

DRC

Annual Research Meeting

Disability Research and Policy: New Evidence and Promising Ideas

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 2013
PRESENTERS

10:00–11:45 a.m.: DISABILITY-RELATED SUPPORTS AND PROGRAM INTERACTIONS

Moderator:



Jody Schimmel is a senior researcher at Mathematica, with primary research interests in disability policy, the employment of people with disabilities, and issues related to retirement and the elderly. She is currently leading two research projects assessing the interaction between SSA disability programs and the federal/state VR program. For the past several years, she directed studies assessing work activity among SSA disability beneficiaries and also led evaluations of SSA's Work Incentives Planning and Assistance (WIPA) program and the Medicaid Buy-In program. Schimmel serves as a co-lead of the DRC's training and education activities. She holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor.

Discussant:



Michael Wiseman is a research professor of public policy, public administration, and economics at George Washington University and a visiting scholar in the Office of Disability and Income Assistance Policy at SSA. He is a consultant on program management and evaluation to HHS and has served as consultant on policy and evaluation for the Department of Work and Pensions in the United Kingdom as well as for various federal and state agencies. Wiseman is an affiliated scholar with the Institute for Research on Poverty at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where he received a Ph.D. in economics.

Programmatic Interactions Among Federal Benefits for Veterans with Disabilities Seeking and Entering Employment



John Kregel is a professor of disability policy at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU). He is the associate director and research director of the VCU Rehabilitation Research and Training Center (RRTC), as well as principal investigator of VCU's Work Incentive Planning and Assistance National Training Center. Kregel is a principal investigator on DRC research related to veterans with disabilities. In his role with the VCU-RRTC, he investigates new approaches to increasing employment retention of individuals with developmental disabilities; return-to-work services for SSA beneficiaries and veterans with traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, and spinal cord injury; and asset development and financial literacy for persons with disabilities. Kregel holds an Ed.D. in special education from the University of Georgia.

Employment-Related Health Insurance and Service Delivery Needs of Persons with Disabilities



Alexis Henry is director of the Disability, Health and Employment Policy Unit at the University of Massachusetts Medical School's (UMMS) Center for Health Policy and Research, where she manages a team of researchers, project directors, and research staff examining the intersection of health, disability, and employment for people with disabilities served by public programs. Henry is a principal investigator on DRC research projects in the area of workers with chronic conditions. She has over 30 years of experience in the disability field as a provider, educator, and researcher. Henry is also a research associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry at UMMS. She earned her doctoral degree in therapeutic studies, as well as a master's degree, at Boston University.

Unemployment Insurance and Disability Insurance in the Great Recession



Andreas Mueller, Columbia University, received a Ph.D. from the IIES, Stockholm University, and was awarded the Arnberg'ska Prize for his dissertation work by the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences. His research spans a broad spectrum of issues in macroeconomics, labor economics, and monetary economics. A central focus of his research is the labor market and, more specifically, the interaction between the business cycle and unemployment. He has also done extensive research on the job search behavior of unemployed workers.

12:30–2:15 p.m.: FOREIGN EXPERIENCE AND LESSONS LEARNED ABROAD FOR U.S. DISABILITY POLICY

Moderator:



Crystal Blyler is a senior researcher at Mathematica, where she works on projects related to health, mental health, and disability. Before joining Mathematica, she spent 12 years as a social science analyst with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services. At SAMHSA, she worked in the Community Support Programs branch, which focused on developing systems that deliver high-quality services and supports to help people with serious mental illnesses live fulfilling lives in the community. As the SAMHSA lead on employment and mental health, she worked closely with numerous federal agencies, including the SSA, on initiatives regarding employment and disability. Other work focused on youth transition, consumer-operated services, and the integration of primary and behavioral healthcare. Before joining SAMHSA, Blyler was a schizophrenia researcher. She received her Ph.D. in psychology from Harvard University.

Discussant:



Daniel Mont is a principal research associate at the Leonard Cheshire Disability and Inclusive Development Centre at University College London. He previously worked as a senior economist at the World Bank, first with the disability and development team in Washington, DC, and then with the poverty reduction and economic management team in Vietnam office. He has worked extensively on inclusive development issues and has published widely on issues pertaining to disability measurement, social protection, and the relation between disability and poverty in developing countries. He currently serves as the disability adviser for AusAID's poverty reduction program in Indonesia, and is doing consulting work on disability issues for UNICEF, UNESCAP, the International Disability Alliance, and ADAPT (an NGO based in Mumbai). Prior to working at the World Bank, Mont was the director of the Workers' Compensation Project at the National Academy of Social Insurance, a principal analyst in the Health and Human Resources Division of the Congressional Budget Office, and an assistant professor at Cornell University. He was Kennedy Public Policy Fellow in 2003, and received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

International Efforts to Serve Youth and Young Adults with Disabilities



Lorenzo Moreno, a senior researcher at Mathematica, is an expert in systematic reviews of the literature of international youth development, education, and welfare policies and programs. He also is an expert in the design and implementation of complex experimental and quasi-experimental mixed-methods evaluations of social programs in the United States and other Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries, among others. For more than a decade, Moreno has led evaluations of health care delivery system reform demonstrations for the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, with emphasis on programs that incentivize the adoption and use of health IT in primary care physician practices. He is a visiting lecturer at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, where he teaches impact evaluation. Moreno has a Ph.D. in demography and populations studies and a M.Sc. in economics and statistics from the London School of Economics and Policy Science.

How Financial Incentives Induce Disability Insurance Recipients to Return to Work



Magne Mogstad is an assistant professor in the department of economics at the University College London. His research focuses on applied econometrics as well as public and labor economics. Mogstad holds a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Oslo.

An International Comparison of the Efficiency of Government Disability Programs



Jonathan Skinner is a James O. Freedman Presidential Professor of economics at Dartmouth College and a research associate at NBER. His research interests include the economics of government transfer programs, technology growth and disparities in health care, and savings behavior of aging baby boomers. Skinner holds a Ph.D. and an M.A. in economics from the University of California, Los Angeles.