

## Rebecca Lessem

Tepper School of Business  
5000 Forbes Avenue  
Pittsburgh, PA 15213

(412) 268-6903  
rlessem@andrew.cmu.edu

### Position

---

Assistant Professor of Economics  
*Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University*  
Instructor  
*Tepper School of Business, Carnegie Mellon University*

September 2012-  
September 2011-August 2012

### Education

---

<b>University of Wisconsin-Madison</b> <i>Ph.D. Economics</i>	2011
<b>University of Wisconsin-Madison</b> <i>M.S. Economics</i>	2009
<b>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</b> <i>B.S. Economics, B.S. Political Science</i>	2005

### Published and forthcoming papers

---

“Local Economic Growth from Primary Election Spending” (with Carly Urban), *The Economic Journal*, 2016, 126 (597): 2147-2172.

“The Political Orientation of Newspaper Endorsements in U.S. Elections” (with Stephen Ansolabehere and James Snyder), *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 2006, 1 (4): 393-404.

### Working papers

---

“Mexico-U.S. Migration: Effects of Wages and Border Enforcement”, revised and resubmitted (second round), *The Review of Economic Studies*

“Decomposing the Immigrant-Native Wage Gap in the United States”, (with Carl Sanders), revision requested

“Immigrant Wages and Recessions: Evidence from Undocumented Mexicans” (with Kayuna Nakajima)

### Work in Progress

---

“Dynamics of Firm Location Decisions” (with Paul Grieco, John Morrow, and Yuya Takahashi)

“Falling Down and Getting Back Up: Human Capital and Unemployment Duration” (with Shu Lin Wee)

“Skill Specialization and Economic Success: Networks and Human Capital in Short Term Labor Markets” (with Katharine Anderson)

“Returns to Investments in Human Capital, within and across Countries” (with Rafael de Hoyos and John Kennan)

## Awards

---

<b>Borders Awards in Immigration Research (\$30,000) (with Carl Sanders)</b> <i>University of Arizona</i>	2013
<b>Berkman Award</b> <i>CMU</i>	2013
<b>Christensen Award in Empirical Economics</b> <i>UW-Madison</i>	2010
<b>NICHD Trainee</b> <i>Center for Demography and Ecology, UW-Madison</i>	2009
<b>Field Research Award</b> <i>Center for Southeast Asian Studies, UW-Madison</i>	2009

## Conference & Seminar Presentations

---

- 2017** Georgetown (scheduled), Notre Dame, Society of Labor Economists, University of Wisconsin alumni conference
- 2016** Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Barcelona GSE Migration workshop, Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Research Workshop (University of Wisconsin-Madison)
- 2015** University of Calgary, ZEW workshop on “Development and Consequences of Atypical Employment”
- 2014** UCL, LSE, Society of Labor Economics, North American Summer Meeting of the Econometric Society
- 2013** NYU, Society of Labor Economics, Montana State University
- 2012** European Society for Population Economics
- 2011** Carnegie Mellon, Penn State, Ohio State, American University, Census Bureau, Royal Economic Society, Midwest Economic Association, Norface migration network conference on “Migration: Economic Change, Social Challenge”
- 2010** UW-Madison, Kent State, Midwest International Economic Development Conference

## Teaching Experience

---

- Carnegie Mellon (undergraduate)** Development Economics (Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2013), Public Economics (Spring 2012), Senior Project (Fall 2012, Fall 2013), Regression Analysis (Spring 2015, Spring 2016), Fundamentals of Statistical Modeling (Spring 2017)
- Carnegie Mellon (PhD)** Advanced Economic Analysis – Advanced Econometrics (Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017)

## Professional Activities

---

- Referee:** Review of Economic Studies, International Economic Review, Journal of Labor Economics, Review of Economic Dynamics, Journal of Human Resources, Economic Inquiry, Labour Economics, Public Choice, International Migration Review, Aging and Society, Journal of Demographic Economics