



Australian Government

Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations

Strategic Policy Seminar Series 2009

“Do parents’ nonstandard work schedules affect marital stability and children’s wellbeing?”

Associate Professor Ariel Kalil

Harris School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago



The Research, Analysis and Evaluation Group and the Strategic Policy Group, Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), invite you to attend a presentation by Associate Professor Ariel Kalil from the Harris School of Public Policy Studies and Director of the Center for Human Potential and Public Policy, University of Chicago, on her most recent research, “Do parents’ nonstandard work schedules affect marital stability and children’s wellbeing?”

Professor Kalil will discuss findings from two recent papers focused on the links between parental nonstandard work schedules (working evenings/nights, weekends or an irregular shift), marital instability, and children’s well-being in the United States. In the first paper, she examines the links between newly-married adult employment patterns and marital instability in the first seven years after the marriage using data from newlywed couples from the U.S. National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY). It was found that among husbands in couples without children, as well as among mothers in couples with children, nonstandard work is associated with marital instability.

The second paper examines the relationship between mothers’ nonstandard work schedules and children’s body mass index (BMI) in the United States. Using data from school-age children in the National Institute of Child Health Development (NICHD)’s Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development, the results show that a mother’s nonstandard work schedule is associated with greater BMI in children and that this effect is partially mediated by the amount of time children spend watching TV on weekdays after school. It was also found that maternal nonstandard work is associated with children’s consumption of less healthy foods.

Given there are similar concerns about these issues in Australia, the research findings may have important implications for policy development in the early childhood and parents’ workforce participation agendas.

The CV of Associate Professor Kalil including a list of her publications can be found at:
<http://harrisschool.uchicago.edu/faculty/cv/kalil-12-2008.pdf>

Seminar details

When: Thursday 22 January 2009
Time: 2:30pm – 4:00pm
Location: Conference/Function Room, Level 1, 16 Mort Street, DEEWR

Refreshments will be provided at the end of the seminar.

RSVP: Please confirm your attendance by Monday 19 January with Maria Alexander via email: maria.alexander@deewr.gov.au or phone: 6121 3509.