

## Audrey L. Light

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### Education

University of Chicago, B.A. (Economics), 1982  
University of California, Los Angeles, M.A. (Economics), 1984  
University of California, Los Angeles, Ph.D. (Economics), 1987

### Employment

Professor, Department of Economics, Ohio State University, 2005 – present.

Other Ohio State University affiliations:  
Faculty Associate, Center for Human Resource Research, 1995 – 2015.  
Faculty Associate, Institute for Population Research, 2000 – present.

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Ohio State University, 2000 – 2005.

Visiting Researcher, Department of Policy Studies, UCLA School of Public Policy and Social Research, January – March 2003.

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Ohio State University, 1995 – 2000.

Research Scientist, Center for Human Resource Research and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Ohio State University, 1993 – 1995.

Visiting Scholar, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 1992 – 1993.

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, SUNY Stony Brook, 1987 – 1992.

### Journal Publications

“College Major, College Coursework, and Post-College Wages” (with Sydney Schreiner). *Economics of Education Review* 73 (December 2019).  
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0272775719303784>

“Moving Beyond the STEM/Non-STEM Dichotomy: Wage Benefits to Increasing the STEM-Intensities of College Coursework and Occupational Requirements” (with Apoorva Rama). *Education Economics* 27 (August 2019): 358-82.

“Predicting Educational Attainment: Does Grit Compensate for Low Levels of Cognitive Ability?” (with Peter Nencka). *Learning and Individual Differences* 70 (February 2019): 142-54.

“Business Ownership vs. Self-Employment” (with Robert Munk). *Industrial Relations* 57 (July 2018): 435-468.

“Does Employer Learning Vary by Schooling Attainment? The Answer Depends on How Career Start Dates Are Measured” (with Andrew McGee). *Labour Economics* 32 (January 2015): 57-66.

“Employer Learning and the ‘Importance’ of Skills” (with Andrew McGee). *Journal of Human Resources* 50 (Winter 2015): 72-107.

- “Determinants of Long-Term Unions: Who Survives the ‘Seven Year Itch’?” (with Yoshiaki Omori). *Population Research and Policy Review* 32 (December 2013): 851-891.
- “Can Long-Term Cohabiting and Marital Unions be Incentivized?” (with Yoshiaki Omori). *Research in Labor Economics* 36 (November 2012): 241-283.
- “Fixed Effects Maximum Likelihood Estimation of a Flexibly Parametric Proportional Hazard Model with an Application to Job Exits” (with Yoshiaki Omori). *Economics Letters* 116 (August 2012): 236-239.
- “Divorce as Risky Behavior” (with Taehyun Ahn). *Demography* 46 (November 2010): 895-921.
- “Interpreting Degree Effects in the Returns to Education” (with Alfonso Flores-Lagunes). *Journal of Human Resources* 45 (Spring 2010): 439-467.
- “Identifying Race and Ethnicity in the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth” (with Alita Nandi). *Population Research and Policy Review* 26 (April 2007): 125-144.
- “Measurement Error in Schooling: Evidence from Samples of Siblings and Twins” (with Alfonso Flores-Lagunes). *Contributions to Economic Analysis and Policy* 5 (issue 1, 2006).
- “Job Mobility and Wage Growth: Evidence from the NLSY79.” *Monthly Labor Review* 128 (February 2005): 33-39.
- “Why Parents Play Favorites: Explanations for Unequal Bequests” (with Kathleen McGarry). *American Economic Review* 94 (December 2004): 1669-1681.
- “Living Arrangements, Marital Status, and the Economic Well-being of Mothers: Evidence from Brazil, Chile and the United States.” (with Manuelita Ureta). *Journal of Family and Economic Issues* 25 (Fall 2004): 301-334.
- “Who Receives the College Wage Premium? Assessing the Labor Market Returns to Degrees and College Transfer Patterns” (with Wayne Strayer). *Journal of Human Resources* 39 (Summer 2004): 746-773.
- “Gender Differences in the Marriage and Cohabitation Income Premium.” *Demography* 41 (May 2004): 263-284.
- “Unemployment Insurance and Job Quits” (with Yoshiaki Omori). *Journal of Labor Economics* 22 (January 2004): 159-188.
- “From Bakke to Hopwood: Does Race Affect College Attendance and Completion?” (with Wayne Strayer). *Review of Economics and Statistics* 84 (February 2002): 34-44.
- “In-School Work Experience and the Returns to Schooling.” *Journal of Labor Economics* 19 (January 2001): 65-93.
- “Determinants of College Completion: School Quality or Student Ability?” (with Wayne Strayer). *Journal of Human Resources* 35 (Spring 2000): 299-332.
- Reprinted in Clive R. Belfield and Henry M. Levin (editors), *International Library of Critical Writings in Economics: The Economics of Higher Education*, Edward Elgar Publishing, 2003.

- “High School Employment, High School Curriculum, and Post-School Wages.” *Economics of Education Review* 18 (June 1999): 291-309.
- “Job Change Patterns and the Wages of Young Men” (with Kathleen McGarry). *Review of Economics and Statistics* 80 (May 1998): 276-286.
- “Estimating Returns to Schooling: When Does the Career Begin?” *Economics of Education Review* 17 (February 1998): 31-45.
- “Hazard Model Estimates of the Decision to Reenroll in School.” *Labour Economics* 2 (December 1995): 381-406.
- “The Effects of Interrupted Schooling on Wages.” *Journal of Human Resources* 30 (Summer 1995): 472-502.
- “Early-Career Work Experience and Gender Wage Differentials” (with Manuelita Ureta). *Journal of Labor Economics* 13 (January 1995): 121-154.
- “Interpreting Panel Data on Job Tenure” (with James N. Brown). *Journal of Labor Economics* 10 (July 1992): 219-257.
- “Panel Estimates of Male and Female Job Turnover Behavior: Can Female Nonquitters Be Identified?” (with Manuelita Ureta). *Journal of Labor Economics* 10 (April 1992): 156-181.
- “Gender Differences in Wages and Job Turnover Among Continuously Employed Workers” (with Manuelita Ureta). *American Economic Review* 80 (May 1990): 293-297.

### **Monographs**

- New Evidence on School Desegregation* (with Finis Welch). Washington, D.C.: United States Commission on Civil Rights, 1987.

### **Unpublished Research Papers**

- “Should English Majors Take Computer Science Courses? Labor Market Benefits of the Occupational Specificity of Major and Nonmajor College Credits” (with Sydney Schreiner Wertz). Working paper, August 2020; last revision February 2022.
- “Determinants of Household Wealth at Age 50: Evidence from the NLSY79” (with Kathleen McGarry). Working paper, October 2016; last revised May 2018.
- “Economic Incentives and Family Formation” (with Yoshiaki Omori). Working paper, March 2005; last revised February 2009.
- “Identifying Causal Effects of Schooling on Job Turnover” (with Yoshiaki Omori). Working paper, November 2008; last revised April 2011.
- “Why Parents Play Favorites: Explanations for Unequal Bequests” (with Kathleen McGarry). NBER Working Paper W9745, June 2003.
- “Notes on the NLS Schooling Data.” Prepared for NLS Summer Workshop, Columbus OH, August 1995.
- “High School Employment.” U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Discussion Paper 95-27, May 1995.
- “Transitions from School to Work: A Survey of Research Using the National Longitudinal Surveys.” U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics Discussion Paper 94-18, April 1994.

## **Research Grants**

- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, September 2011-August 2013. “Obesity, Marital Transitions and Economic Outcomes” (Principal Investigator).
- National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, June 2007-July 2009. “Computer Use and Child Outcomes” (Principal Investigator).
- Ohio State University Initiative in Population Research (seed grant), June 2007-September 2008. “Divorce as Risky Behavior” (Principal Investigator).
- Ohio State University Initiative in Population Research (seed grant), June 2005-June 2006. “Computer Use and Child Outcomes” (Principal Investigator).
- National Science Foundation, July 2004-June 2007. “Economic Incentives and Family Formation” (Principal Investigator).
- American Educational Research Association, June 2001-August 2001. “Transfer Decisions, Graduation Rates and Earnings of Four-year College Students” (Principal Investigator).
- Spencer Foundation, June 2000-October 2001. “College Transfer Decisions and their Effects on Future Earnings” (Principal Investigator).
- National Science Foundation, May 1996-August 1998. “A Competing Risks Model of Schooling and Job Turnover” (Principal Investigator).
- Ohio State University College of Social and Behavioral Science (seed grant), June-September 1994. “Schooling and Job Mobility” (Principal Investigator).
- Spencer Foundation, June-September 1993. “The Determinants of Discontinuous Schooling Among Young Men and Women” (Principal Investigator).
- National Science Foundation, June 1991-September 1993. “Fertility and the Labor Turnover of Women” (co-Investigator with Manuelita Ureta).
- U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, June 1988-August 1989. “Gender Differences in the Quit Behavior of Young Workers” (co-Investigator with Manuelita Ureta).

## **Other Grants and Contracts**

- Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP), August 2019; support for 2019 Midwest Econometrics Group Mentoring Workshop.
- International Association for Applied Econometrics (IAEA), May 2019, support for 2019 Midwest Econometrics Group Mentoring Workshop.
- U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, May 2015-May 2019. “National Longitudinal Survey of Youth” (co-Investigator with Randall Olsen and Elizabeth Cooksey).
- U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, March 2012-March 2015. “National Longitudinal Survey of Youth” (co-Investigator with Randall Olsen and Elizabeth Cooksey).
- Kauffman Foundation, December 2010-April 2014. “Business Ownership Data in the 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth” (Principal Investigator).

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, March 2009-July 2010.  
“NLS Workshop for New Researchers” (co-Investigator with Randall Olsen).

National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, March 2007-March 2008.  
“NLS Workshop for New Researchers” (co-Investigator with Randall Olsen).

### **Awards and Academic Honors**

1992-1993 H. Gregg Lewis Prize (with James N. Brown) for “Interpreting Panel Data on Job Tenure.” Awarded biennially to the outstanding paper in the *Journal of Labor Economics*.

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Dissertation Fellowship, 1984-87.

University of California Fellowship, 1982-84.

Phi Beta Kappa, 1982.

### **Professional Activities**

Co-organizer, 2019 Midwest Econometrics Group Mentoring Workshop.

Program Committee, Population Association of American annual meeting, 2012.

Editorial Board, *B. E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*, 2010 – 2012.

Senior Fellow, China Center for Human Capital and Labor Market Research, 2008 – 2015.

Principal Investigator, 1979 National Longitudinal Survey of Youth, 2005 – 2015.

Society of Labor Economists Nominating Committee for the Sherwin Rosen Prize and Jacob Mincer Lifetime Achievement Award, 2003 – 2005.

Editorial Board, *Demography*, 2002 – 2004.

Recent referee/reviewer for: *American Economic Journal: Applied*; *American Economic Review*; *Demography*; *Economics of Education Review*; *Education Finance and Policy*; *Higher Education*; *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*; *Industrial Relations*; *Journal of Economic Inequality*; *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*; *Journal of Human Resources*; *Journal of Labor Economics*; *Labour Economics*; *Social Forces*.

Member: American Economic Association; International Association for Applied Econometrics; Population Association of America; Society of Labor Economists.