from multiple physicians, some of which might have seen the same test results.

As no graduate health economics class has been offered at UC Santa Barbara in recent years, I set the ball rolling and initiated a health economics reading group last year. This has been a great setting to discuss seminal research papers in the field with interested faculty and graduate students. It goes without saying that participating in the *NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp* would be a unique opportunity for me to get further exposure to the research frontier of health economics.

I am very impressed by the faculty lineup at the boot camp. I have read lots of Emily Oster's work, and really enjoyed her recent paper on health recommendations and selection in health behaviors. Furthermore, I am especially interested in the research of Joshua Schwartzstein, as he incorporates psychological and behavioral concepts into economic models. One of my favorite papers is his joint work with Katherine Baiker and Sendhil Mullainathan, in which they find that taking into account behavioral hazard when designing policies can result in large welfare gains. Another paper that I found inspiring was the joint work of Ben Handel and Jonathan Kolstad on the role of information frictions on insurance plan choice and consumer welfare. It would be intellectually enriching for me to be taught by them.

Aside from my interest in health economics, I am working on labor and experimental economics. I recently ran a pilot of an experimental design that allows us to study how preferences for performance feedback and information avoidance drive gender differences in the decision to persist in competitive environments. In another project, which is joint work with Florian Hoffmann, Thomas Lemieux, and Mirko Titze, we look at the consequences of construction booms and busts on aggregate unemployment, exploiting the German reunification as a natural experiment.

Finally, coming from Austria, for most of my life I have been exposed to a health care system that is fundamentally different from the US system. I am excited to learn more about the finer nuances of the US health care programs and institutions, and hope to bring a unique perspective to the field through my familiarity with a different health care system. Thank you for considering my application!

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SANTA BARBARA

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October 10, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to most highly recommend **Maria Kogelnik** for the NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp for Graduate Students. I recommended Maria last year and continue to be impressed by Maria's work, so much that I asked her to be a co-author on a paper (the first time I've asked a PhD student to do so).

In the summer of 2018, Maria served as my research assistant for a project looking at the effects of birth manipulation due to the holidays. The idea is that both families and health care providers try to avoid having deliveries on holidays. Using recent empirical strategies developed in the public finance literature, one can study the degree to which birth dates are manipulated due to these holidays and how the manipulation affects the infants' outcomes. Maria was been involved extensively in the work – working with the large detailed natality files covering all births in the United States from 1968 to 1988 in R and Stata. At the beginning of the project, I asked Maria to provide a review of the bunching literature. Despite not having chosen public finance as a field, and as a result, seeing these estimation strategies for this first time, she had a command of this literature beyond her years in the PhD program. She was able to pinpoint some of the shortcomings of these approaches (i.e., choosing where the manipulation begins and ends in the distribution) that I might only expect from someone who has already worked in this area. During the fall of 2018, because of Maria's influential contribution to this research project, I asked her to be a co-author of the paper, which now has a promising revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Labor Economics*.

I have not had Maria in class as I was on maternity leave when Maria was in her second year, but from my applied microeconomics colleagues, she has earned the highest level of respect. In fact, Peter Kuhn who teaches the first quarter class in the labor economics sequence, gave her an A+ for her performance in his class. I've never heard of him giving such high a grade.

The marginal value of the NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp would be high for Maria. As we have a limited number of applied microeconomics faculty, the training of our applied microeconomic graduate students is restricted to labor theory, demography, and applied microeconomic methods. During a typical year, I teach the applied microeconomic methods class and students do not receive training directly in health economics. Aside from the possible direct effect on Maria, because our program is small (15 students a year), Maria's attendance would have spillover effects on the other UCSB PhD students. I've seen this before with other students attending workshops like one at the University of Chicago Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality.

In sum, I most highly recommend **Maria Kogelnik** for the NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp. In my mind, at this point, she's of equivalent quality as other applied microeconomists who have excelled from our PhD program recently including Jenna Stearns (assistant professor at UC Davis), Kevin Schnepel (assistant professor at Simon Fraser), and Ben Hansen (full professor at U Oregon and NBER Research Associate). If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at royer@econ.ucsb.edu or phone at 510 409 3346.

Sincerely,



Heather N. Royer
Associate Professor of Economics