Caitlin McGugan
Princeton University

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Undergraduate Studies

B.A. in Economics and Mathematics, minor in East Asian Studies
Williams College, Summa Cum Laude, 2005-2009

Chinese Language Diploma, Associated Colleges in China, Capital University of Economics and Business, Beijing, PRC, Spring 2008

Chinese Language Certificate, Princeton in Beijing, Beijing Normal University, Beijing, PRC, Summer 2007

Graduate Studies

Princeton University, 2011 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: "Essays in Health and Development"
Expected Completion Date: June 2017

References

Advisor: Professor Anne Case
Department of Economics
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Professor Ilyana Kuziemko
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Professor Thomas Fujiwara
Department of Economics
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Teaching and Research Fields

Primary Fields	Development, Public Health
Secondary Fields	Labor Economics

Teaching Experience

Fall 2015	ECO 562c, Advanced Economic Analysis of Development (Graduate), Princeton University, teaching assistant for Professor Anne Case

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2012 – 2016	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2008	James P. Baxter III Honor Scholarship, Williams College
2007	James A. Linen Grant for East Asian Studies, Williams College

Research Experience and Other Employment

July 2009 – July 2011	Research Associate, Princeton Economics Group

Citizenship

USA, Canada

Job Market Paper

"Evaluating Interventions for the Prevention of Mother-to-Child Transmission of HIV: Evidence from Africa"

Abstract: Development assistance from rich countries to poor countries faces challenges to effective implementation. Aid in the form of technical recommendations and funding often fails to reach people in need or has unintended negative consequences when executed on a large scale. In this paper, I evaluate the impact of prevention of mother-to-child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) services, a major contemporary example of development aid for health. PMTCT remains active and important, yet little is known about the outcomes of these services on a large scale.

A key component of PMTCT efforts by WHO/UNICEF is inducing HIV-positive mothers to wean early to mitigate the risk of postnatal HIV transmission through breastfeeding. I propose a novel method to identify program adherence using survey data on breastfeeding durations and mother's HIV status from 21 African countries. A difference-in-difference estimation strategy finds that HIV-positive mothers are 15-20 percentage points more likely than HIV-negative mothers to wean by 6 months post-PMTCT, a 300% increase, and this uptake is further limited to HIV-positive mothers who know their status. Despite impressive program reach and adherence, I show that survival rates have not significantly changed for children of HIV-positive mothers

after PMTCT. I also find evidence that early weaning increases mortality rates for children without access to piped water, even among children of HIV-positive mothers. This suggests that the risk of malnutrition and disease from not breastfeeding in poor environments outweighs the risk of transmission. My work suggests that PMTCT services should be more tailored to reflect heterogenous conditions on the ground, such as access to clean water.

Research Papers in Progress

"Evaluating the Impact of RSBY in India" (with Ishita Rajani)