

LEWIS SCHENCK DAVIS

Lippman Hall, Union College, 807 Union Street, Schenectady, NY 12308
518-388-8395, davisl@union.edu

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Thomas Armstrong Professor of Economics, Union College, Schenectady, NY, Sept. 2020.

Bankwest Centre Adjunct Professor of Economics, Curtin University, Perth, Australia, August, 2020.

Professor of Economics, Union College, Schenectady, NY, Sept. 2015 – present.

Associate Professor of Economics, Union College, Schenectady, NY, Sept. 2011 – 2015.

Visiting Professor of Economics, School of Economics and Law, Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany, June-July, 2014.

SWING Visiting Scholar of Economics, University of Perugia, Perugia Italy, April-May, 2014.

Visiting Professor of Economics, IESEG, Catholic University, France, March 2012.

Scholar in Residence, NYU Faculty Research Network, Spring, 2012.

Visiting Professor of Economics, IESEG, Catholic University, France, Jan. 2012.

Scholar in Residence, NYU Faculty Research Network, Spring 2009.

Assistant Professor of Economics, Union College, Schenectady, NY, 2006 – 2011.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, Smith College, Northampton, MA, 2001-2006.

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, University of New Hampshire, 1999-2001.

Assistant Professor of Economics, State University of New York at Oswego, 1998-99.

Instructor, Teaching Assistant, Research Assistant, UNC-CH, 1990-1997.

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1999.

BS in Mathematics, Davidson College, Davidson, NC, 1988.

HONORS

Furman University Visiting Scholar, Fall, 2014.

Stillman Prize for Excellence in Teaching, Finalist, Union College, 2013.

Faculty Teaching Award, Nominee, Smith College, Spring 2004

Lurey Fellow, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1993 – 1994

Reynolds Scholar, Davidson College, Davidson, NC, 1984 – 1988.

GRANTS

- Competitive Course Release Grant, Union College, one course release, January 25, 2021.
- Interdisciplinary Studies Grant, Gender Studies Research Group, joint with Jill Murphy, \$1000, June 6, 2018.
- Interdisciplinary Studies Grant, Gender Studies Research Group, joint with Lori Marso and Jill Murphy, \$2000, June 6, 2018.
- Faculty Research Fund Grant, “Stata Programming Course,” \$150. Spring, 2017.
- Faculty Research Fund Grant, “Redistribution and the Taste for Status,” \$750. Spring, 2017.
- Mellon Foundation Our Shared Humanities Zone of Inquiry Grant, “Religion, Social Conflict, and Social Cohesion,” \$6,950, Spring, 2017.
- Faculty Research Funds Grant, \$3000, Spring, 2014.
- Rapaport Everyday Ethics Across the Curriculum, Course Development Grant, Union College, Spring, 2012.
- Rapaport Everyday Ethics Across the Curriculum, Course Development Grant, Union College, Spring, 2009.
- Rapaport Everyday Ethics Across the Curriculum, Course Development Grant, Union College, Spring, 2008.
- Summer Research Grant, Union College, Summer 2008.
- Connections Fund Grant, Smith College, Spring 2006.
- Grant for Research, Smith College, 2002-2003.

MEDIA EXPOSURE

- “The Taste for Status in International Comparison” (with Stephen Wu) was featured in *Weekendavisen*, Copenhagen, Aug. 17, 2018. (In Danish.)
- “Gendered Language and the Educational Gender Gap,” featured on
 - *The Conversation*, March 8, 2018.
 - *The Academic Minute*, Northeast Public Radio, July 18, 2018.
- “Social Animal House: The Economic and Academic Consequences of Fraternity Membership” (with Jack Mara and Steven Schmidt) was covered by numerous national media outlets, including [Bloomberg View](#), [Fox News](#), [Mother Jones](#), [Market Watch](#), [National Affairs](#), and [Real Clear Life](#), during Sept. and Oct. 2017.
- “Individual Responsibility and Economic Development: Evidence from Rainfall Data,” was featured on
 - *The Academic Minute*, WAMC, Northeast Public Radio, Nov. 17, 2016.
 - *The Marginal Revolution*, Sept. 21, 2016.
- “Social Status and Racial Solidarity” (with Stephen Wu), featured on
 - *The Academic Minute*, WAMC. Aired Dec. 2, 2015.

WORKING PAPERS

- “Social Disparities and Social Distancing during the Covid Pandemic” with Justin Esposito, Class of 2021. Revise and resubmit, *Eastern Economic Journal*.
- “Covid on Campus: An Empirical Analysis of Covid Infection Rates at US Colleges and Universities” with Stephen Schmidt and Sophia Zacher, Class of 2021. Revise and resubmit, *Southern Economic Journal*.
- “Gendered Language and Gendered Violence,” with Astghik Mavisakalyan and Clas Weber. Under review, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.
- “Individualism and the Legal Status of Prostitution,” with Astghik Mavisakalyan. Under review, *World Development*.
- “Patience and the Taste for Environmental Quality,” with Dolores Garrido and Carolina Missura, Class of 2022. Under review, *Environmental Research*.
- “Culture, Development, and the Divergence of Women’s Empowerment,” in process.

BOOK

Associate Editor, *Princeton Encyclopedia of the World Economy*, 2 volumes, edited with R. S. Rajan, K. A. Reinert, and A. Glass, Princeton University Press, February 2009.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

1. “Individualism and Women’s Economic Rights,” (with Claudia Williamson), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 198 (June 2022), 579-597.
2. “On the Origin of Religious Values: Does Italian Weather Affect Individualism in Bolivia?” *Journal of Economics, Management and Religion*, Oct. 2021.
3. “Cultural Roots of Family Ties,” (with Claudia Williamson), *Journal of Institutional Economics* 16(6), December 2020, 785-808.
4. “The Taste for Status in International Comparison,” (with Stephen Wu), *Journal of Happiness Studies* 21, August 2020, 2237–2256.

5. "Refining the Saliency Hypothesis: The Economic and Cultural Roots of Economic and Cultural Concerns over Immigration," (with Sumit Deole), *International Migration*, June 2020, 1-17.
6. "Preferences or Patriarchy: What Determines Whether Religious Women Work?" (with Jia Gao), *Social Indicators Research* 147(1), January 2020, 287-310.
7. "Is Justice Blind? Evidence from Federal Corruption Convictions," (with KR White, '18), *Public Choice*, November 2019.
8. "Does Individualism Promote Gender Equality?" (with Claudia Williamson), *World Development*, November 2019.
9. "Growth, Inequality and Tunnel Effects: A Formal Model," *Journal of Happiness Studies* 20(4), April 2019, 1103-1119.
10. "Political Economy of Growth with a Taste for Status," *Journal of Public Economics* 168, December 2018, 35-46.
11. "Open Borders for Business? Causes and Consequences of the Regulation of Foreign Entry," (with Claudia Williamson), *Southern Economic Journal* 85(2), Oct. 2018, 508-536.
12. "Gendered Language and the Educational Gender Gap," (with Megan Reynolds, '16) *Economics Letters* 168, July 2018, 46-48.
13. "Social Animal House: The Economic and Academic Consequences of Fraternity Membership," (with Jack Mara, '10, and Stephen Schmidt) *Contemporary Economic Policy* 36(2), April 2018, 263-276.
14. "Culture and the Regulation of Entry," (with Claudia Williamson) *Journal of Comparative Economics* 44(4), Nov. 2016, 1055–1083.
15. "Individual Responsibility and Economic Development: Evidence from Rainfall Data," *Kyklos* 69(3), August 2016, 426-470.
16. "Language, Culture and Institutions: Evidence from a New Linguistic Dataset," (with Farangis Abdurazokzoda, '15) *Journal of Comparative Economics* 44(3), August 2016, 541-561.
17. "How to Generate Good Profit Maximization Problems," *Journal of Economic Education* 45(3), July 2014, 183-190.

18. "Social Comparisons and Life Satisfaction across Racial and Ethnic Groups: The Effects of Status, Information and Solidarity," (with Stephen Wu) *Social Indicators Research* 117, July 2014, 849-869.
19. "The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth: An Empirical Investigation," (with Matthew Knauss) *Journal of Socio-Economics* 42, February 2013, 43-50.
20. "National Policies, State Response and Community College Outcomes: Testing an Augmented Bennett Hypothesis," (with Allison Frederick and Stephen Schmidt) *Economics of Education Review* 31, Dec. 2012, 809-817.
21. "Private Patent Protection in the Theory of Schumpeterian Growth," (with M. Fuat Sener) *European Economic Review* 56(7), Oct. 2012, 1446-1460.
22. "Intellectual Property Rights, Institutional Quality and Economic Growth," (with M. Fuat Sener) *Journal of International Commerce, Economics and Policy* 3(1), 2012, 1240005. (Invited Article)
23. "Legal Origin and the Evolution of Environmental Quality," (with Emily LaCroix, '11) *Economics Bulletin* 31(4), October 2011, 2968-2974.
24. "Institutional Foundations of Inequality and Growth," (with Mark Hopkins) *Journal of Development Studies* 47(7), July 2011, 977-997.
25. "Institutional Flexibility and Economic Growth," *Journal of Comparative Economics* 38 (3), September 2010, 306-320.
26. "Do All Countries Follow the Same Growth Process?" (with Ann Owen and Julio Videras) *Journal of Economic Growth* 14(4), December 2009, 265-286. (Lead article)
27. "Teaching the Economics of Sin," *Teaching Ethics* 9(2), Special Issue: Everyday Ethics at Union College, Spring 2009, 51-58. (Invited article)
28. "Scale Effects in Growth Theory: A Role for Institutions," *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 66(2), May 2008, 403-419.
29. "Market Transaction Costs in Industrial Revolution and Demographic Transition," *Pacific Economic Review* 12(1), Special Section on the Economics of Endogenous Specialization, February 2007, 79-99. (Invited article)
30. "Explaining the Evidence on Inequality and Growth: Informality and Redistribution," *The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics* 7(1), (Contributions), Article 7, 2007.
31. "Growing Apart: The Division of Labor and the Breakdown of Informal Institutions," *Journal of Comparative Economics* 34(1), March 2006, 75-91.

32. "Trade, Growth and Uneven Development: A Critical Survey," (with William Darity, Jr.) *Cambridge Journal of Economics* 29(1), January 2005, 141-170. (Invited article)
33. "Toward a Unified Transaction Cost Theory of Economic Organization," *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* 159(3), September 2003, 571-93.
34. "Does the Market Recognize IT-Enabled Competitive Advantage?" (with Bruce Dehning and Theophanis Stratopoulos), *Information and Management* 40(7), August 2003, 705-716.
35. "The Division of Labor and the Growth of Government," *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control* 27(7), May 2003, 1217-1235.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITED VOLUMES

36. "Immigration and the Rise of the Political Right in Europe," with Sumit Deole, Center for Economic Studies ifo *DICE Report - Journal for Institutional Comparisons* 15, December 2017. (Invited)
37. "Development." In: Rajan and Reinert (Eds.) *Princeton Encyclopedia of the World Economy*, 2 vols. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009.
38. "Technological Progress, Economic Growth." In: Darity, William A., Jr. (Ed.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 2nd edition. 9 vols. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2008.
39. "Development Economics." In: Darity, William A., Jr. (Ed.), *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*, 2nd edition. 9 vols. Detroit: Macmillan Reference USA, 2008.

TECHNICAL REPORTS

- "Economic Impact of the New York Health Act," with Jia Gao and Stephen Schmidt, Aug. 20, 2020. Produced at the request of the New York Health Plans Association.
- "Economic Consequences of Taxing Pharmaceuticals in New York State," with Jia Gao, March 3, 2020. Produced at the request of Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

- “Economic Analysis of an Excise Tax on Prescription Opioids,” with Jia Gao, prepared for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Feb. 26, 2019.
- “Economic Analysis of the NY State Prescription Opioid Tax,” with Jia Gao, prepared for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Feb. 21, 2018.
- “Economic Impact of a Surcharge on ‘High-Cost’ Drugs,” with Jia Gao, prepared for Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, March 6, 2017

PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

“Gendered Language and Gendered Violence,” with Astghik Mavisakalyan, IAFFE Conference, Geneva, Switzerland, June 30, 2022.

“Individualism and the Legal Status of Prostitution,” with Astghik Mavisakalyan, Southern Economic Association Meetings, Nov. 21, 2021

“Gendered Language and Male Marital Authority in India,” with Smriti Bhargava, Southern Economic Association Meetings, Nov. 20, 2021.

“Covid on Campus: An Empirical Analysis of Covid Infection Rates at US Colleges and Universities” with Stephen Schmidt and Sophia Zacher, Union College Covid Symposium, Oct. 21, 2021.

“Social Disparities and Social Distancing during the Covid Pandemic” with Justin Esposito, Union College Covid Symposium, Oct. 21, 2021.

“Individualism and Women’s Economic Rights,” with Claudia Williamson,

- WEAI Meetings (virtual), June 30, 2021.
- SEA Meetings (virtual), Nov. 21, 2020.

“Culture, Development and the Future of Gender Inequality,”

- WEAI Meetings (virtual), June 30, 2021.
- SEA Meetings (virtual), Nov. 22, 2020.

“The Taste for Status in International Comparison,” with Stephen Wu (Hamilton College), Southern Economic Association Meetings, Nov. 24, 2019.

“Cultural Roots of Family Ties,” with Claudia Williamson (Miss. State U.), Southern Economic Association Meetings, Nov. 24, 2019.

“Individualism and Gender Equality,” with Claudia Williamson (Miss. State U.),

- Capital District Feminist Studies Consortium, Feb., 2019.

- Gender Studies Research Lunch, Union College, Oct. 2018.
- Southern Economic Association Meetings, Nov. 19, 2017.

“Is Justice Blind: Evidence from Federal Corruption Convictions,” with K.R. White (Brown University), Southern Economic Association Meetings, Nov. 18, 2017.

“Religion, Differential Trust and the Rule of Law: Evidence from Rainfall Data,” *Symposium on Religion, Social Conflict and Social Cohesion*, Union College, Nov. 4, 2017.

“Preferences or Patriarchy: Why Do Religious Women Work Less?” with Jia Gao (Union College)

- Union College Religious Studies Seminar, Oct. 31, 2019.
- Southern Economic Association Meetings, Nov. 2018.
- Union College Economics Seminar, June 30, 2018.
- Meetings of the Eastern Economic Association, March, 2018.
- *Symposium on Religion, Social Conflict and Social Cohesion*, Union College, Nov. 3, 2017.

“On the Origin of Religious Values,”

- Union College Economics Seminar, Oct. 18, 2018.
- Appalachian State University, Jan. 31, 2018.
- Hamilton College and Colgate University Economics Seminar, Nov. 10, 2017.
- Southern Economic Association Meetings, Nov. 20, 2016.

“Tunnel Effects and Inequality Aversion: A Formal Model,” Southern Economic Association Meetings, Nov. 22, 2015.

“Culture and the Regulation of Entry,” with Claudia Williamson,

- Western Carolina University, March 18, 2016.
- Davidson College, April 21, 2016.
- Washington and Lee University, Dec. 5, 2014.
- Furman University, Nov. 3, 2014.
- University of Groningen, The Netherlands, June 25, 2014.
- Martin Luther Universitaet, Halle, Germany, June 11, 2014.
- Universita Politecnica Della Marche, Ancona, Italy, May 16, 2014.

“Social Comparisons and Life Satisfaction across Racial and Ethnic Groups: The Effects of Status, Information and Solidarity,” with Stephen Wu,

- Undergraduate Lecture Series, Mississippi State University, State College, MS, Feb. 28, 2014.
- Bryant University, April 22, 2013.

“Political Economy of Growth with a Taste for Status”

- Southern Economic Association Meetings, Nov. 21, 2015.

- Liberal Arts Colleges Development Economic Conference, Lafayette College, Sept. 10, 2015.
- Mississippi State University, State College, MS, Feb. 28, 2014.
- University of New Hampshire Graduate Seminar, Nov. 30, 2012.
- Union College Economics Department Seminar, Nov. 9, 2012.
- Workshop in Macroeconomic Research at Liberal Arts Colleges, Lafayette College, August 7, 2012.

“Individualism and Economic Development: Evidence from Rainfall Data”

- University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy, May 19, 2014.
- University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy, May 15, 2014.
- Osaka Workshop on Economics of Institutions and Organizations, Tokyo University, Tokyo, Japan, March 5, 2012.
- Southern Economic Association Meetings, Wash. DC, Nov. 2011
- Hamilton College and Colgate University Economics Seminar, Sept. 2011.
- Union College Economics Seminar, May 2010.
- Five College Junior Faculty Economics Workshop, Holyoke, MA, Sept. 2010.

“Scientists and Lawyers: Innovation, Imitation and Growth with Endogenous Patent Protection,” with Fuat Sener.

- NYU Development Economics Seminar, NY, March 2009. (Invited)
- Southern Economic Association Meetings, Washington DC, Nov. 2008.
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Economics Seminar, Troy NY, Sept. 2008. (Invited)
- International Schumpeter Society Meetings, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, July 2008.

“Teaching the Economics of Sin,” Society for Ethics Across the Curriculum Meetings, Baltimore MD, Nov 14, 2008.

“Institutional Foundations of Inequality and Growth” with Mark Hopkins

- Vassar College Economics Seminar, Poughkeepsie NY, Oct. 10, 2008. (Invited)
- Eastern Economic Association Conference, Boston MA, March 7, 2008.
- Economics Lunch Discussion Series, Union College, Jan. 21, 2008. (Invited)
- University of New Hampshire Graduate Seminar, Durham, NH, March 23, 2007. (Invited)
- Workshop in Macroeconomic Research at Liberal Arts Colleges, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY, August 9, 2006. Presented by Mark Hopkins.
- Five College Faculty Seminar Series in Economics, Amherst College, MA, March 16, 2006. (Invited)

“Do All Countries Follow the Same Growth Process?” with Ann Owen and Julio Videras

- Lafayette College, Easton PA, September 2007. (Invited)
- Workshop on Macroeconomic Research at Liberal Arts Colleges, Smith College, Aug. 7, 2007. Presented by Ann Owen.

“Institutional Flexibility and Economic Growth”

- IMF Institute Departmental Seminar Series, International Monetary Fund, Washington DC, January 31, 2006. (Invited)
- Millennium Challenge Corporation, Washington DC, January 30, 2006. (Invited)
- Economic History and Development Workshop, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Massachusetts, December 7, 2005. (Invited)
- Gettysburg College, Gettysburg PA, October 21, 2005. (Invited)
- Wesleyan College, Middlebury CT, September 28, 2005. (Invited)
- Workshop in Macroeconomic Research at Liberal Arts Colleges, Colgate University, Hamilton, NY, August 17, 2005.

“Explaining the Evidence on Inequality and Growth: Informality and Redistribution”

- Economics Department Seminar Series, Williams College, Williamstown, MA, March 7, 2006. (Invited)
- IMF Institute Departmental Seminar Series, International Monetary Fund, Washington DC, October 19, 2004. (Invited)
- Five College Faculty Seminar Series in Economics, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, MA, September 20, 2004. (Invited)
- Conference on Dynamics, Economic Growth and International Trade, Reykjavik, Iceland, June 2004.
- Conference on Economic Growth and Distribution: on the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, Lucca, Italy, June 2004.
- Eastern Economic Association Meetings, Washington DC, February 2004.

“Scale Effects in Growth – A Role for Institutions,” Southern Economic Association Meetings, New Orleans LA, November 23-26, 2002.

“Growing Apart: Division of Labor and the Breakdown of Informal Institutions”

- Western Economic Association Meetings, Seattle WA, June 29-July 3, 2002.
- Eastern Economic Association Meetings, February 2001.
- Graduate Economics Seminar, UNH, Durham, NH, March 2001.

“Toward a Unified Transaction-Cost Theory of Economic Organization”

- Western Economic Association Meetings, San Francisco CA, July 2001.
- Eastern Economic Association Meetings, March 2000.
- Graduate Economics Seminar, UNH, Durham, NH, November 1999.
- International and Development Economics Workshop, UNC-CH, December 1997.

“Trade, Growth and Uneven Development: A Critical Survey,” ASSA Meetings, January 2000.

“The Division of Labor and the Growth of Government”

- Eastern Economic Association Meetings, March 1999.
- Economics Workshop, SUNY-Oswego, Oswego NY, November 1998.

“The Convergence Literature,” SUNY-Oswego Economics Workshop, April 1999.

“Specialization, Capital Flows and Uneven Development,” International and Development Economics Workshop, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill NC, January 1997.

TEACHING INTERESTS

Economics of Culture, Political Economy, Economic Growth, Economics of Sin, Microeconomics, Mathematical Economics, Introductory Economics, Undergraduate Thesis Advising.

COURSES TAUGHT

Introductory Economics, Introductory Microeconomics, Introductory Macroeconomics, Economics of Sin, Intermediate Microeconomics, International Economics, International Trade, Development Economics, Mathematical Economics, Seminar in Economic Growth and Development, Seminar in Political Economy, Seminar in the Economics of Culture, Economic Growth (doctoral level).

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Timothy Ford, *Essays on Economic Growth, Human Capital, and Foreign Direct Investment*, University of New Hampshire, July 2002.

Marcos De Sena, *The Quest for Economic Growth and Development*, University of New Hampshire, February 2000.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND AFFILIATIONS

Organizer, *Union College Covid Symposium*, Union College, Oct. 21, 2021.

Cofounder and Co-Organizer, Gender Studies Research Group, with Lori Marso and Jill Murphy, Union College, Fall, 2018 to Spring, 2020.

Organizer, *Symposium on Religion, Social Conflict and Social Cohesion*, Union College, Nov. 3-4, 2017.

Organizer, *11th Annual Workshop in Macroeconomics Research at Liberal Arts Colleges*, Union College, Sept. 2015.

Organizing Committee, *Workshop in Macroeconomics Research at Liberal Arts Colleges*, 2011-2015.

Managing Editor, *Review of Economics and Institutions*, 2013-present.

Editorial Boards

- *Eastern Economic Journal*, Fall 2013-present.
- *Review of Economics and Institutions*, Fall 2012-2013.

Chair, Academic Affairs Council,

- Union College, 2014-2016.
- Spring, 2018.

Cofounder and Discussion Leader, “Current Events Discussion Group,” with Brad Hays, Spring and Fall, 2010.

Founding Member, Five College Faculty Seminar Series in Economics, Fall 2004.

Referee, *American Economic Review*, *International Economic Journal*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, *Review of Development Economics*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Berkeley Electronic Journal of Macroeconomics*, *Journal of Bioeconomics*, *Division of Labor and Transaction Costs*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Economics Bulletin*, *American Economist*, *China Economic Review*, *Eastern Economic Journal*, *Review of Economics and Institutions*.

Member, American Economic Association, Southern Economic Association.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Claudia Williamson Kramer
Probasco Chair of Free Enterprise and Professor of Economics
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
claudia-williamson@utc.edu
724-255-8627

Astghik Mavisakalyan
Associate Professor of Economics
Bankwest Curtin Economics Centre at Curtin University
Astghik.Mavisakalyan@curtin.edu.au
+61 8 9266 4412

Stephen J. Schmidt
Kenneth B. Sharpe Professor of Economics and Chair of the Faculty
Union College
Schmidsj@union.edu
518-388-6078