

# Leigh L. Linden

Assistant Professor  
Economics and Public Affairs  
The University of Texas at Austin

## Contact Information:

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## Employment:

2011-Present: Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, The University of Texas at Austin  
2011-Present: Assistant Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs, The University of Texas at Austin  
2004-2011: Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Columbia University  
2004-2011: Assistant Professor, School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University  
2008 (Fall): Visiting Research Scholar, Center for Research on Child Wellbeing, Princeton University  
2008 (Fall): Visiting Research Scholar, Center for Health and Wellbeing, Princeton University  
1999-2000: White House Council of Economic Advisers, Staff Economist for Environmental Economics and Industrial Organization

## Education:

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Cambridge, Massachusetts  
Degree: Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, 2004  
The University of Texas at Austin: Austin, Texas  
Degrees: Bachelor of Arts in Economics, 1997  
Bachelor of Science in Mathematics, 1997

## Affiliations:

2013-Present: Research Fellow, Center for Economic Research in Pakistan  
2012-Present: Faculty Affiliate, Lozano Long Institute of Latin American Studies,  
The University of Texas at Austin  
2012-Present: Core Member, South Asia Institute, The University of Texas at Austin  
2011-Present: Faculty Research Associate, Population Research Center,  
The University of Texas at Austin  
2010-Present: Associate Editor, Journal of Development Economics  
2010-Present: Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research  
2010-Present: Evaluation Advisory Board, Carrera Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Program  
2009-Present: Junior Fellow, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD)  
2007-Present: Affiliated Researcher, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA)

2007-Present: Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)

2004-Present: Affiliated Researcher, Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL),  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2004-2011: Faculty Fellow, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy (ISERP),  
Columbia University

**Publications:**

"Improving Reading Skills by Encouraging Children to Read: A Randomized Evaluation of the Sa Aklat Sisikat Program in the Philippines." Accepted. *The Journal of Human Resources*. With Ama Baafrá Abeberese and Todd Kumler.

"The Effects of 'Girl-Friendly' Schools: Evidence from the BRIGHT School Construction Program in Burkina Faso." (2013) *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. 5(3): 41-62. With Harounan Kazianga, Dan Levy, and Matt Sloan.

"Bringing Education to Afghan Girls: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Village-Based Schools." (2013) *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*. 5(3): 27-40. With Dana Burde.

"Discrimination in Grading." (2012) *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 4(4): 146-68. With Rema Hanna.

"Grain Inflation: Identifying Agent Discretion in Response to a Conditional School Nutrition Program." (2012) *Journal of Development Economics*, 99(1): 128-138. With Gauri Kartini Shastri.

"Improving the Design of Conditional Transfer Programs: Evidence from a Randomized Education Experiment in Colombia." (2011) *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 3(2): 167-95. With Felipe Barrera-Osorio, Marianne Bertrand, and Francisco Perez-Calle.

"Estimates of the Impact of Crime Risk on Property Values from Megan's Laws." (2008) *American Economic Review*, 98(3): 1103-27. With Jonah Rockoff.

"Remedying Education: Evidence from Two Randomized Experiments in India." (2007) *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122(3): 1235-1264. With Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, and Shawn Cole.

"Benefits and Costs of Adopting Usage-Based Pricing in a Subnetwork." (2001) *Information Technology and Management*, 2(2): 175-191. With Alok Gupta, Dale O. Stahl, and Andrew B. Whinston.

"An Ordering Experiment." (2003) *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 50(2): 249-262. With A. Norman, M. Ahmed, J. Chou, K. Fortson, C. Kurz, H. Lee, K. Meythaler, R. Rando, K. Sheppard, N. Tantzen, I. White, and M. Ziegler.

"Order: Human versus Computer." (1997) in *Computational Approaches to Economic Problems*. (Eds.) A. Whinston and B. Rustem. Kluwer Academic Publishers. With A. Norman, G. Leonard, K. Meythaler, K. Murray, H. Newhouse, N. Tantzen, and M. Ziegler

**Under Review:**

"School Libraries and Language Skills in Indian Primary Schools: A Randomized Evaluation of the Akshara Library Program." With Evan Borkum and Fang He.

**Working Papers:**

"Encouraging Underserved, Intellectually Curious Children: An Evaluation of the Higher Achievement Program in Washington, DC." With Jean Grossman and Carla Herrera.

"How to Teach English in India: Testing the Relative Productivity of Instruction Methods within the Pratham English Language Education Program." With Fang He and Margaret MacLeod.

"A Better Way to Teach Children to Read? Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial." With Fang He and Margaret MacLeod.

"Complement or Substitute? The Effect of Technology on Student Achievement in India."

"Bridge Classes and Peer Networks among Out-of-School Children in India." With James Berry.

"The Effects of User Fee Reductions on Enrollment: Evidence from a Quasi-Experiment." With Felipe Barrera-Osorio and Miguel Urquiola.

"The Use and Misuse of Computers in Education: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial of a Language Arts Program." With Felipe Barrera-Osorio.

"Are Incumbents Always Advantaged? The Preference for Non-Incumbents in India."

"Could have been a Contender? The Effects of Limiting the Number of Candidates in Indian State Parliamentary Elections."

**Work in Progress:**

"Private Partnerships to Create Rural Schools: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Pakistan." With Felipe Barrera-Osorio, David Blakeslee, Matthew Hoover, and Dhushyanth Raju.

"Long-Term Effects of 'Girl-Friendly' School Construction: Evaluation of the BRIGHT School Program in Burkina Faso." With Harounan Kazianga, Dan Levy, and Matt Sloan.

"Spin-the-Bottle: A Randomization Technique Best Left to Teenagers." With Felipe Barrera-Osorio, David Blakeslee, Matthew Hoover, and Dhushyanth Raju.

"The Political Effects of Community-Based Schools: Evidence from Afghanistan." With Dana Burde.

"The Returns to Vocational Training: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial in Mongolia." With Erica Field and Shing-Yi Wang.

"The Effects of Clear Property Rights: Evidence from a Randomized Evaluation of a Land Titling Program in Mongolia." With Erica Field and Shing-Yi Wang.

"Saving to Re-Enroll: A Randomized Evaluation of an Educational Commitment Savings Device in Uganda." With Dean Karlan.

"The Effects of Individualized Instruction: A Randomized Pilot Evaluation of the School of One." With Jonah Rockoff.

#### **Fellowships, Honors, and Awards:**

2011-Present: Fellow, Murray S. Johnson Chair in Economics

2011-Present: Fellow, Leroy G. Denman, Jr. Regents Assistant Professorship in Economics

2008-2010: National Academy of Education/Spencer Postdoctoral Fellowship

2003: MacArthur Foundation Fellowship

1997-2002: Jacob K. Javits Fellowship

1997: Phi Beta Kappa, The University of Texas at Austin

1997: College of Liberal Arts Dean's Distinguished Graduate, The University of Texas at Austin

#### **Grants:**

"Impact Evaluation Design and Implementation Services: Mongolia Property Rights and Vocational Education Projects." With Erica Field, Shing-Yi Wang, and Daniel Rubenson. Millennium Challenge Corporation. 2012. MCC-10-0155-CON-20. Amount: \$3,085,583

"Reputation as a Public Policy for Internet Security." With Andrew Whinston. National Science Foundation. Award Number 1228990. 2012. Amount: \$658,404

"Smoothing the Costs of Education: Microsavings in Ugandan Primary Schools." With Dean Karlan. USAID Development Innovations Venture. 2012. Amount: \$181,537

"Encouraging Underserved, Intellectually Curious Children: An Evaluation of the Higher Achievement Program in Washington, DC." With Jean Baldwin Grossman and Carla Herrera. Spencer Foundation. 2011. Amount: \$411,787

- “Long-Term Effects of ‘Girl-Friendly’ Schools in Burkina Faso.” With Harounan Kazianga, Dan Levy, and Matt Sloan. Millennium Challenge Corporation. 2010. Amount: \$870,571
- “Evaluation of the School of One.” With Jonah Rockoff. US Department of Education. 2010. Amount: \$315,000
- “Encouraging Underserved, Intellectually Curious Children: An Evaluation of the Higher Achievement Program in Washington, DC.” With Jean Baldwin Grossman and Carla Herrera. The Smith Richardson Foundation. 2011. Amount: \$300,000
- “Impact Evaluation Design and Implementation Services: Mongolia Property Rights and Vocational Education Projects.” With Erica Field and Shing-Yi Wang. Millennium Challenge Corporation. 2009. MCC-07-0123-CON-91. Amount: \$733,267
- “Research on Children Working in the Carpet Industry of India, Nepal, and Pakistan.” With Eric Edmonds and ICF International. United States Department of Labor. 2008. Cooperative Agreement IL-16565-07-75-K. Amount: \$3,500,000
- “Encouraging Underserved, Intellectually Curious Children: An Evaluation of the Higher Achievement Program in Washington, DC.” With Maureen Holla, Jean Grossman and Carla Herrera. Picower Foundation. 2008. Amount: \$750,000
- “Sindh: Public-Private Partnership Impact Evaluation Project.” With Felipe Barrera-Osorio and Dhushyanth Raju. World Bank Education Program Development Fund. 2008. IE-P111361-IMPE-TF091923. Amount: \$210,000
- “Sindh: Differential Stipends Program Impact Evaluation Project.” With Felipe Barrera-Osorio and Dhushyanth Raju. World Bank Education Program Development Fund. 2008. IE-P102140-IMPE-TF091923. Amount: \$150,000
- “Enabling Young Readers: Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial of a Primary School Reading Program.” With Sa Aklat Sisikat. Asia Foundation. 2008. Amount: \$100,000
- “Protecting Children from War and Ensuring their Prospects for the Future: Educating in the Context of Crisis and Transition.” With Dana Burde. Spencer Foundation. 2007. Amount: \$483,283
- “Protecting Children from War and Ensuring their Prospects for the Future: Educating in the Context of Crisis and Transition.” With Dana Burde. National Science Foundation. 2007. Amount: \$99,498
- “Teaching Children to Read: An Experimental Assessment of Computer Enabled Libraries in Bangalore, India.” Michael and Susan Dell Foundation. 2007. Amount: \$90,000

“Encouraging Underserved, Intellectually Curious Children: An Evaluation of the Higher Achievement Program in Washington, DC.” With Maureen Holla, Jean Grossman, and Carla Herrera. W.T. Grant Foundation. 2006. Amount: \$750,000

“Burkina Faso Girls Education Threshold Program Evaluation.” With Harounan Kazianga, Dan Levy, and Matt Sloan. Millennium Challenge Corporation. 2006. Amount: \$483,283

“Evaluation of Computadores para Educar.” With Felipe Barrera. Asociación Computadores para Educar. 2006. Amount: \$95,000

“Evaluation of SED Gratuidad Program to Subsidize School Attendance.” With Felipe Barrera and Miguel Urquiol. Secretaria de Educación de Bogota. 2006. Amount: \$27,952

“Encouraging Underserved, Intellectually Curious Children: An Evaluation of the Higher Achievement Program in Washington, DC.” With Maureen Holla, Jean Grossman and Carla Herrera. Atlantic Philanthropies. 2005. Amount: \$750,000

“Education Production and Peer Networks Among Out-of-School Children in India.” National Science Foundation Award SES-0551333. 2005. Amount: \$353,855

“Education Production and Peer Networks for Out-of-School Children in India.” ISERP Seed Grant Competition. 2005. Amount: \$14,640

**Referee Service, Academic Journals:**

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics; American Economic Journal: Economic Policy; The American Economic Review; Asian Survey; Canadian Journal of Economics; Economic Development and Cultural Change; Economic Inquiry; The Economic Journal; Economics of Education Review; Educational Research; Empirical Economics; International Journal of Educational Development; Journal of Applied Economics; Journal of Applied Econometrics; Journal of Comparative Economics; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Development Studies; Journal of Health Economics; Journal of Human Capital; Journal of Human Resources; The Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of the European Economic Association; Journal of Urban Economics; Partnership for Economic Policy Working Paper Series; The Quarterly Journal of Economics; Research in Labor Economics; Review of Economic Studies; The Review of Economics and Statistics; and World Development.

**Referee Service, Grant Applications:**

Jameel-Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Agricultural Technology Adoption Initiative; Department for International Development (UK); Rockefeller Foundation, Bellagio Program; National Science Foundation; Smith Richardson Foundation; Spencer Foundation; The United States Agency for International Development; Wellcome Trust.

**University Service:**

Executive Committee, Department of Economics, The University of Texas at Austin, 2012-13  
Graduate Awards Committee, Department of Economics, The University of Texas at Austin, 2011-12  
Graduate Student Admissions Committee, Department of Economics, The University of Texas at Austin, 2011-13  
Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Economics, The University of Texas at Austin, 2011-12  
Graduate Student Admissions Committee, Department of Economics, Columbia University, 2004-08  
Graduate Student Admissions Committee, Sustainable Development PhD Program, Columbia University, 2004-08, 2009-10  
Member, Core Faculty, Sustainable Development PhD Program, Columbia University, 2007-2011

**Graduate Advising:**

David Blakeslee\* (NYU Abu Dhabi); Evan Borkum\* (Mathematica); Shubha Chakravarty (World Bank); Beliyou Haile (IMPAQ International); Fang He\* (US General Accounting Office); Natalia Kyui (Bank of Canada); Margaret MacLeod\* (US Department of State); Kaveh Majlesi (Lund University).  
\*Primary Advisor

**Teaching:**

Development Economics (Undergraduate Level); Development Economics (Graduate Level); Micro Economic Theory (Graduate Level); Causal Inference (Masters Level, Undergraduate Level); Economic and Political Development Workshop (Masters Level).

**Conferences and Seminars:**

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM): 2010\*  
Asian Development Bank: 2013  
Asian Institute of Management: 2013  
Australian National University: 2008\*  
Boston University: 2013  
Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD): 2008\*  
Brown University: 2010  
Center for Global Development: 2009  
Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW): 2005\*  
Comparative and International Education Society (CIES): 2008\*  
Columbia University, Political Science: 2006  
Columbia University, School of Social Work: 2008  
Columbia University, Teachers College: 2010  
Georgia State University: 2011  
Hong Kong Institute of Technology: 2013\*  
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB): 2012  
International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI): 2012  
Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA): 2009\*

Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), Impact Evaluation Network (IEN): 2007\*  
National Academy of Education: 2010\*  
National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER): 2006,\* 2007,\* 2008,\*  
New York University, Steinhardt School: 2008  
New York University, Wagner School: 2004, 2007  
Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC): 2006\*  
RAND: 2012  
Rutgers University: 2008  
Stanford University: 2010  
Texas A&M: 2009  
Tulane University: 2010  
Yale University: 2009  
University College London: 2009  
Universidad de Los Andes: 2008\*  
University of California at Davis: 2010  
University of California at Merced: 2009  
University of California at San Diego: 2010  
University of Chicago: 2009  
University of Houston: 2009  
University of Maryland, School of Public Policy: 2011  
University of Notre Dame: 2011  
University of Texas at Austin: 2011  
University of Virginia, Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy: 2011  
World Bank: 2009, 2011  
(\* Conferences)