

Robert Kelchen

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Assistant Professor
Department of Education Leadership, Management and Policy
Affiliate, Seton Hall University Center for College Readiness
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Employment

Assistant Professor, Seton Hall University, 2013–.

Education

Ph.D, Educational Policy Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2013.

M.S., Economics, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2009.

B.S., Economics and Finance, Truman State University, 2007.

Research Interests

Higher education finance, accountability policies, student financial aid

Journal Articles

Kelchen, R. (accepted). Do Financial Responsibility Scores Affect Institutional Behaviors? *Journal of Education Finance*.

Kramer II, D. A., Holcombe, M. R., & Kelchen, R. (2017). The Costs and Consequences of Excess Credit Hours. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R., Goldrick-Rab, S., & Hosch, B. (2017). The Costs of College Attendance: Examining Variation and Consistency in Institutional Living Cost Allowances. *The Journal of Higher Education*. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R., & Li, A. Y. (2017). Institutional Accountability: A Comparison of the Predictors of Student Loan Repayment and Default Rates. *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 671, 202-223. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. (2017). The Distributional and Cost Implications of Negative Expected Family Contributions. *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, 47(1), 4-24. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. (2017). Campus-Based Financial Aid Programs: Trends and Alternative Allocation Strategies. *Educational Policy*, 31(4), 448-480. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. (2016). An Analysis of Student Fees: The Roles of States and Institutions. *The Review of Higher Education*, 39(4), 597-619. (link)

Goldrick-Rab, S., Kelchen, R., Harris, D. N., & Benson, J. (2016). Income Inequality in Higher Education: Experimental Evidence on the Impact of Financial Aid on College Completion. *American Journal of Sociology*, 121(6), 1762-1817. (link)

Kelchen, R. (2016). Who Enrolls in Competency-Based Education? An Examination of the Demographics and Finances of CBE Programs. *The Journal of Competency-Based Education*, 1(1), 48-59. (link)

Kelchen, R., & Stedrak, L. J. (2016). Does Performance-Based Funding Affect Colleges' Financial Priorities? *Journal of Education Finance*, 41(3), 302-321. (link)

Magnuson, K., Kelchen, R., Duncan, G., Schindler, H., Shager, H., & Yoshikawa, H. (2016). Do the Effects of Early Childhood Education Programs Vary by Gender? A Meta-Analysis. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 36, 521-536. (link)

Kelchen, R. & Goldrick-Rab, S. (2015). Accelerating College Knowledge: A Fiscal Analysis of a Targeted Early Commitment Pell Grant Program. *The Journal of Higher Education*, 86(2), 199-232. (link)

Kelchen, R. & Jones, G. (2015). A Simulation of Pell Grant Awards Using Prior Year Financial Data. *Journal of Education Finance*, 40(3), 253-272. (link)

Kelchen, R. (2015). Financial Need and Income Volatility among Students with Zero Expected Family Contribution. *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, 44(3), 179-201. (link)

Kelchen, R. (2014). Federal College Ratings: A Primer and Potential Implications. *Journal of College Admission*, 225, 12-15. (link)

Articles Under Review

Kelchen, R. *How Do Colleges Respond to Accountability Pressures? Examining the Relationship between Cohort Default Rates and College Pricing.*

Kelchen, R. *Do Nonresident Students Affect Prices for In-State Students at Public Colleges? Revise and resubmit, Teachers College Record.*

Kelchen, R. *Do Performance-Based Funding Policies Affect Underrepresented Student Enrollment?*

Kelchen, R. *Exploring the Relationship between Performance-Based Funding Design and Underrepresented Student Enrollment at Community Colleges.*

Book Chapters

Finkelstein, M., & Kelchen, R. (2017). Higher Education Systems and Institutions, United States of America. In P. N. Teixeira & J. Shin (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of International Higher Education Systems and Institutions*. Dordrecht, the Netherlands: Springer. (link)

Kelchen, R. (2016). Federal Mechanisms for Improving College Match: Information, Aid, and Accountability. P. 179-198 in A. P. Kelly, J. S. Howell, & C. Sattin-Bajaj (Eds.), *Matching Students to Opportunity: Expanding College Choice, Access, and Quality*. Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press.

Kelchen, R. (2016). Student Loans: A Brief History, the Current Landscape, and Impacts on Society. P. 173-198 in J. L. DeVitis & P. A. Sasso (Eds.), *Higher Education and Society*. New York, NY: Peter Lang.

Goldrick-Rab, S., & Kelchen, R. (2015). Making Sense of Loan Aversion: Evidence from Wisconsin. P. 307-371 in K. Hollenbeck & B. Hershbein (Eds.), *Student Loans and the Dynamics of Debt*. Kalamazoo, MI: W. E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research.

Working Papers

Goldrick-Rab, S., Kelchen, R., & Houle, J. *The Color of Student Debt: Implications of Federal Loan Program Reforms for Black Students and Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. ([link](#))

Grants Received

AccessLex Institute/Association for Institutional Research, \$32,322. *Response to Federal Loan Policy Changes: Examination of the Bennett Hypothesis in Professional School Prices*. 2017–2018.

Seton Hall University Research Council, \$6,000. *A Longitudinal Analysis of Student Fees: The Roles of States and Institutions*. Summer 2014.

Institute for Research on Poverty Conference Support, \$1,500. 2010–2013.

Research Reports

Kelchen, R. (2017). *A Review of College Promise Programs: Evidence from the Midwest*. Minneapolis, MN: Midwestern Higher Education Compact. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. (2016). *Education Under Review*. Washington, DC: The Chronicle of Higher Education. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. (2015). *Proposing a Federal Risk-Sharing Policy*. Indianapolis, IN: Lumina Foundation. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. (2015). *Exploring the Topic of Indirect Costs to Today's Higher Education Students*. Washington, DC: American Council on Education. ([link](#))

Goldrick-Rab, S., Kelchen, R., & Hosch, B. (2015). *Information, Accountability, and College Costs: The Need for Standardized Living Cost Calculations in Higher Education*. Madison, WI: Wisconsin HOPE Lab. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. (2015). *The Landscape of Competency-Based Education: Enrollment, Demographics, and Affordability*. Washington, DC: American Enterprise Institute. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. (2014). *Moving Forward with Federal College Ratings: Goals, Metrics, and Recommendations*. Madison, WI: WISCAPE. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R., & Jones, G. (2013). *A Tale of Two Income Years: Comparing Prior-Prior Year and Prior-Year Through Pell Grant Awards*. Washington, DC: NASFAA. ([link](#))

Goldrick-Rab, S., & Kelchen, R. (2013). *No Money Left Behind: Loan Aversion and College Success among Pell Recipients*. Washington, DC: HCM Strategists.

Hillman, N., Kelchen, R., & Goldrick-Rab, S. (2013). *Recommendations for the Effective and Equitable Implementation of Performance-Based Funding for Wisconsin Higher Education*. Madison, WI: WISCAPE. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. & Harris, D. (2012). *Can "Value Added" Methods Improve the Measurement of College Performance? Empirical Analyses and Policy Implications*. Washington, DC: HCM Strategists. ([link](#))

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Kelchen, R. (2012). *New Experimental Evidence on the Impacts of the Need-Based Wisconsin Scholars Grant on College Persistence*. Madison, WI: Wisconsin Scholars Longitudinal Study. ([link](#))

Reviews and Short Pieces

Stedrak, L. J., & Kelchen, R. (2015). New Jersey (State of the States 2015). *Journal of Education Finance*, 41(2), 253-254. (link)

Kelchen, R. (2014). National Direct Student Loans/Perkins. *Encyclopedia of Education Economics and Finance*. D. Brewer & L. Picus (Eds.). SAGE Publications.

Kelchen, R. (2013). Review of "Getting to Graduation: The Completion Agenda in Higher Education." *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, 43(1), 55-58. (link)

Other Dissemination

Kelchen, R. (2017, July 17). "Examining Variations in Marriage Rates across Colleges." *Brown Center Chalkboard (Brookings)*.

Kelchen, R. (2017, January 30). "Five Key Trends Affecting the Tides of American Higher Education." *The EvoLLLution*.

Kelchen, R. (2017, January 11). "How Much Do For-Profit Colleges Rely on Federal Funds?" *Brown Center Chalkboard (Brookings)*.

Kelchen, R. (2016, November 10). "What Trump Might Mean for Higher-Ed Finance." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Kelchen, R. (2016, September 23). "The Relationship Between Student Debt and Earnings." *Brown Center Chalkboard (Brookings)*.

Kelchen, R. (2016, September/October). "America's Best Bang for the Buck Colleges 2016." *Washington Monthly*.

Kelchen, R. (2016, August 21). "Degrees of Debt." *Bergen (NJ) Record*.

Kelchen, R. (2016, July 26). "Clinton's New College Compact Plan Explained." *The Conversation*.

Kelchen, R. (2016, July 18). "Proposed Student Finance Regulations May Hamper Small Institutions." *Brown Center Chalkboard (Brookings)*.

Kelchen, R. (2016, May 5). "Are Income Share Agreements a Good Way to Pay for College?" *The Conversation*.

Kelchen, R., & Stedrak, L. (2016, April 5). "Fewer Poor Students Are Being Enrolled in State Universities. Here's Why." *The Conversation*.

Kelchen, R. (2016, March 23). "Understanding Financial Responsibility Scores for Private Colleges." *Brown Center Chalkboard (Brookings)*.

Kelchen, R. (2016, January 25). "How Colleges' Net Prices Fluctuate Over Time." *Brown Center Chalkboard (Brookings)*.

Kelchen, R. (2015, October 28). "New Jersey Can Make College Affordable, Retain Graduates." *Bergen (NJ) Record*.

Kelchen, R. (2015, September 30). "How Well Do Default Rates Reflect Student Loan Repayment?" *Brown Center Chalkboard (Brookings)*.

Kelchen, R. (2015, August 25). "Who Would Use Income Share Agreements to Pay for College?" *Brown Center Chalkboard (Brookings)*.

Kelchen, R. (2015, September/October). "America's Best Bang for the Buck Colleges 2015." *Washington Monthly*.

Kelchen, R. (2015, August 14). "To Reduce Debt, Give Students More Information to Make Wise College Choice Decisions." *The Conversation*.

Kelchen, R. (2015, July 28). "Analyzing Trends in Pell Grant Recipients and Expenditures." *Brown Center Chalkboard (Brookings)*.

Kelchen, R. (2015, July 8). "Is Student Loan Debt Really a Crisis?" *The Conversation*.

Kelchen, R. (2015, April 10). "Where 3 Accountability Measures Meet, A Hazardous Intersection." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Goldrick-Rab, S., & Kelchen, R. (2015, April 2). "What Your College Isn't Telling You About Costs." *MONEY*.

Kelchen, R. (2014, December 18). "Should the Government Rate Our Colleges?" *Politico Magazine*.

Kelchen, R. (2014, October 13). "The Costs of Free." *Inside Higher Ed*.

Kelchen, R. (2014, September/October). "America's Affordable Elite Colleges 2014." *Washington Monthly*.

Kelchen, R. (2014, September/October). "America's Best Bang-for-the-Buck Colleges 2014." *Washington Monthly*.

Kelchen, R. (2014, June 18). "More Short than Venti?" *Inside Higher Ed*.

Kelchen, R. (2013, September/October). "America's Best Bang-for-the-Buck Colleges." *Washington Monthly*.

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Kelchen, R. (2013, August 15). "Change FAFSA Now." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Kelchen, R. (2012, November 14). "Saving Financial Aid for 'Swirling' Students." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Goldrick-Rab, S. & Kelchen, R. (2012, October 18). "Making Income-Based Repayment of Student Loans Cost-Effective." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Fishman, R. & Kelchen, R. (2012, September/October). "America's Best Bang-for-the-Buck Colleges." *Washington Monthly*.

I also blog occasionally at Kelchen on Education and am on Twitter at @rkelchen.

Presentations

2017: AccessLex Legal Education Research Symposium (scheduled), Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education (scheduled), IPEDS State Data Conference, National Postsecondary Education Cooperative, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association conference (scheduled)

2016: ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for Institutional Research IPEDS training group, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Education Writers Association, Institute for Enrollment Management, Midwestern Higher Education Compact, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine

2015: American Educational Research Association, American Enterprise Institute, Arizona State University Institutional Design Frontiers Summit, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Business-Higher Education Forum, Education Writers Association, Investigative Reporters and Editors, Louisiana State University, National Association for College Admission Counseling, Student Financial Aid Research Network, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, U.S. Department of Education Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, Yes We Must Coalition

2014: American Educational Research Association, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities in New Jersey, National Center for Education Statistics, New Jersey Collegiate Business Administration Association, Student Financial Aid Research Network, U.S. Department of Education Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, U.S. Senate HELP Committee staff, Yes We Must Coalition

2013: Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Education Writers Association, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, U.S. Department of Education

2012: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators

2011: American Educational Research Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

2010: Association for Institutional Research

Teaching Experience

Seton Hall University (Assistant Professor)

ELMP 6101: Introduction to Higher Education (Spring 2017)

ELMP 7103: Institutional Research and Planning (Spring 2014, Fall 2016)

ELMP 8890: Survey Research (Fall 2015)

ELMP 8891: Directed Research (Fall 2013, Spring 2016)

ELMP 9979/9980: Dissertation Seminar I/II (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015)

ELMP 9993: Organization and Governance (Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017)

ELMP 9995: Financial Administration (Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2016)

Dissertation mentoring

Dissertation chair: Guillermo de Veyga (PhD, 2016), Jonathan Stoessel (PhD, 2016), Tara Abbott (PhD, 2016), Marie Gioiosa (PhD, 2016), Judith Egan (PhD, 2016)

Dissertation committee member: Kevin Iglesias (PhD, 2014), Erin Hopkins (PhD, 2014), Robert Miller (PhD, 2014), Joshua Wilkin (PhD, 2015), Lucien Costley (PhD, 2015), Stephen Deutsch (PhD, 2015), Lauren Friedman (PhD, 2016), Martina Ghusson (PhD, 2016), Hillary Morgan (PhD, 2016), Andrew Brackett (PhD, 2016), Ryan Hudes (PhD, 2016), Joseph Hearl (PhD, 2016), Irenaeus Ikhane (PhD, 2016), Wendiann Sethi (PhD, 2017), Jennifer Mezzina (EdD, 2017), Reuel Mebuin (PhD, 2017), Michael Aryee (PhD, 2017)

University Service

Seton Hall University Research Grants Committee, 2016–.

Seton Hall ELMP Department Pre-IRB reviewer, 2016–.

Seton Hall University Convocation and Planning Committee, 2016.

Seton Hall ELMP Department Academic Standards Committee co-chair, 2014–.

Seton Hall Faculty Senate alternate and University Admissions Committee member, 2014-2016.

Seton Hall College of Education Educational Policies Committee, 2014–.

Seton Hall University Charter Day Committee, 2014.

Seton Hall University Higher Education Self-Study Committee, 2013.

Professional Service

Member, SHEEO State Higher Education Finance working group

Member, AAUP Committee on Economic Status of the Profession

Editorial board: *Journal of Student Financial Aid*

Conference reviewer: American Educational Research Association, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

Journal reviewer: *American Sociological Review*, *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*, *Community College Review*, *Educational Policy*, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, *Educational Researcher*, *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, *The Journal of Higher Education*, *Public Finance and Budgeting*, *Research in Higher Education*, *Review of Higher Education*, *Social Forces*

Grant reviewer: Corporation for National and Community Service, Smith Richardson Foundation, William T. Grant Foundation

Book reviewer: Johns Hopkins University Press, Rutgers University Press

Technical review panels: Baccalaureate and Beyond, College Scorecard, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study

Awards and Honors

One of *The Chronicle of Higher Education's* "15 Most Indispensable Academic Twitter Accounts," 2016. ([link](#))

AEI/Fordham Emerging Education Policy Scholar, 2015.

University of Houston Higher Education Finance Roundtable participant, 2014.

First Prize, Data Journalism (small newsroom), Education Writers Association, 2014.

Institute for Research on Poverty Graduate Research Fellow, 2010–2013.

Media Coverage

My research and commentary is frequently covered by national media outlets, including *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New York Times*, *PBS*, *MSNBC*, and *Politico*. A full list of media coverage can be found [here](#).

Selected Consulting

Coffey Consulting, 2016–.

Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance, 2015.

American Enterprise Institute, 2014-2015.

Yes We Must Coalition, 2014-2015.

University of Wisconsin System, 2014.

Washington Monthly College Guide, 2012–.

NASFAA Prior Prior Year Study, 2012–2013.

Gates Foundation/HCM Strategists working group on input-adjusted college metrics, 2011–2012.

Professional Affiliations

American Educational Research Association

Association for Education Finance and Policy

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

Association for the Study of Higher Education

Last updated: July 24, 2017

<https://sites.google.com/site/rkelchen/cv.pdf>