

Marina-Selini Katsaiti

18 Komninon Str.

11472, Athens

Greece

Phone: 211 700 9608, 6945 070194, 210 368 9377

selini.katsaiti@gmail.com

DATE OF BIRTH: February 16, 1980 **SEX:** Female **CITIZENSHIP:** Greece

EDUCATION:

2009	Ph.D., Economics, University of Connecticut <i>Major advisor:</i> Prof. Christian Zimmermann Title: "Three essays on the economics of obesity"
2007	M.A. in Economics, University of Connecticut
2004	B.A. in Human Resources Management, University of Athens, Greece
2001-2002	Erasmus Student, Department of Economics and Finance, Durham University, UK

HONORS SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS:

January 2009	Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship
2005-current	Graduate fellowship, teaching assistantship, and tuition remission for Ph.D. degree in Economics, University of Connecticut
2005 summer	Scholarship for attending the International Institute for Political and Economic Studies, organized by Georgetown University, the Greek Association for Atlantic and European Cooperation, and The Fund for American Studies
2005 Spring	Research assistantship and tuition remission for M.A. degree in Economics, University of Connecticut
2004-2005	Fulbright scholarship, M.A. in Economics, University of Connecticut
2001-2002	State Scholarships Foundation (IKY), Erasmus program, Durham University, UK

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

University of Connecticut

Summer 2009	Instructor for Intermediate Macroeconomics
Spring 2009	Instructor for Government and Industry
Fall 2008	Instructor for Intermediate Macroeconomics
Summer 2008	Instructor for Principles of Macroeconomics
Spring 2008	Instructor for Intermediate Macroeconomics
Fall 2007	Instructor for Principles of Macroeconomics (Honors Section)
Spring 2007	Teaching assistant for Principles of Macroeconomics
Fall 2006	Teaching assistant for Principles of Macroeconomics
Spring 2006	Teaching assistant for Principles of Microeconomics
Fall 2005	Teaching assistant for Essentials of Economics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:

- Oct 2009- Jul 2010 National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Economics: Researcher
- June 2007-Jan 2008 Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development: Research Assistant
Project completed: The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of CT Estate Tax (2008)
The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Connecticut's Film Tax Credit (2007): data collection and literature review.
- 2004- 2009 Connecticut Centre for Economic Analysis: Research Assistant
Projects completed: Stamford Housing Authority, HOPE VI (2005): data collection, analysis and co-author for final report
Connecticut's Spending Cap: It's history and An Alternative Spending Growth Rule (2005): data collection, analysis and co-author for final report.
Neighborhood Baseline Report: Bridgeport, CT (2007): data collection, data analysis and co-author for final report.
- 2002-2004 Centre for European Constitutional Law (Athens, Greece): Research and Administrative Assistant. Assistance in the implementation of scientific projects funded by the European Union and implemented by the Centre. In particular:
"Institutional Support to the Countries of South-Eastern Europe",
"Youth, Violence, Racism and the Media: A pilot study for an institutional and extra-penal prevention model",
"Constitutional Evolutions in Greece and Turkey".

LANGUAGES:

Greek, English, French, some Italian

COMPUTER SOFTWARE:

Microsoft Office, Stata, E-Views, Matlab

PRESENTATIONS:

6TH Annual Missouri Economics Conference, "Corruption and Growth Under Weak Identification", March 31ST - April 1ST 2006, Columbia, Missouri (presented by Philip Shaw)

1ST International Symposium on Economic Theory, Policy and Application, Athens Institute for Education and Research, "Corruption and Growth Under Weak Identification", August 18-19, 2006, Athens, Greece

11TH Annual Meeting of Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association and the 2006 Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society, "Corruption and Growth Under Weak Identification", November 2-4, 2006, Mexico City, Mexico.(presented by Philip Shaw)

47th Southern Regional Science Annual Meeting, “Estimating the Consumer Price Index by State”, March 27-30, 2008 VA-Washington, DC.

1st Ph.D. Conference in Economics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Department of Economics, “A Model of Choice: Food Consumption, Weight Preferences and Obesity Rates”, May 16, 2008, Athens, Greece.

Workshop: “What is behavioral in behavioral economics?”, University of Trento, Department of Economics, Computable and Experimental Economics Laboratory, “A Model of Choice: Food Consumption, Weight Preferences and Obesity Rates”, poster, 5-6 June, 2008, Trento, Italy.

5th International conference “Developments in Economic Theory and Policy”, Department of Applied Economics V, University of the Basque Country and the Cambridge Centre for Economic and Public Policy, University of Cambridge, “A Model of Choice: Food Consumption, Weight Preferences and Obesity Rates”, July 10-11, 2008, Bilbao, Spain.

3rd International Symposium on Economic Theory, Policy and Application, Athens Institute for Education and Research, “A Model of Choice: Food Consumption, Weight Preferences and Obesity Rates”, August 4-7, 2008, Athens, Greece.

IAREP/SABE 2008, International Association for Research in Economic Psychology and the Society for Advancement of Behavioral Economics, World Meeting, “A Model of Choice: Food Consumption, Weight Preferences and Obesity Rates”, September 3rd-6th, 2008, Rome, Italy.

35th Annual Conference, Northeast Business & Economics Association, “A Model of Choice: Food Consumption, Weight Preferences and Obesity Rates”, November 6th -8th, 2008, Melville, NY, USA.

Eastern Economics Association Annual Conference, “A Model of Choice: Food Consumption, Weight Preferences and Obesity Rates,” February 27th- March 1st 2009, New York City, USA.

The Ioannina Meeting on Applied Economics and Finance, “The Macroeconomic Implications of the Health Care Cost of Obesity: Who is picking up the tab?”, June 11th-12th 2009, Department of Economics, University of Ioannina, Ioannina, Greece.

New Directions in Welfare. A conference for economists and policy makers, “A Model of Choice: Food Consumption, Weight Preferences and Obesity Rates,” June 29th- July 1st 2009, St Catherine’s College, Oxford University, Oxford, UK.

Macroeconomics: Theory and Applications, “The Macroeconomic Implications of the Health Care Cost of Obesity: Who is picking up the tab?”, July 1st 2009, Department of Economics, Brunel University, London, UK.

25th Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, “Evaluating Health Care Externality Costs Generated by Risky Consumption Goods”, August 23rd- 26th 2010, Glasgow, UK.

JOURNAL REFEREE

Journal of International Trade and Economic Development
Applied Economics

INVITED SEMINARS:

- Toulouse School of Economics INRA-IDEI, December 1st, 2008.
- ALBA Business School, November 25th, 2008.
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, January 20th, 2009.
- University of New Haven, September 25th, 2009.
- University of Macedonia, November 16th, 2009.

PARTICIPATION IN SCIENTIFIC SEMINARS:

- Eighth Summer School in International and Development Economics: Outsourcing and Migration, August 30th – September 2nd 2009, Gargnano, Italy. Organized by: Centro Studi Luca d' Agliano, Centre for Economic Policy Research, Doctorate in Economics of the University of Milan, Doctorate in Economics of the University of Turin.

PUBLICATIONS

“A Macroeconomic Model of Weight Preferences and Obesity Rates”, Proceedings of the 1st PhD Conference in Economics 2008, in Memory of Vassilis Patsatzis, Tipothito-Giorgos Dardanos (ed.).

“Corruption and Growth Under Weak Identification”, **University of Connecticut working paper 2006** (with Philip Shaw and Marius Jurgilas), forthcoming in Economic Inquiry

“Obesity and Happiness”, SOEP Papers – DIW Berlin, No 270, Berlin, February 2010.

BOOKS

“Greek Economy: Challenges (Until 2010)”, by P. Petrakis, co-authored with Ch. Basdekis, K. Stratis and P. Kostis (in Greek), Papazisis Pub., Athens, 2010.

COMPLETED PAPERS:

“Corruption and Growth Under Weak Identification”, **University of Connecticut working paper 2006** (with Philip Shaw and Marius Jurgilas), forthcoming in Economic Inquiry

Abstract: The goal of this paper is to revisit the influential work of Mauro (1995) focusing on the strength of his results under weak identification. He finds a negative impact of corruption on investment and economic growth that appears to be robust to endogeneity when using two-stage least squares (2SLS). Since the inception of Mauro (1995), much literature has focused on 2SLS methods revealing the dangers of estimation and thus “traditional” types of inference under weak identification. We reproduce the original results of Mauro (1995) with a high level of confidence and show that the instrument used in the original work is in fact “weak” as defined by Staiger and Stock (1997). Thus we update the analysis using a test statistic robust to weak instruments. Our results suggest that under Mauro’s original model there is a high probability that the parameters of interest are locally almost

unidentified in multivariate specifications. To address this problem, we also investigate other instruments commonly used in the corruption literature and obtain similar results. After identifying an instrument with sufficient strength we fail to reject a zero effect of corruption on investment and economic growth.

“A Model of Choice: Food Consumption, Weight Preferences and Obesity Rates”

Abstract : The purpose of this paper is to construct a macroeconomic model that can explain the origins of obesity. We construct an Overlapping Generations heterogeneous agents model, with two sectors, one producing food and the other producing a composite consumption good. Individuals differ in their patience levels and thus in equilibrium in their consumption decisions and weight levels. Moreover, we allow for different fractions of the population in the service sector. We find that in economies where a large fraction of the employment is concentrated in more sedentary jobs, we should expect higher obesity rates. As a last thing we introduce borrowing constraints and examine how they influence consumption decisions. We derive results that explain which factors cause obesity rates to increase and propose policy implications. For verification purposes we apply econometric methods in order to identify to what extent our model can replicate the data.

“Obesity and Happiness” (under review: Applied Economics)

Abstract : The purpose of this paper is to investigate and analyze the relationship between obesity and happiness. The literature on happiness has identified multiple variables that impact individual well being. Medical literature has revealed a positive relationship between obesity and depression, psychiatric disorders and physical and emotional well-being. Moreover, evidence from psychology research has shown that happiness predicts longevity among healthy populations. Empirical evidence argues for the negative impact of bad health condition on life satisfaction. One significant aspect of health condition as well as of personal attractiveness, self esteem and social acceptance is weight. Although the relationship between overweight and well being logically seems to be negative and important, very little research has been done on this issue. Using data from GSOEP for twenty thousand individuals we examine the relationship between happiness and obesity using instrumental variable analysis. Our results show that overweight lowers happiness levels. Our findings also have additional implications for the significance of other socio-demographic, economic and individual characteristics on well being.

“Evaluating Health Care Externality Costs Generated by Risky Consumption Goods”, with Michael Cohen.

Abstract: We present an overlapping-generations (OLG) macroeconomic model that applies a behavioral interpretation of preferences for goods that generate health risks. In this paper proneness to poor health is viewed as a cognitive miscalculation by economic agents between their expected health state over various consumption bundles and the actual health care they require for their health outcome. To model this the paper borrows insight from prospect theory and applies the reference-dependent preference framework to the specification of out utility model. In our model of the economy individual preferences are decomposed into intrinsic consumption utility and gain-loss utility associated with the miscalculation. Agents in the economy are stratified in their health states as well as their expected health care consumption according to some probability measure over the population. Heterogeneity introduced in this way generates consumers of varied proneness to risk associated with consumption of unhealthy goods because individuals have various marginal valuations of their miscalculation. In such a population, when all agents pay the same insurance premium, health-conscious agents shoulder the health care costs of their less health-conscious counterparts and the less health-conscious are engaged in less healthy consumption than they would if they paid actuarially fair premia. We demonstrate these effects in simulations by comparing the risk pooling equilibria to the actuarially fair pricing equilibria. This paper introduces the mathematical programming equilibrium constraint (MPEC) computational approach to compute model equilibria; we believe this approach is new to heterogeneous agent OLG model simulation.

“Connecticut’s Spending Cap: It’s History and An Alternative Spending Growth Rule” (2005) Connecticut Centre for Economic Analysis, Working Paper, University of Connecticut (co-authors: Stanley McMillen, Mark Sheridan, Bryant Goulding, Patrick Flaherty, Sharan Sharma, Bingbo Hu)

“The HOPE VI Neighborhood Evaluation: Stamford, Connecticut” (2005) Connecticut Centre for Economic Analysis, Working Paper, University of Connecticut (co-authors: Stan McMillen, Patrick Flaherty, Nicholas Jolly, Priscillia Hunt, Maroula Kraiche, James Boudreau, Philip Shaw)

“Neighborhood Baseline Report: Bridgeport, Connecticut” (2007) Connecticut Centre for Economic Analysis, Working Paper, University of Connecticut (co-authors: Philip Shaw, Colin Brennan, Robert Slattery, John Doyle, Jesse Kalinowski and Adnan Nur)

“The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Connecticut’s Estate Tax” (2008) Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (co-authors: Stan McMillen, Troy Helming, Nandika Weerasignhe)

“The Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Connecticut’s Film Tax Credit” (2008) Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development (co-authors: Stan McMillen, Kathryn Parr, Troy Helming)

WORK IN PROGRESS:

“A Unified Computational Strategy for Simulating Stochastic Agent Based Macroeconomic General Equilibrium Models”, with Mike A. Cohen

“Non-parametric estimation of cross country productivity discrepancies”, with Philip Shaw.

“The political economy of Greek society”, book, by P. Petrakis, co-authored with K. Stratis and P. Kostis (in Greek).

“Multinational TV commercials: reality or simulation of happiness and ideals?”, co-authored with K. Petrakis and I. Ioakimidou.

REFERENCES

1. Christian Zimmermann, Associate Professor, University of Connecticut, Department of Economics.
Contact: Christian.zimmermann@uconn.edu
Phone number: 001 860 486 3272
Address: 341 Masfield Rd
Storrs, CT 06269, USA
2. Dennis Heffley, Professor and Department Head, University of Connecticut, Department of Economics
Contact: dennis.heffley@uconn.edu
Phone number: 001 860 486 4669
Address: 341 Masfield Rd
Storrs, CT 06269, USA

3. Stanley McMillen, Managing Economics, Department of Economic and Community Development, Assistant Professor in Economics, Trinity College
Contact: stan.mcmillen@ct.gov
Phone Number: 001 860 270 8166
Address: Department of Economic and
Community Development
505 Hudson Street
Hartford, CT 06106-7106