Elena Varga

Assistant Professor of Economics
Department of Economics, Lakeshore University
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Research interests

Labor economics, household finance, and the effects of minimum wage policy on small firms. Methods: panel data, natural experiments, and administrative records.

Appointments

Assistant Professor of Economics 2022 - present
Lakeshore University

Postdoctoral Fellow 2020 - 2022
Center for Labor Studies, Northfield University

Education

Ph.D. in Economics 2020
Northfield University

M.A. in Economics 2016
Northfield University

B.A. in Economics and Mathematics 2014
Riverside College

Publications

1. Varga, E. (2025). Minimum wages and the survival of small firms: evidence from county borders. *Journal of Labor Research*.
2. Varga, E. and Okafor, D. (2024). Paycheck timing and household borrowing. *Review of Household Finance*.
3. Okafor, D., Varga, E. and Lin, S. (2023). Who pays for scheduling rules? Hours, wages and turnover in retail. *Industrial Relations Quarterly*.
4. Varga, E. (2021). Local labor markets after plant closures. *Regional Economics Letters*.

Grants and awards

Early Career Research Grant, Foundation for Labor Research ($120,000) 2024
Outstanding Teaching Award, Lakeshore University 2023
Dissertation Fellowship, Northfield University 2019

Teaching

Labor Economics (undergraduate) Fall 2022 - present
Lakeshore University

Applied Econometrics (graduate) Spring 2023 - present
Lakeshore University