

Rebecca Edwards

Contact Information

School of Economics
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Employment

2020 – present: Senior Lecturer, School of Economics, The University of Sydney
2013 – 2019: Lecturer, School of Economics, The University of Sydney
2004 – 2007: Research economist, Economic Analyst, The Reserve Bank of Australia

Education

Ph.D. Economics, Yale University, 2013
M.A. Economics, Yale University, 2009
B.A./B.Ec. (First class Hons. in Economics and Econometrics), UNSW, 2003

Associations

Fellow of the Life Course Centre (LCC)
Charles Perkins Centre member

Research fields

Labour, housing and health economics, inequality, applied microeconometrics

Research Funding

2024 – 2025: University of Sydney Yonsei Ignition Grant \$40,000
CI with Dr Youjin Hahn (Yonsei) and collaborators K.Atalay, H. Yang and M. Shim

2023 – 2026: FASS Postgraduate Research Scholarship, \$124,000
For PhD student stipend plus tuition fees - Awarded to Fang Han.
Understanding Spatial Inequalities: Mechanisms and Implications, with K.Atalay.

2021 – 2022: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Ltd (AHURI)
/National Housing Research Program Inquiry Grant, \$115,000
Inquiry into financing first home ownership: opportunities and challenges, Project A: Transitions into home ownership – a quantitative assessment, with S. Whelan, K. Atalay, M.Cigdem-Bayram and G. Barrett.

2020: LCC Funding for RA, \$5000

2018 – 2019: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Ltd (AHURI)
/National Housing Research Program Grant. \$112,000
Moving, downsizing and housing equity consumption choices of older Australians, with S. Whelan, K. Atalay and G. Barrett.

- 2015 – 2017: Australian Research Council Discovery Project. \$236,167
Family responses to economic shocks and policy reforms over the life cycle, with K. Atalay, R. Blundell, G. Barrett, H. Fisher and H. Low.
- 2014 – 2015: Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Ltd (AHURI)
 /National Housing Research Program Grant. \$167,000
House prices, mortgage debt and labour supply: evidence from Australian households, with K. Atalay and G. Barrett.

PUBLICATIONS

Journals

- **Lost in Transition: A Cohort Analysis of Catch-Up in Homeownership in Australia**, with Kadir Atalay and Fang Han, *Economic Record*, <https://doi.org/10.1111/1475-4932.12831>
- **Mortality inequality, spatial differences and health care access**, with Kadir Atalay and Fiona Georgiakakis, *Health Economics*, 32(11):2632-2654, 2023.
- **Transitions into homeownership, a quantitative assessment**, with Stephen Whelan, Kadir Atalay, Garry Barrett and Melek Cigdem-Bayram, *Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Final Report*, No. 404, July 2023.
- **First-in-their-family students at university: Can non-cognitive skills compensate for social origin?** with Rachael Gibson, Colm Harmon and Stefanie Schurer, *Economics of Education Review*, 91:12318, 2022.
- **House prices, housing wealth and financial well-being**, with Kadir Atalay, *Journal of Urban Economics*, 129:103438, 2022.
- **Lives Saved during Economic Downturns: Evidence from Australia**, with Kadir Atalay, Stefanie Schurer and David Ubilava, *Health Economics*, 30:2452-2467, 2021.
- **House Price Shocks, Credit Constraints and Household Indebtedness**, with Kadir Atalay, Garry Barrett, and Chaoran Yu, *Oxford Economic Papers*, 72(3), 780-803, 2020.
- **Moving, downsizing and housing equity consumption choices of older Australians**, with Stephen Whelan, Kadir Atalay and Garry Barrett, *Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Final Report*, No. 321, Nov 2019.
- **Effects of house prices on health: New evidence from Australia**, with Kadir Atalay and Betty Y.J. Liu, *Social Science and Medicine*, 192, 2017.
- **House prices, household debt and labour supply in Australia**, with Kadir Atalay and Garry Barrett, *Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute Final Report*, No. 266, July 2016.
- **Maternity Leave and the Evidence for Compensating Wage Differentials in Australia**, *The Economic Record*, 82(258), September 2006.

Working papers

- **Housing Wealth Effects on Labour Supply: Evidence from Australia**, with Kadir Atalay and Garry Barrett, 2016.
- **The US Labor Market in 2030: A Scenario Based on Current Trends in Supply and Demand**, with Fabian Lange, IZA Discussion Paper No. 7825, December 2013
- **Labour Force Participation and Household Debt**, with Rochelle Belkar and Lynne Cockerell, Reserve Bank of Australia, *Research Discussion Paper* 2007-05

Work in progress

- **Parents' housing wealth effects on youth mental health**
- **Trends in Elderly Poverty in Australia**, with Garry Barrett
- **Socioeconomic inequality in cancer diagnoses in Australia: 2006-2018**, with Kadir Atalay and Nina Parfinenko
- **Home ownership among migrant and native-born Australians**, with Kadir Atalay and Fang Han
- **Retirement and mortality**, with Kadir Atalay and Fang Han
- **The gender wage gap in Australia and the Workplace Gender Equality Act: a quantile decomposition approach**, with Zhen Yee Lim

Unpublished thesis

- **Essays on the labor market and work schedule flexibility**, PhD thesis, Yale University, 2013

Media engagement

- *Poor, middle-aged Australians are more likely to die from cancer – and the gap is widening*. Joint with K. Atalay. The Conversation, 10 Aug 2023. Selected as lead article for the daily newsletter.
- *So you think economic downturns cost lives? Our findings show they don't*. Joint with K. Atalay, D. Ubilava, and S. Schurer. The Conversation, 25 Nov 2020.
- *Lives saved during economic downturns: Evidence from Australia*. Joint with K. Atalay, S. Schurer and D. Ubilava (2020). VoxEU, 2 Nov 2020.

Conference and Seminar presentations

2024	Australian Gender Economics Workshop (discussant)
2021	Australian Economics & Finance PhD Conference (discussant)
2020	Australian Economics & Finance PhD Conference (discussant)
2017	Workshop on the Economics of Health and Wellbeing (discussant), Australian Conference of Economists Invited Panel Presentation on Inequality in Australian Lives
2016	Monash University, Reserve Bank of Australia research seminar
2014	Econometric Society Australasian Meetings, CIREQ Montreal Applied Economics Conference on "Fertility and Child Development", Society of Labor Economics meetings, University of Chicago Family Economics Workshop, Finance and Economic Women's Group Session at the Econometrics Society of Australasia Meetings, Social Policy Research Centre UNSW, University of Wollongong
2013	ARC Centre for Excellence in Population Ageing Research International Conference, European Society for Population Economics Conference, Royal Economic Society PhD Presentation Meeting (Queen Mary, University of London), Duke University, Bristol University, University of Melbourne, University of Adelaide, University of New South Wales, University of Sydney, University of Queensland

TEACHING AND SUPERVISION

Supervision

PhD supervision

- 2017 - ... Matthew Ho (part time), “Opening the Gates to Opportunity: Voting rights and the economic development of American counties”
2023 - ... Fang Han, “Essays on health, mortality and housing inequality”

MPhil supervision

- 2024 - ... Maria Ortiz Salazar (part-time), “Unlocking the Puzzle of Mental Health Gaps in Australia: How Healthcare Access and Economic Upheavals Shape Well-Being”

Honours or MEc Analysis thesis supervision (placement in parentheses)

- 2024 Andrew Mizon
Megan Zappia
2023 Alexandra Michielson (Reserve Bank of Australia, University Medalist)
Clarabel Chong (SGS Economics and Planning)
2022 Zhen Yee Lim (Mastercard)
Andrew Hua (Macquarie Bank)
Amey Sonawane (Australian Competition and Consumer Commission)
2021 Thomas Mackenzie (KPMG)
Fang Han (current PhD student at Sydney University)
2020 Jeffrey Khoo (Marque Lawyers)
Fiona Georgiakakis (Reserve Bank of Australia, Masters at LSE)
2019 Haniene Tayeb (Life Course Centre RA, then Research officer at NDARC)
Hua (Emma) Jin
2018 Shanshui (Josephine) Xu (Citi)
Aneesh Curran Gupta
2017 Rachael Gibson (NSW Premier’s Department)
Dylan Frangos (HoustonKemp)
2016 Jiexin Xue
2014 Chaoran Yu (continued to PhD at UC Berkeley)
Micaela Bassford (ACCC)

Subjects Taught

- 2017-2024: ECMT2150 Intermediate Econometrics (undergrad)
2020-2022: ECMT2950 Advanced Intermediate Econometrics (undergrad)
2018: ECMT1020 Introduction to Econometrics (undergrad)
2014, 2017, 2018 ECOS3023 Personnel Economics (undergrad)
2014, 2017 ECOS3027 Economics of the Family (undergrad)
2013-2014 ECMT6002 Econometric Applications (Masters)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE

Refereeing

American Economic Review, Australian Economic Papers, Australian Economic Review, Australian Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics, Canadian Journal of Economics, Cities, Economics and Human Biology, Economic Modelling, Economics of Education Review, Economic Record, Education Economics, Empirical Economics, Health Economics, ILR Review,

Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Economic Inequality, Journal of Labor Economics, Labour Economics, Social Science and Medicine.

2017 ARC Discovery Project Assessor

University governance and service activities

- School of Economics Representative on Academic Excellence Framework FASS Co-Design group (Sep 2023 – present)
- School of Economics Higher Degree Research Co-Coordinator (Nov 2016 – end 2023)
- Member, School Committee for Judith Yates Essay Prize (2021 – 2024)
- Member, Selection Committee, 4 Fixed term junior academic positions (2021)
- Member, School of Economics econometrics curriculum review (2014, 2018)
- FASS Early Career Researcher Network, School of Economics Lead (2016-2018)
- Member, Interview Selection Committee for Macroeconomics Chair (2017)
- Member, Mary Henderson Economic History Student Scholarship (2016, 2017)
- FASS Faculty Review Panel, participant (2016)
- Member, Search Committee for Econometrics Chair (2014/5)
- Member, High Performance Computing (HPC) Steering Committee (2014/5)
- Member, Social Science Building's Project User Group - planning advice for econometrics and experimental labs (2014)
- Member, Littrell-Cartwright Student Exchange Scholarship Committee (2014)

Discipline and Community service activities

- Program committee member for Australian Conference of Economists 2025
- Subject expert for the NSW Education Standards Authority Year 11-12 Economics Syllabus Technical Advisory Group (2023/4)
- Patient representative (paediatric parent rep) on Australian Cystic Fibrosis Data Registry Steering Committee (2024-2027)
- Member, Australian Cystic Fibrosis Conference Lay Conference Committee (2023/4)
- Member of steering committee and co-author (paediatric patient parent representative) for Chapter 1 ("The CF Centre: Patient-centred care, services and staffing") of the revised Australian Cystic Fibrosis Standards of Care (2023/4)

September 23, 2024