

PATRICIA KIEN-MEN TONG

Contact Information

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Professional Experience

Core Faculty, Pardee RAND Graduate School, 2020-present
Economist, RAND Corporation, 2017-present
Financial Economist, U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of Tax Analysis, 2010-2017

Education

Ph.D., Economics, University of California, San Diego, 2010
B.A., Economics & Mathematics, New York University, 2004

Research Fields:

Primary Fields: Public Economics, Labor Economics
Secondary Fields: Health Economics, Applied Econometrics

Teaching Experience:

2004-2010 Teaching Assistant, University of California, San Diego, Department of Economics

Courses: Undergraduate Public Economics, Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Operations Research, Microeconomics, Energy Economics, Environmental Economics, Economics of Health Consumers

Selected Honors

2008-2009 University of California Office of the President, Labor and Employment Research Fund, Doctoral Dissertation Grant
2008 University of California, San Diego, Department of Economics Research Grant
2005-2008 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2000-2004 New York University, College of Arts and Science Trustee Scholarship

Conference Presentations, Seminars, and Guest Lectures

2022 Office of the Chief of Naval Operations N1 Brown Bag; University of Missouri
2021 McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University; University of Missouri; National Tax Association (NTA) Annual Meeting
2018 Michigan Retirement Research Center Researcher Workshop; WEAI Annual Conference; NBER Retirement Research Consortium
2016 Colby College

- 2015 NBER Spring Public Economics Meeting; American Tax Policy Institute Conference; NTA Spring Symposium; IRS-Tax Policy Center Research Conference, NTA Annual Meeting
- 2014 NTA Annual Meeting
- 2013 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Annual Meeting; NTA Annual Meeting
- 2012 American Economic Association Meeting; NTA Spring Symposium, APPAM Annual Meeting; NTA Annual Meeting
- 2011 APPAM Annual Meeting; NTA Annual Meeting
- 2010 Population Association of America Annual Meeting

Publications

Fadlon, Itzik, Shanthi Ramnath, **Patricia K. Tong**, and Lisa Cramer McKay, 2020. "Financial Life After the Death of a Spouse," *Chicago Fed Letter*, No. 438.

Lin, Emily Y. and **Patricia K. Tong**, 2017. "Using Administrative Tax Data to Estimate Work Participation and Earnings Elasticities of Married Couples," *International Tax and Public Finance*, 24(6): 997-1025.

Ramnath, Shanthi and **Patricia K. Tong**, 2017. "The Persistent Reduction in Poverty from Filing a Tax Return," *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 9(4): 367-394.

Gleason, Suzanne and **Patricia K. Tong**, 2015. "Nontaxable Combat Pay Election and the Earned Income Tax Credit," *2015 IRS Research Bulletin*: 207-215.

Lin, Emily Y. and **Patricia K. Tong**, 2014. "Effects of Marriage Penalty Relief Tax Policy on Marriage Taxes and Marginal Tax Rates of Cohabiting Couples," *National Tax Association Proceedings from the 107th Annual Conference* (November 2014).

Tong, Patricia K., 2014. "Tracking EITC Qualifying Children Over Time," *National Tax Association Proceedings from the 107th Annual Conference* (November 2014).

Lin, Emily Y. and **Patricia K. Tong**, 2012. "Marriage and Taxes: What Can We Learn From Tax Returns Filed by Cohabiting Couples?" *National Tax Journal*, 65(4): 807-826.

Kawano, Laura, Shanthi Ramnath, and **Patricia K. Tong**, 2012. "A Re-Balancing Act? Understanding Patterns in Refunds and Balances Due," *National Tax Association Proceedings from the 105th Annual Conference* (November 2012).

Tong, Patricia K. 2011. "The Effects of California Minimum Nurse Staffing Laws on Nurse Labor and Patient Mortality in Skilled Nursing Facilities," *Health Economics*, 20(7): 802-816.

Peer-Reviewed RAND Reports

Robbert, Albert A., **Patricia K. Tong**, Chaitra M. Hardison, 2022. "Retention of Enlisted Maintenance, Logistics, and Munitions Personnel: Analysis and Results." RR-A546-1.

Tong, Patricia K. Michael G. Mattock, Beth J. Asch, 2021. “A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Special and Incentive Pays for Career Enlisted Aviators.” RR-A189-1.

Friedman, Esther M., and **Patricia K. Tong**, 2020. “A Framework for Integrating Family Caregivers in the Health Care Team.” RR-A105-1.

Asch, Beth J., Michael G. Mattock, and **Patricia K. Tong**, 2020. “Analysis of a Time-in-Grade Pay Table for Military Personnel and Policy Alternatives.” RR-A369-1.

McIntosh, Molly F., **Patricia K. Tong**, Hannah Acheson-Field, Noah Johnson, Norah Griffin, and Joshua Russell-Fritch, 2020. “Monetary and Non-Monetary Compensation for High-Value DoD Civilian Skill Sets.” RR-A385-1.

Tong, Patricia K. Michael G. Mattock, Beth J. Asch, James Hosek, and Felix Knutson, 2020. “Modeling Career Enlisted Aviator Retention.” RR-3134-AF.

Bond, Craig A., Aaron Strong, Troy D. Smith, Megan Andrew, John S. Crown, Kathryn A. Edwards, Gabriella C. Gonzalez, Italo A. Gutierrez, Lauren Kendrick, Jill E. Luoto, Kyle Pratt, Karishma Patel, Alexander D. Rothenberg, Mark Stalczynski, **Patricia K. Tong**, and Melanie A. Zaber, 2020. “Challenges and Opportunities for the Puerto Rico Economy: A Review of Evidence and Options Following Hurricanes Irma and Maria in 2017.” RR-2600-DHS.

Tong, Patricia K., Leslie Adrienne Payne, Craig A. Bond, Sarah O. Meadows, Jennifer Lamping Lewis, Esther M. Friedman, and Ervant Maksabedian, 2018. “Enhancing Family Stability During a Permanent Change of Stations: A Review of Disruptions and Policies.” RR-2304-OSD.

Asch, Beth J., Michael G. Mattock, James Hosek, and **Patricia K. Tong**, 2018. “Capping Retired Pay for Senior Field Grade Officers: Force Management, Retention, and Cost Effects.” RR-2251-OSD.

Hosek, James, Beth J. Asch, Michael G. Mattock, Italo A. Gutierrez, **Patricia K. Tong**, and Felix Knutson, 2018. “An Assessment of the Military Survivor Benefit Plan.” RR-2236-OSD.

Commentaries, Media Coverage, and Other Published Work

Friedman, Esther F., **Patricia K. Tong**, and Robert Rudin, 2020. “The Coronavirus Pandemic Highlights Why Family Caregivers Need to be Integrated into the Health Care Team and Shows Us How to Do It.” PE-A1079-1.

Friedman, Esther F. and **Patricia K. Tong**, 2019. “Recognizing Family Caregivers as Part of the Health Care Team.” *RAND blog*.

Quoted in “Military Families Already Have Enough PCS Support, New Study Finds,” Military.com, October 22, 2018, <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2018/10/22/military-families-already-have-enough-pcs-support-new-study-finds.html>

Quoted in “Five things to know about America’s \$1 trillion debt,” Marketplace.org, April 10, 2018, <https://www.marketplace.org/2018/04/10/economy/cbo-predicts-short-term-economic-boost-long-term-problems>

Tong, Patricia K., 2017. “Fighting Poverty with Taxes,” *Council on Economic Policies Blog Post*.

Work in Progress

Geographical Access to Specialized Behavioral Health Treatment Programs for Active Duty Service Members and Military Families from Military Installations, *RAND Working Paper WR-1310-OSD, Joint with Jonathan Cantor*

The Impact of Access to Substances Abuse Treatment on Disability, *NBER Disability Research Center Paper No. NB 18-Q9, Joint with Jonathan Cantor and Zubin Jelveh*

Household Responses to Transfers and Liquidity: Evidence from Social Security’s Survivors Benefits, *NBER Working Paper No. 25586, Joint with Itzik Fadlon and Shanthi Ramnath*

Mortality Risk and Household Insurance in the U.S., *Joint with Itzik Fadlon and Shanthi Ramnath*

Funded Projects as Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-PI

Emerging Topics in Military Health Care Costs, Office of the Secretary of Defense, May 2021-February 2023, Co-PI with Kandice Kapinos

Review of Reserve Component Activation Data Quality, Office of the Secretary of Defense, February 2021-December 2022, Co-PI with James Marrone

A Framework for Integrating Family Caregivers into the Formal Care Team, SeniorLink, August 2019-September 2020, Co-PI with Esther Friedman

Monetary and Non-Monetary Compensation for High-Value DoD Civilian Skill Sets, Office of the Secretary of Defense, July 2019-November 2020, Co-PI with Molly McIntosh

Access to Substance Abuse and Mental Health Treatment Among the Military and Their Families, Office of the Secretary of Defense, May 2018-May 2019, Co-PI with Jonathan Cantor

The Impact of Access to Substance Abuse Treatment on Disability, NBER Disability Research Center, May 2018-September 2018, Co-PI with Jonathan Cantor

Mortality Shocks and the Protective Role of Social Security’s Survivors Insurance, NBER Retirement Research Center, October 2017-September 2018, Co-PI with Itzik Fadlon

Professional Activities

Journal Referee: Contemporary Economic Policy, Health Economics, International Tax and Public Finance, National Tax Journal