

AMANDA J FELKEY

EDUCATION

CORNELL UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

Ithaca, NY 2001-2006

- Ph.D., Economics —May 2006
- Masters of the Arts, Economics—August 2005
- Fields—Development, Behavioral, Applied Theory
- Working Papers: *Husbands, Wives and the Peculiar Economics of Household Public Goods, A Theory of Efficiency Wage With Community-Based Sharing, Student Sorting in the Chicago Public Schools; Will You Covenant Marry Me? An Empirical Look at a New Type of Marriage*
- Research Assistant: organized “75 Years of Development Research” Conference, May 7-9 2004—a three day economics conference with invited speakers and 140 participants presenting their original research
- Teaching Assistant: Game Theory, Labor Economics, History of Economic Institutions
- Leadership: Graduate and Professional Student Association—Economics Representative (2003-2004) and Social Sciences Representative (2004-2005); General Committee of the Graduate School—Graduate Student Member (2003-2006); Off-Campus Housing Task Force (2004-2005)
- Johnson Graduate School of Management Consulting Club (2004-2005); Second Place, Annual Team Case Competition (2004)

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Bozeman, MT 1999-2001

- Master in Applied Economics program
- Thesis title – *The Effects of Privatization Methods on Bulgarian Agricultural Productivity*

UNIVERSITY OF KØBENHAVN

Copenhagen, Denmark 1998-1999

- Denmark’s International Study Program
- International Business curriculum: EU, EMU, Marketing in Europe, Business Relations with Central & Eastern Europe

CARLETON COLLEGE

Northfield, MN 1995-1999

- Bachelor of the Arts in Economics
- Studied Economics and the Industrial Revolution at Kings College, Cambridge University in Cambridge England
- Student Departmental Advisor (1998-1999)
- Independent Study on the institutional and economic development of the North American Fur Trade

AWARDS & HONORS

- First place student paper competition, Southwestern Economic Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX. (*Will you Covenant Marry me? An Empirical Look at a New Type of Marriage*)
- Presidential Graduate Scholarship, Montana State University, Bozeman, MT.
- Received Distinction in Economics based on my academic performance and Senior Comprehensive Project, Carleton College, Northfield, MN. (*The effects of the transition from a planned to market economy on the fertility of women, the specific case of Bulgaria*)

SELECTED EXPERIENCE

LAKE FOREST COLLEGE

Lake Forest, IL 2005-present

- Assistant Professor
- Organizer for the Department Seminar Series
- Co-Organizer of the CSWEP (Committee for the Status of Women in the Economics Profession) Session at the Midwest Economics Association Meetings in Minneapolis, 2007.
- Courses Taught: Quantitative Methods for Economics and Business, Economics of Development, Behavioral Economics.

FEDERAL RESERVE BANK, CHICAGO

Chicago, IL 2003-present

- Consultant
- Graduate Research Assistant, 2003 & 2005
- Worked primarily on two research projects—(1) unofficial sorting of students based on prior academic performance in the Chicago Public Schools, and (2) the effects of accountability laws stemming from the No Child Left Behind Act on obesity in public schools
- Presented original research on Eastern European fertility and household public goods at Research Department Seminars

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SELECTED EXPERIENCE—Continued

POLITICAL ECONOMY RESEARCH CENTER

Bozeman, MT 1997, 2001

- Graduate Fellow, 2001
- Researched the effects of land privatization regimes on the subsequent productivity of land use in Eastern Europe
- Undergraduate Research Assistant, 1997
- Compiled an original survey into a usable data set; research for a book titled *The Not So Wild, Wild West*

BOZEMAN HIGH SCHOOL SPEECH & DEBATE COACH

Bozeman, MT 1999-2001

- Directed Expository, Oratory and Memorized Public Address programs
- Coached the State Champion in Expository speaking, 2001

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Computing: Operating Systems-Windows, UNIX; Software-Excel, PowerPoint, Stata, Dreamweaver, Scientific Workplace
Avid Boater: Whitewater Kayaking and Rafting Yoga: Vinyasa Flow Traveler: Moscow, Prague, Riga, Vancouver

WORKING PAPERS

- **Felkey, Amanda J.** “Will you Covenant Marry me? A Look at a New Type of Marriage.”
In a backlash to the growing divorce rate, three states have begun to offer covenant contracts, which are a stronger form of legal marriage. Theoretically, this analysis proposes two frameworks, both a standard and a behavioral explanation of the choice to covenant marry. It utilizes Louisiana marriage certificate data, including all marriages from 1990 to 2003, to empirically determine the scope and effects of the covenant marriage option. Individual and couple characteristics are used to determine how covenants are systematically chosen over traditional marriages. Parish level yearly divorce and covenant rates lead to a determination of the options effectiveness in creating stronger, happier unions.
- **Felkey, Amanda J.** “Husbands, Wives and the Peculiar Economics of Household Public Goods and Bads.”
Understanding how household income is allocated among different types of expenditures is important when considering policy targeted at increasing household well-being. Using the collective household model this paper shows both theoretically and empirically that the effect of additional female power on household outcomes depends on the initial level of female power. And contrary to previous findings, it need not always be positive. The policy implications of this non-monotonic relationship between female decision-making power and household well-being outcomes are important. The effectiveness of aid to households depends not only on current expenditure levels, but also on household balance of power. More specifically, enhancement of female power, while generally good for child nutrition (more controversially, and the paper shows this theoretically and empirically) there is also a class of situations where this is not so.
- Basu, Kaushik and **Amanda J Felkey.** “A Theory of Efficiency Wage With Community-Based Sharing.”
This paper uses efficiency wage theory and the existence of community based sharing to hypothesize that labor markets in developing countries have multiple equilibria—the same economy can be stuck at different levels of unemployment with different levels of wages. The result is constrained to poor economies where wage productivity models seem to be applicable and income sharing among the poor is prevalent. We establish a mutual reinforcement of income sharing and unemployment. That more unemployment leads to more income sharing is a logical extension of evidence and the fact that more sharing increases unemployment rates is established theoretically in our model. As a corollary, we show that within the same society, two different racial groups, that may be innately identical, can have different levels of unemployment and wages in equilibrium.
- Aaronson, Dan, Lisa Barrow and **Amanda J Felkey.** “Sorting by Student Ability in Chicago Public Schools.”
Using administrative data from the Chicago Public Schools, this analysis measures to what degree high school students are sorted by prior performance between schools and classrooms within the district. It utilizes segregation measures from the racial segregation literature to determine the degree to which ability sorting occurs. Then the analysis uses school and teacher level data to determine whether this sorting is systematic.
- **Felkey, Amanda J** and Aparna Lhila. “Household Bargaining and Prenatal Investments in the Health of Sons and Daughters.”
This study analyzes whether household bargaining between a man and a woman affects investments in children before they are born. Specifically, we use data from the 1989-2001 US Natality Detail Files to determine if knowing the sex of the child matters to prenatal investments in a when household bargaining is driving the household’s resource allocation decision. We also test whether or not a difference in preferences could explain any systematic differences in pre-birth investments.

AMANDA J FELKEY

SELECTED SEMINARS & PRESENTATIONS

- March 2007 “Household Bargaining and Prenatal Investments in the Health of Sons and Daughters.” Conference Paper Presentation. *Midwest Economic Association*, Minneapolis, MN
- Feb 2007 CeMent: Mentoring for Junior Faculty. Competitive Regional Mentoring Workshop Participant. Sponsored by CSWEP. *Eastern Economics Association Meetings*, New York, NY
- Dec 2006 “Husbands, Wives and the Peculiar Economics of Household Public Goods.” Conference Paper Presentation. *Annual Conference on Economic Growth and Development*, New Delhi, India
- Nov 2006 “Husbands, Wives and the Peculiar Economics of Household Public Goods.” Conference Paper Presentation. *GPED 50th Anniversary Conference*, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN
- Sept 2006 “Will you Covenant Marry me? An Empirical Look at a New Type of Marriage.” Invited Paper Presentation. *Economics Department Seminar Series*, Milwaukee, WI
- April 2006 “Will you Covenant Marry me? An Empirical Look at a New Type of Marriage.” Conference Paper Presentation. *Southwestern Economic Association Annual Meeting*, San Antonio, TX
- March 2006 “Husbands, Wives and the Peculiar Economics of Household Public Goods.” Conference Paper Presentation. *Midwest Economic Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL
- Nov 2005 “Will you Covenant Marry me? An Empirical Look at a New Type of Marriage.” Conference Paper Presentation. *Understanding and Informing Policy Design—Association for Public Policy and Management*, Washington, DC
- Oct 2005 “Will you Covenant Marry me? An Empirical Look at a New Type of Marriage.” Conference Paper Presentation. *Imagining Public Policy to meet Women’s Economic Security Needs*, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
- Sept 2005 “Husbands, Wives and the Peculiar Economics of Household Public Goods and Bads.” Conference Paper Presentation. *Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC)*, Brown University, Providence, RI
- July 2005 “Husbands, Wives and the Peculiar Economics of Household Public Goods and Bads.” Seminar Presentation. *Brown Bag Seminar*, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- March 2005 “Will you Covenant Marry me? An Empirical Look at a New Type of Marriage.” Conference Poster Presentation—Forthcoming. *Population Association of America, Annual Meeting*, Philadelphia, PA
- Oct 2004 “A Theory of Efficiency Wage With Community-Based Sharing.” Conference Paper Presentation. *Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC)*, HEC Montréal, University of Montréal, Montréal, Canada
- May 2004 “Efficiency Wages, Community-Based Sharing and Multiple Equilibria.” Conference Paper Presentation. *75 Years of Development Research*, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
- Aug 2004 “An Alternative Explanation of Fertility Decline.” Seminar Presentation. *Micro Lunch Seminar*, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Chicago, IL
- Feb 2003 “The Demand for Children in Bulgaria: A study of Fertility in Transition Economies.” Conference Paper Presentation. *Beyond Post Communist Transition*, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada