

Robert Kelchen

Seton Hall University
Associate Professor
Department of Education Leadership, Management and Policy
Affiliate, Seton Hall University Center for College Readiness
Affiliate, Hope Center for College, Community, and Justice

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Websites: Seton Hall, Personal, Google Scholar profile

Employment

Associate Professor (with tenure), Seton Hall University, 2019–.
Assistant Professor, Seton Hall University, 2013–2019.

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

Book

Kelchen, R. (2018). *Higher Education Accountability*. Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press. (JHU Press, Amazon)

Journal Articles

Kelchen, R. (accepted). Merging Data to Facilitate Analyses. *New Directions for Institutional Research*.
Anderson, D. M., Broton, K. M., Goldrick-Rab, S., & Kelchen, R. (conditionally accepted). Experimental Evidence on the Impacts of Need-Based Financial Aid: Longitudinal Assessment of the Wisconsin Scholars Grant. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*.
Kelchen, R. (accepted). Do High Cohort Default Rates Affect Student Living Allowances and Debt Burdens? An Empirical Analysis. *Journal of Student Financial Aid*.

- Kelchen, R., Rosinger, K. O., & Ortagus, J. C. (2019). How to Create and Use State-Level Policy Data Sets in Education Research. *AERA Open*, 5(3), 1-14. doi: 10.1177/2332858419873619. (link)
- Kelchen, R. (2019). Exploring the Relationship between Performance-Based Funding Design and Underrepresented Student Enrollment at Community Colleges. *Community College Review*, 47(4), 382-405. (link, pre-publication version)
- Kelchen, R. (2019). An Empirical Examination of the Bennett Hypothesis in Law School Prices. *Economics of Education Review*. (link, pre-publication version)
- Kelchen, R. (2019). Does the Bennett Hypothesis Hold in Professional Education? An Empirical Analysis. *Research in Higher Education*. (link, pre-publication version)
- Twombly, L. A., Rizzolo, D., Chen, R., & Kelchen, R. (2019). Factors That Influence Job Choice at the Time of Graduation for Physician Assistant Students. *Journal of Physician Assistant Education*, 30(1), 34-40. (link)
- Kelchen, R. (2019). Do Nonresident Students Affect Prices for In-State Students at Public Colleges? *Teachers College Record*, 121(2), 1-27. (link)
- Kelchen, R. (2018). Do Financial Responsibility Scores Affect Institutional Behaviors? *Journal of Education Finance*, 43(4), 417-439. (link) (JEF's article of the year, 2018)
- Kelchen, R. (2018). Do Performance-Based Funding Policies Affect Underrepresented Student Enrollment? *The Journal of Higher Education*, 89(5), 702-727. (link)
- Kelchen, R., & Webber, D. A. (2018). Examining the Interstate Mobility of Recent College Graduates. *Educational Researcher*, 47(3), 213-215. (link)
- Kramer II, D. A., Holcombe, M. R., & Kelchen, R. (2018). The Costs and Consequences of Excess Credit Hours. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 40(1), 3-28. (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*, 88(6), 947-971. (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)

Papers in Progress

Li, A. Y., & Kelchen, R. *Paying Back Debt: Examining Factors Affecting Student Loan Repayment and Default Rates by Institutional Sector*.

Kramer II, D. A., Kelchen, R., & Wu, J. *Show Me the Money: Impact of NCAA's Student-Athlete Allowance Policy on Cost of Attendance Estimates*. Revise and resubmit.

Li, A. Y., & Kelchen, R. *Policy Diffusion of Performance Funding Equity Metrics: Traditional Neighbor and Dyadic Survival Analyses*.

Kelchen, R. *An Exploration of Nonresident Student Enrollment and Institutional Finances at Public Universities*.

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.

Grants Received

Arnold Ventures (\$270,240) and the Joyce Foundation (\$103,350). *A Proposal to Analyze the Effects of Variations in Performance-Based Funding Policies on Student Access, Success, and Labor Market Outcomes*. August 1, 2019–July 31, 2021. (other PIs: Justin Ortagus and Kelly Rosinger)

William T. Grant Foundation, \$204,528. *Examining the Impact of Variations in Performance-Based Funding Policies on Reducing Inequality in Student Outcomes*. December 1, 2018–November 30, 2019. (other PIs: Justin Ortagus and Kelly Rosinger)

AccessLex Institute/Association for Institutional Research, \$32,322. *Response to Federal Loan Policy Changes: Examination of the Bennett Hypothesis in Professional School Prices*. March 1, 2017–March 31, 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. (2018). *Exploring Key Questions: Program-Level Repayment for Higher Education Accountability*. Washington, DC: Higher Learning Advocates. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. (2018). *Adjusting COA and EFC for Living Costs*. Oakland, CA: The Institute for College Access and Success. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R., & Pingel, S. (2018). *Postsecondary Tuition Capping and Freezing*. Boulder, CO: Education Commission of the States. ([link](#))

Espinosa, L. L., Kelchen, R., & Taylor, M. (2018). *Minority Serving Institutions as Engines of Upward Mobility*. Washington, DC: American Council on Education. ([link](#))

Kolbe, T., & Kelchen, R. (2017). *Identifying New Metrics Using IPEDS Finance Data*. Washington, DC: National Postsecondary Education Cooperative. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. (2017). *Higher Education Accreditation and the Federal Government*. Washington, DC: Urban Institute. ([link](#))

Kelchen, R. (2017). *Tuition Control Policies: A Challenging Approach to College Affordability*. Minneapolis, MN: Midwestern Higher Education Compact. ([link](#))

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)

Goldrick-Rab, S., Kelchen, R., & Houle, J. (2014). *The Color of Student Debt: Implications of Federal Loan Program Reforms for Black Students and Historically Black Colleges and Universities*. (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. P. 335-337 in D. Brewer & L. Picus (Eds.), *Encyclopedia of Education Economics and Finance*. Thousand Oaks, CA: 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)

Selected Public Writing

Kelchen, R. (2019, September/October). "America's Best Bang for the Buck Colleges 2019." *Washington Monthly*.

Kelchen, R. (2019, June 25). "Bernie Sanders' Student Debt Plan Doesn't Actually Fix the Problem of Student Debt." *NBC News*.

Kelchen, R. (2019, May 17.) "Our Next Secretary of Education Should be Drafted Out of College, Not High School." *Brown Center Chalkboard (Brookings)*.

Kelchen, R., & Megan, K. (2019, March 11.) "Another University is Imploding. The Federal Government Must Do More." *Roll Call*.

Glastris, P., & Kelchen, R. (2018, November 20.) "Boarding Up a Window on Vocational Ed." *Inside Higher Ed*.

Kelchen, R. (2018, November 8). "What is Public Service Loan Forgiveness? And How Do I Qualify to Get It?" *The Conversation*.

Kelchen, R. (2018, August 16). "5 Helpful Media Engagement Tips for Academics." *textitInside Higher Ed*.

Kelchen, R. (2018, February 22). "Why Accountability Efforts in Higher Education Often Fail." *The Conversation*.

Kelchen, R. (2018, January 16). "Junior Scholars Have Much to Lose—and Gain—from Public Engagement." *Education Week*.

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*.

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

Presentations

2019: Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education (scheduled), Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities, Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, Bipartisan Policy Center, Education Finance Council, Education Writers Association, Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows Higher Education Summit, IREG Observatory on Academic Ranking and Excellence, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, New Jersey Affordability Working Group, Old Dominion University, SHEEO Higher Education Policy Conference

2018: American Educational Research Association, Association for Collaborative Leadership, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for the Study of Higher Education, Association of Public and Land Grant Universities, Brookings Institution, Cooper Union, Education Finance Council, IPEDS State Data Conference, IPEDS technical review panel, Lawlor Group Summer Seminar, Lumina Foundation, NASFAA Forward 50 meeting, Postsecondary National Policy Institute, Temple University, The Institute for College Access and Success, University of Illinois

2017: AccessLex Legal Education Research Symposium, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for Institutional Research IPEDS training group, Association for the Study of Higher Education, IPEDS State Data Conference, IPEDS technical review panel, National Postsecondary Education Cooperative, Seton Hall University Board of Regents, State Higher Education Executive Officers Association conference

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

ELMP 6101: Introduction to Higher Education (Spring 2017)

ELMP 7103: Institutional Research and Planning (Spring 2014, Fall 2016, Spring 2018)

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, Fall 2018, Summer 2019, Fall 2019)

ELMP 9993: Organization and Governance (Spring 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019)

ELMP 9995: Financial Administration (Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Fall 2017)

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), Mariel Pagan (PhD, 2018), Kelly Childs (PhD, 2018), Ryan Westman (PhD, 2018), Michael Flanigan (PhD, 2019), Zachary Romash (PhD, 2019), Sean O'Connor (EdD, 2019)

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), Monica Burnette (PhD, 2017), Lauren Twombly (PhD, 2017), Daria Pizzuto (PhD, 2018), Kataryzna Grzeszczuk (PhD, 2018), Kevin Majewski (PhD, 2018), Warren Lord (EdD, 2018), Leo Pedraza (PhD, 2019), Wole Ogunkoya (PhD, 2019), Marissa Muoio (EdD, 2019), William Friel (EdD, 2019)

University Service (Seton Hall University)

Director of higher education graduate programs, Seton Hall University, 2019–.

Search committee co-chair, Department of Education Leadership, Management and Policy, 2019.

Researcher of the year selection committee, 2018–.

College of Education and Human Services stewardship committee, 2018–.

ELMP Department Pre-IRB reviewer, 2016-2019.

University research grants committee, 2016-2018.

University convocation and planning committee, 2016.

ELMP academic standards committee co-chair, 2014-2019.

University faculty senate alternate and university admissions committee member, 2014-2016.

College of Education and Human Services educational policies committee, 2014–.

University Charter Day committee, 2014.

Professional Service

Member, Postsecondary Value Commission research task force, 2019–.

Member, New Jersey's college affordability taskforce, 2019.

What Works Clearinghouse certified reviewer.

Member, Competency-Based Education and Learning Research Advisory Board, 2018–.

Member, SHEEO State Higher Education Finance working group, 2017–.

Member, AAUP Committee on Economic Status of the Profession, 2015–.

Editorial board: *Journal of Student Financial Aid* (2016–).

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

Journal reviewer: *AERA Open*, *American Educational Research Journal*, *American Sociological Review*, *B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*, *Community College Review*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Education Finance and Policy*, *Educational Policy*, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, *Educational Researcher*, *Journal of Higher Education*, *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, *Journal of Student Financial Aid*, *Policy Reviews in Higher Education*, *Public Finance and Budgeting*, *Public Performance and Management Review*, *Research in Higher Education*, *Review of Higher Education*, *Social Forces*, *Sociology of Education*, *Teachers College Record*

Grant reviewer: Corporation for National and Community Service, National Research Collaborative on Competency-Based Education and Learning, Smith Richardson Foundation, William T. Grant Foundation

Book reviewer: Johns Hopkins University Press, Harvard Education Press, Palgrave Macmillian, Rutgers University Press

Technical review panels: Baccalaureate and Beyond, College Scorecard, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System, National Postsecondary Student Aid Study

Awards and Honors

Robert P. Huff Golden Quill Award winner for excellence in financial aid research, National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, 2019.

Fellow, Bipartisan Policy Center

No. 32 in Rick Hess's annual Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings, 2019 (top assistant professor). ([link](#))

No. 54 in Rick Hess's annual Edu-Scholar Public Influence Rankings, 2018 (top assistant professor). ([link](#))

Seton Hall University researcher of the year, 2017–2018.

One of Third Way Education's higher education social media influencers of 2017. ([link](#))

A featured researcher in AERA's "Thank a Scientist" campaign, 2017. ([link](#))

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.

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 summary of recent media coverage can be found [here](#).

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