Brief Bios of Participants

**Amira Abulafi** (NBER) [abulafi@nber.org](mailto:abulafi@nber.org)

Amira Abulafi is a Research Assistant at the NBER, where her work focuses on the Women Working Longer project. Prior to coming to the NBER, she received her BA in Economics from Harvard University.

**Kathleen Christensen** (Alfred P. Sloan Foundation) [christensen@sloan.org](mailto:christensen@sloan.org)

Kathleen Christensen is the Program Director of the Working Longer Program at the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, which aims to increase understanding of labor force participation trends of older Americans. She has published on work and family topics and has been involved in three White House conferences on Aging, Working Families and Workplace Flexibility. Prior to her work at the Sloan Foundation, she was Professor of Psychology at the Graduate Center, CUNY.

**Maria Fitzpatrick** (Cornell University, NBER) [maria.d.fitzpatrick@cornell.edu](mailto:maria.d.fitzpatrick@cornell.edu)

Maria Fitzpatrick is Assistant Professor in the Department of Policy and Management at the College of Human Ecology at Cornell, where she also is an Affiliate in the Cornell Populations Center. Her research interests include early childhood education policies, the economics of education and teacher labor markets, including work on teacher retirement benefits. She is a Faculty Research Fellow at the NBER and an Affiliate in the CESifo Research Network.

**Claudia Goldin** (Harvard University, NBER) [cgoldin@harvard.edu](mailto:cgoldin@harvard.edu)

Claudia Goldin is the Henry Lee Professor of Economics at Harvard University and the director of the NBER’s Development of the American Economy program. Goldin’s research spans many areas, including the economic history of women, education, and inequality. In 2013/14, she was the president of the AEA. Her recent work concerns the increased employment of older women and women in the undergraduate economics major.
Alex Gelber (University of California, Berkeley, NBER) agelber@berkeley.edu

Alex Gelber is Assistant Professor at the UC Berkeley Goldman School of Public Policy. Before coming to Berkeley, Gelber worked in various roles at the U.S. Treasury Department and was an Assistant Professor at the Wharton School. His research focuses on the economic effects of public sector programs, including those that affect older Americans such as Social Security. He has also written on Head Start and taxation of married couples.

Larry Katz (Harvard University, NBER) lkatz@harvard.edu

Larry Katz is Elizabeth Allison Professor of Economics at Harvard University, a Research Associate at the NBER, co-Scientific Director of J-PAL NA and editor of the QJE. His long-term research program has focused on the wage structure, labor markets and social problems more generally, including an evaluation of the MTO project. He and Goldin are jointly working on several projects, including the increase of female participation at older ages.

Joanna Lahey (Texas A&M, NBER) jlahey@tamu.edu

Joanna Lahey is Associate Professor at The Bush School of Government and Public Service at Texas A&M University and is a Faculty Research Fellow at the NBER. Dr. Lahey has published extensively on the topic of age discrimination, including experimental work on the employment of older women. She has more recently done work on fertility control access and the labor market effects of public health insurance.

Jessica Laird (Harvard University) laird@fas.harvard.edu

Jessica Laird is a 4th year PhD student in Economics at Harvard University. Her interests include labor economics and public finance and she is currently working on research on employee retirement savings.

Brigitte Madrian (Harvard University, NBER) brigitte_madrian@hks.harvard.edu

Brigitte Madrian is the Aetna Professor of Public Policy and Corporate Management at the Harvard Kennedy School and Co-Director of the Household Finance working group at the NBER. Dr. Madrian’s research focuses on behavioral economics and household finance, including how the design of savings and pension plans change participation rates. Her work has been used in reforms of pension legislation and employer sponsored savings plans.

Nicole Maestas (RAND) maestas@rand.org

Nicole Maestas is a Senior Economist at the RAND Corporation, where she also serves as director of the Economics, Sociology, and Statistics Research Department. She is, in
addition, a professor at the Pardee RAND Graduate School. Maestas has published extensively on retirement, health and disability topics. Her work has focused on employment at older ages, work after retirement ("unretirement") and the work disincentive effects of the Social Security Disability Insurance program.

Kathleen McGarry (UCLA, NBER) mcgarry@ucla.edu

Kathleen McGarry is a Professor of Economics at UCLA, where she currently serves as Department Chair. McGarry's research concentrates on the well-being of the elderly with a focus on public and private transfers, including the Medicare and SSI programs and the transfer of resources within families. Her research combines work on the financial aspects of aging with the issues of health economics and her most recent work concerns end of life health expenses.

Olivia S. Mitchell (University of Pennsylvania, Wharton School, NBER) mitchelo@wharton.upenn.edu

Olivia S. Mitchell is the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans Professor at the Wharton School, where she directs the Pension Research Council and the Boettner Center on Pensions and Retirement Research. Her research focuses on public finance, public/private pensions, and financial literacy.

Joshua Mitchell (US Census Bureau) joshua.w.mitchell@census.gov

Joshua Mitchell is a Research Economist at the U.S. Census Bureau. He came to Census from the Urban Institute where he worked in their Income and Benefits Policy Center. His research is at the intersection of public policy and labor market outcomes including income inequality and the long-term unemployed. More recently he researched the impact of the Great Recession across industries, occupations, geographic areas and demographic groups.

Phyllis Moen (University of Minnesota) phylmoen@umn.edu

After 25 years at Cornell University, Phyllis Moen accepted a McKnight Presidential Endowed Chair and is Professor of Sociology at the University of Minnesota, co-directing the Flexible Work and Well-Being Center. She has published numerous books and articles on wide ranging topics including careers, retirement, health, gender, policy and families as they are institutionalized, transforming and intersecting over the life course. Moen is currently writing a book on Boomers.
Claudia Olivetti (Boston University, NBER) olivetti@bu.edu

Claudia Olivetti is Associate Professor at Boston University and a Research Associate at the NBER. Olivetti’s research focuses on women in the labor market including wages, hours, careers and marriages. She is also known for her historical and comparative perspectives on the gender gap. More recently she has written on the baby boom and maternal health. She is currently an Associate Editor of the European Economic Review and Labor Economics.

Robert Pollak (Washington University in St. Louis, NBER) pollak@olin.wustl.edu

Robert Pollak is Hernreich Distinguished Professor of Economics in the Faculty of Arts & Sciences and the Olin Business School at Washington University in St. Louis. Pollak is an economic theorist who has worked extensively on family economics including bargaining, marriage, and parental caregiving and cohabitation. He is a Research Fellow with the Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), the CESifo Research Network and a Research Associate at the NBER.

Dana Rotz (Mathematica, Cambridge) dana.rotz@gmail.com

Dana Rotz is a researcher at Mathematica Policy Research in Cambridge and received her PhD in Economics from Harvard University in 2012. She has written and commented extensively on why divorce rates have fallen and the role of the increased age at first marriage. Her interests also include family bargaining, training and re-employment, and youth development.

Mark Shepard (Harvard University) mshepard@fas.harvard.edu

Mark Shepard is a 6th year PhD student in Economics at Harvard University. His research interests include health insurance, social security and industrial organization and he has published work on the Medicare Program. His job market paper examines the Massachusetts Health Insurance exchange and finds evidence of adverse selection against plans covering the most expensive academic hospitals.