

Katherine Nesse

2008 Cypress Drive, Champaign, IL 61821
651-366-7736 (mobile) • klnesse2@illinois.edu

Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Department of Urban and Regional Planning

Doctor of Philosophy, May 2012 (expected graduation)

Dissertation title: Cultural Change and Policy-Making: The Growth of the Hispanic
Population in the Midwest and its Affect on Governance

Dissertation Advisor: Mary Edwards

University of Minnesota

Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs

Master of Urban and Regional Planning, 2006

Major field: Academic-Track Economic Development

Thesis title: Retirement Income: A New Model of Economic Base

Thesis advisor: Ann R. Markusen

University of Oregon

School of Architecture and Allied Arts

Bachelor of Arts, 2000

Major field: Art History

Research Interests

At the heart of my research are questions that draw on the fields of migration and cultural change, local government, and local economic development. I employ multiple methods to derive answers that are less clear-cut but richer and more informative.

Independent Research Experience

Doctoral Research, July 2006 to present

Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Created a stochastic model of the relationship between an increase in Hispanic residents and fiscal and administrative decisions in school districts using a quasi-experimental methodology.
- Explored the ways that new Hispanic residents in small Midwestern towns influenced local policy-making through interviews with people in four towns.
- Used Illinois' high number of local governments to test Charles Tiebout's hypothesis that people choose their location based on the public goods and tax package available.
- Further elaborated the model I developed in my master's thesis and used it to assess the resilience of retirement communities in the US after the financial crisis in 2008.
- Used IMPLAN to analyze the economic impact of a minor league baseball team in Champaign-Urbana.

Research Assistant Experience

Graduate Research Assistant (to Andrew Isserman)

Regional Economics and Public Policy, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

project: demographic estimates for children in Illinois communities, Spring 2007 to present

- Developed a method using the new American Community Survey and other US Census Bureau data sources to estimate demographic characteristics for small areas in Illinois.
- Worked with project leaders to determine key indicators to estimate.
- Explained the advantages and drawbacks of the estimates to policy-makers and community stakeholders.
- Wrote a program using Python to automate part of the estimation process

project: survey the use of economic clusters in practice, Summer to Fall 2006

- Created a database of public and quasi-public organization employing Michael Porter's clusters in their initiatives.
- Wrote an overview of the findings including case studies of three of the initiatives.
- Collaborated with Dr. Isserman on an outline of a paper based on this research.

Graduate Research Assistant (to Ann Markusen), Summer 2006

Project on Regional and Industrial Economics

Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

project: tabulation of artists in metropolitan areas, Summer 2006

- Used the Integrated Public-Use Microdata Sample of the 2000 Census to estimate the number of people in various artistic occupations.

project: survey of incentive competition between local governments, Spring 2006

- Read the chapters for a book edited by Dr. Markusen and created an overview of the philosophical differences between the authors.
- Wrote a literature review of the topic.
- Collaborated with Dr. Markusen on the first chapter of book, an overview.

Research Intern, Spring 2006

fedgazette, Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank

supervisor: Ronald A. Wirtz

- Researched and wrote an article on the trends in international students attending public higher education institutions in the Bank's Ninth District.
- Used federal data to track changes in enrollment and country of origin.

Graduate Research Assistant (to Barbara Lukermann)

Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota

project: analysis of the use of Neighborhood Revitalization Program money, Fall 2005

- Created a database of single-family housing projects funded with NRP money.
- Analyzed the use of the money based on neighborhood need, income level of the recipient and cost of the project.
- Wrote an analysis of single-family housing projects funded with NRP money.

project: comprehensive plan for the Frogtown neighborhood of St. Paul, Spring 2005

- Incorporated feedback of the neighborhood committee throughout the process.
- Wrote the plan to address specific community concerns and desires.

Peer-reviewed Publications

Nesse, Katherine and Andrew M. Isserman. (under review) "Making mandated population estimates for small places with incomplete information," *Population Research and Policy Review*.

Other Publications

- Markusen, Ann and Katherine Nesse. 2007. "Institutional and political determinants of incentive competition: Reassessing causes, outcomes, and remedies," Chapter 1 in Ann Markusen (Ed.), *Reining in the Competition for Capital*. Kalamazoo, Michigan: W.E. Upjohn Institute, 2007.
- Nesse, Katherine and Barbara Lukermann. 2006. "The Geography of Participation in Neighborhood Revitalization Program Home Improvement Programs and Multifamily Construction Projects," *CURA Reporter* (Center for Urban and Regional Affairs, University of Minnesota), 36(2): pp. 13-15.
- Nesse, Katherine. 2006. "Universities facing increasing competition for international students," *fedgazette* (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis), May.
- Nesse, Katherine. 2005. "Community development through faith-based organizations: An example by churches in Minneapolis," *Intersection* 2(1): pp. 14-18.

Conference Presentations

- "Participation and policy decisions in places with new Hispanic communities: Intermediate findings from case studies" *4th Annual Regional, Population and Health Economics Midwest Student Summit*, Urbana, Illinois (April 16-17, 2011).
- "Cultural change and policy-making: The growth of the Hispanic population in towns across the Midwest and its effect on governance" *3rd Annual Regional, Population and Health Economics Midwest Student Summit*, Urbana, Illinois (April 9-10, 2009).
- "Where are Hispanic populations growing in the US?" *2nd Annual Regional, Population and Health Economics Midwest Student Summit*, Urbana, Illinois (April 10-11, 2009).
- "Can people vote with their feet? Testing the assumption of choice in Tiebout's theory of local expenditures" *55th Annual North American Regional Science Council Meetings*, Brooklyn, New York (November 20-23, 2008).
- "Rural Economies, Nonwage Income and Economic Base" *38th Annual Mid-Continent Regional Science Association Meetings*, Kansas City, Missouri (June 8-9, 2007).
- "Understanding and harnessing change in the Brainerd Lakes area: Retirees and recreational, rural areas" *34th Annual Minnesota State Planning Conference*, Brainerd, Minnesota (September 27-29, 2006).

Independent Teaching Experience

Instructor, Spring 2011

“Analytical Planning Methods”

Department of Urbana and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Will choose textbook and develop syllabus for this undergraduate level statistics course.
- Will provide feedback to students and evaluate their progress through assignments and exams.
- Will encourage critical thinking by promoting classroom discussion and written reflection.

Co-instructor, September 2008

“Software Introduction for Masters Students”

Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Designed, in collaboration with my co-instructor, the 3-day software course for incoming master’s students.
- Led the day on ESRI ArcGIS and the half day on Microsoft Access

Teaching Assistant Experience

Teaching Assistant (to Jennifer Fraterrigo), Fall 2009

“GIS in Natural Resource Management”

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences,

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Led and assisted in lab sessions and helped students work through the lab exercises.
- Gave the lecture introducing the analysis section of the class. The lecture was so popular, I have asked to repeat it every year since then.
- Provided feedback to students on their progress throughout the term by grading and commenting on lab exercises, meeting with students individually and answering questions.

Teaching Assistant (to Kathy Baylis), Fall 2008

“Spatial Econometrics”

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Economics,

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Led the lectures and lab sessions on the use of GIS software in spatial econometrics.
- Aided students in locating data resources for their class projects.
- Helped students solve problems related to GIS, the statistical software R, and spatial econometrics in carrying out their class projects..

Teaching Assistant (to Nama Raj Budathoki), Fall 2007

“Introduction to GIS for Planning”

Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Led lab sessions and helped students work through the lab exercises.
- Provided feedback to students on their progress throughout the term by grading and commenting on lab exercises, meeting with students individually and answering questions.

Teaching Assistant (to Ann Markusen), Spring 2006

“Creating Good Work: Economic and Workforce Development”

Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

- Led lab sessions and helped students work through the lab exercises.
- Lectured on rural economic development and immigrant-led entrepreneurship.
- Provided feedback to students on their progress throughout the term by grading and commenting on lab exercises, meeting with students individually and answering questions.

Guest Lectures Given

Guest Lecturer in **“GIS in Natural Resource Management”**,

October 18, 2011 (scheduled)

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences,

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Guest Lecturer in **“State and Local Public Finance”**, April 27, 2011

Department of Urban and Regional Planning,

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Guest Lecturer in **“GIS in Natural Resource Management”**, October 19, 2010

Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences,

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Academic Awards

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students. Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Fall 2009.

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by their Students. Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Fall 2007.

Richard Bolan Award. Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, 2005.

Barbara Lukermann Award for Service in Planning. Hubert H. Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, 2006.

University Service

Conference Organizer, September 2008 to 2009

Regional, Population & Health Economics: 2nd Annual Midwest Graduate Student Summit
Host: Departments of Urban and Regional Planning and Applied and Consumer Economics at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Applied for and acquired funding to host the conference.
- Worked with a co-organizer to secure key-note speakers.
- Scheduled sessions and managed technology resources.
- Arranged for food and lodging for the 40 participants and speakers.

Treasurer, August 2008 to July 2010

Doctoral Students in Urban Planning,
Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Kept the organization's finances in order, including managing the bank account.
- Organized fundraisers to help the organization finance its activities.
- Applied for (and received) grants to help members travel to conferences.
- Mentored the following treasurer the year after my last term expired.

Social Chair, January 2007 to January 2008

Doctoral Students in Urban Planning,
Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Initiated a monthly "Happy Hour" to build collegiality within the program.
- Organized picnics and other events that appealed to non-traditional students.
- Coordinated events to encourage dialog between PhD students and faculty.

Treasurer, September 2004 to May 2006

HHH Planning Student Organization (APA affiliate),
Hubert H. Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

- Managed the organizations finances.
- Initiated fundraisers to finance the organization's activities

Community Service

Organizer, July 2011 to present

Friends of Phalen Branch Park (Champaign, Illinois)

- Organized neighborhood residents who oppose the sale of a neighborhood park by the city for residential development.
- Communicated with elected officials regarding neighborhood residents' preferences.

Board Member, January 2005 to June 2006

Transformational Ministry in the City, Minneapolis Synod of the ELCA (Minneapolis, Minnesota)

- Reviewed proposals for grants to serve marginalized groups in the churches' communities.
- Linked the committee and applicants with publically available data sources that would help them understand the people living in Minneapolis neighborhoods
- Provided guidance for applicants on how they can improve their proposed programs.

Board Member, March 2002 to August 2004

JP Centre/South Main Streets

Boston, Massachusetts

- Organized a “neighborhood assessment tour” that involved community members in documenting the physical strengths of the neighborhood and the places where there could be improvement through a walking tour of the main street.
- Reviewed applications for grants to improve the façades of small businesses.
- Acted as a liaison between several neighborhood businesses and the board, helping the businesses understand how they could access the organization’s resources and helping the board understand the businesses’ needs.
- Helped to create and execute fundraising events and plan for financial goals.

Professional Experience

Community Development Associate, June to August 2007; July 2011 to present

City of Urbana, Economic Development Department

Urbana, Illinois

- Researched the funding mechanism for convention and visitors bureaus in the Midwest.
- Compiled contacts between local governments and convention and visitors bureaus.
- Outlined possible ways to measure a city’s return on investment in a convention and visitor bureau.
- Surveyed hotel availability and retail vacancy.
- Mapped public art installations around the city.
- Created a reference resource for incoming students and other new residents to easily identify businesses such as grocery stores, restaurants, and hardware stores in the city.

Economic Development Intern, June to August 2005

Yakima County Development Association,

Yakima, Washington

- Mapped vacant industrial properties including available utilities and transportation options.
- Helped administer the annual survey of manufacturers in the county.

Research Intern, Fall 2004

Access Philanthropy

St. Paul, Minnesota

- Researched the philanthropic activities of fast food restaurants.

Languages

Spanish, intermediate reading ability

Norwegian, intermediate reading ability