

# Kristina N. Piorkowski

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## EDUCATION

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<b>Ph.D., Economics</b> University of New Mexico Primary Field: Public Economics Secondary Fields: International Development and Sustainability & Applied Econometrics DISSERTATION: “Understanding and Modifying Health Behaviors” DISSERTATION COMMITTEE: Alok K. Bohara (Chair), Melissa Binder, Gabriel Sanchez, and Jose Pagan	EXPECTED May 2018
<b>Master of Arts in Economics</b> University of New Mexico GPA: 4.05/4.33	MAY 2015
<b>Bachelor of Arts in Economics</b> University of New Mexico <i>summa cum laude</i>   Major: Economics Minor: Japanese HONORS THESIS: Approaches to Rural Health in Nepal   Advisor: Alok K. Bohara GPA: 4.14/4.33	MAY 2013
<b>Exchange Semester</b> Akita International University in Akita, Japan GPA: 3.94/4.00	SPRING 2011

## FIELDS OF INTEREST

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<b>Research Interests</b> Health Behavior (including obesity, eating habits, sugar-sweetened beverage taxes, and smoking) Gender and Health Behavior (the above, nutrition, and structural constraints) Field Research, Intervention, and Survey Design (domestic and international)	<b>Teaching Interests</b> Health Economics ( <i>undergrad &amp; grad</i> ) Public Economics ( <i>undergrad &amp; grad</i> ) Applied Econometrics ( <i>undergrad &amp; grad</i> ) Microeconomics ( <i>undergrad &amp; grad</i> ) Development Economics ( <i>undergrad &amp; grad</i> ) Economics of Gender ( <i>undergrad &amp; grad</i> ) Quantitative Tools ( <i>undergrad</i> )
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## PUBLICATIONS

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### PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- Piorkowski, Kristina and Alok K. Bohara. “Passing the “Torches of Freedom”: An Investigation into Smoking Behaviors of Women in Nepal.” (Forthcoming in *Feminist Economics*)

### POLICY BRIEFS

- Piorkowski, Kristina. “A Tricky, But Promising, Road Forward For Gaining Support For Soda Taxes in New Mexico.” RWJF Center for Health Policy at the University of New Mexico. February 2017. <http://healthpolicy.unm.edu/expandingdatataxinNM>

## RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

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### WORKING PAPERS

- Piorkowski, Kristina and Alok K. Bohara. “Evaluating the Impact of Preferences and Knowledge on the Willingness to Pay for a Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax.” (*To be submitted to Journal of Health Economics*)
- Piorkowski, Kristina and Alok K. Bohara. “Elements of Support for Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxation: Empirical Evidence from New Mexico” (*Preparing draft for Submission*)
- Piorkowski, Kristina and Alok K. Bohara. “Estimating Adolescent Smoking Behavior with a Trivariate Ordered Probit Model.” (*Data analysis in progress*)
- Stith, Sarah, Fidel Barrantes, and Kristina Piorkowski. “The Penalty Faced by Native Americans in Kidney Transplantation: Decreased Access and Reduced Long-Term Survival.” (*Draft exists*)

### WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Piorkowski, Kristina. “Assessing Folic Acid Intake Amongst Women of Childbearing Age in the United States Using A Quantile Regression.” (*Data analysis in progress*)

## FELLOWSHIP, AWARDS, AND GRANTS

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### FELLOWSHIP

Doctoral Fellow, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center for Health Policy at UNM    Fall 2013-Current

### AWARDS

Leadership Fellow of the Year Award 2015-2016    May 2016  
Presented by Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Center of Health Policy at UNM.

### GRANT

USDA and University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research. FoodAPS Research Initiative: Understanding SNAP, Food Security, and Geographic Factors in Food Purchase and Acquisition Decisions. “Running on Empty?: The Impact of SNAP Participation and Nutritional Education of the Acquisition of Empty Calories” \$48,604, not funded.    Spring 2016

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### INSTRUCTOR

Economic Tools (a quantitative methods course)    Spring 2017, Fall 2016

### TEACHING ASSISTANT

Intermediate Econometrics    Summer 2015  
for the American Economic Association’s Summer Minority Program at UNM  
Introductory Microeconomics    Fall 2013  
Introductory Macroeconomics    Fall 2013

### GUEST LECTURER

Public Policy: Theory & Analysis    Spring 2017  
*Topic:* A Primer on Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxes  
Managerial Economics (graduate level)    Summer 2016  
*Topic:* Game Theory

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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- ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY, UNM 2015-2016  
*Project Design and Survey Organizer:* With a student teaching grant, I assisted in the construction of the social determinants of health in New Mexico project, compiled and organized a statewide representative survey of New Mexico, and the subsequent data analysis resulted in two dissertation chapters.
- ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION CENTER FOR HEALTH POLICY, UNM 2014-2015  
*Student Principal Investigator, supervised by Meriah Heredia-Greigo, Co-PI:* With a student teaching grant, I orchestrated the survey instrument and worked on the IRB for a study on parents of young children in rural New Mexico on their experience and knowledge of early childhood education.
- DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, UNM 2014-2015  
*Research Assistant to Sarah Stith:* Conducted data analysis and drafted manuscript about kidney transplant disparities amongst Native Americans.
- NEPAL STUDY CENTER, UNM 2012-2015  
*Research Assistant to Alok K. Bohara:* Created five surveys focusing on health and woman's health, including a cost analysis of a micro-health insurance program, to be conducted in Nepal.

## CONFERENCES PRESENTATIONS

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- Himalayan Policy Research Conference, Madison, Wisconsin October 2017  
*Estimating Female Adolescent Smoking Behavior in Nepal.*
- Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium, Riverside, California September 2017  
*Evaluating the Impact of Preferences, Knowledge, and Race/Ethnicity on the Willingness to Pay for a Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax*
- Western Social Science Association, San Francisco, California April 2017  
*Elements of Support for Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxation: Empirical Evidence from New Mexico.*
- Western Social Science Association, San Francisco, California April 2017  
*Estimating the Willingness to Pay for a Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax: A Case Study of New Mexico*
- Eastern Economics Association, Washington D.C. February 2016  
*Passing the "Torches of Freedom": An Investigation into Smoking Behaviors of Women in Nepal*
- International Association for Feminist Economics, Berlin, Germany July 2015  
*Understanding Female Smoking Behaviors in Nepal*
- Western Social Science Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico April 2014  
*Determinants of Gender Differences in Self-Health Ratings: A Case Study from Nepal*

## SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

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STATISTICAL SOFTWARE: Stata, R, WinRATS, ArcGIS, Excel, Word, PowerPoint, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X  
LANGUAGES: English (mothertongue), Japanese (basic knowledge), and Spanish (intermediate knowledge)

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & AFFILIATIONS

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REFEREE: *Feminist Economics*  
MEMBERSHIP: International Association of Feminist Economics (IAFFE)  
Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM)

## DISSERTATION CHAPTERS

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### **Job Market Paper: Evaluating the Impact of Preferences and Knowledge on the Willingness to Pay for a Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Tax**

*Abstract:* Using primary survey data representative of New Mexico's adult population, we use a hypothetical referendum to estimate the willingness to pay (WTP) for a sugar sweetened beverages (SSBs) tax in New Mexico. We examine the roles that eating habits; knowledge and awareness around food and related policies; and attitude have both directly and indirectly on the preferences for SSB taxes. Traditional contingent valuation regression methods were reformulated as a three-equation simultaneous system to address issues of protest responses and endogeneity. Results indicate that respondents who have healthier eating habits have statistically significantly higher preferences for SSB taxes. Knowledge that poor diet can lead to being overweight increases the preferences for SSB taxes. Respondents who have heard of other SSB taxes before or who are a conservative are statistically significantly more likely to be a protest response. The estimated individual median WTP 95% confidence interval was 0.002-0.961 pennies-per-ounce. This is lower than previously proposed taxes in other localities and could help explain why a recent 2-penny-per-ounce SSB tax failed in Santa Fe, New Mexico. This study is one of the first to empirically estimate the WTP for a SSBs tax and these findings can be used to understand what influences preferences for SSB taxes.

### **Elements of Support for Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Taxation**

*Abstract:* Recently there has been an increasing string of successes in passing sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) taxes in the US, but it is far exceeded by the number of failed attempts. The existing literature exhaustively details the potential impact these taxes would have on issues from health outcomes to revenue generation, but it omits asking a more basic question: why would someone support a SSB tax in the first place? Using primary data of a statewide representative sample of New Mexico, we assess how media coverage; knowledge, attitude, and behavior; and political ideology impact support for expanding the Healthy Diné Nation Act of 2014 (which is, in part, a SSB tax implemented in the Navajo Nation) to all of New Mexico. From a partial proportional odds model, we find that respondents who have heard of the Healthy Diné Nation Act, know that drinking too many SSBs can lead to obesity, and believe that obesity is a major problem within the state are more likely to strongly support expansion of the Act. However, hearing about other SSB taxes is associated with an 11-percentage point increase in being strongly against the expansion.

### **Estimating Adolescent Smoking Behavior in Nepal**

*Abstract:* The smoking epidemic is moving from the developed to the developing world. This is especially true in Nepal, which has the highest rate of female smoking in all of South East Asia. With one of the best predictor of adult smoking being smoking status at 18 years old, we investigate adolescent smoking behaviors in Nepal. Using two waves of nationally representative data, we assess the how peer effects; tobacco perception; and health education influence smoking status of youth. Preliminary findings from a multinomial logit regression show that having parents or friends who smoke greatly increases the odds of being a current smoker or former smoker. Boys are statistically more likely to be a current smoker when they think smoking increases popular. Girls experience a larger reduction in the likelihood of being a current smoker when they receive medium and high quality anti-smoking education, but are more likely to be a current smoker when they hold positive feelings about adult smokers. For both boys and girls, increased exposure to anti-tobacco media increases the odds of being a current smoker.