

## University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

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## Curriculum Vitae Fall 2012

### IMKE REIMERS

#### Personal Data

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*Citizenship:* German (F-1 Visa)

#### Major Fields of Concentration

Industrial Organization, Applied Econometrics, Intellectual Property

#### Education

<i>Degree</i>	<i>Field</i>	<i>Institution</i>	<i>Year</i>
Ph.D.	Economics	University of Minnesota (expected)	2013
M.A.	Economics	University of Minnesota	2012
B.Sc.	Mathematics and Economics ( <i>high distinction</i> )	University of Nebraska-Lincoln	2008

#### Dissertation

Title: "The Effects of Intellectual Property on the Market for Existing Creative Works"

Dissertation Advisors: Professor Thomas Holmes and Professor Amil Petrin

Expected Completion: Summer 2013

#### References

Professor Thomas Holmes	(612) 625-4512 holmes@umn.edu	Department of Economics University of Minnesota 4-101 Hanson Hall
Professor Amil Petrin	(612) 625-0145 petrin@umn.edu	1925 Fourth Street South Minneapolis, MN 55455
Dr. Simran Sahi	(612) 625-6353 ssahi@umn.edu	
Professor Joel Waldfogel	(612) 626-7128 jwaldfog@umn.edu	Department of Strategic Management/Organization Carlson School of Management 321 19 <sup>th</sup> Avenue South Minneapolis, MN 55455

## Honors and Awards

- Summer 2012 Graduate Research Program Partnership Dissertation Fellowship, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Summer 2010 *Distinguished Instructor*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Spring 2010, Fall 2009 *Distinguished Teaching Assistant*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2008 - 2009 *Silverman Fellowship*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2008 NCAA Postgraduate Scholarship
- 2008 - present *Phi Beta Kappa*, Gamma Chapter of University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska.
- 2008 First Team CoSIDA Academic All-American, at large selection.

## Teaching Experience

- Spring 2012 - Fall 2012 *Instructor*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Instructor for *Industrial Organization and Antitrust Policy*.
- 2010 - 2011 *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Led recitation sections for Ph.D. level econometrics sequence.
- Fall 2009 - Summer 2010 *Instructor*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Instructor for *Principles of Macroeconomics* including one semester as a large lecture instructor supervising teaching assistants and graders.
- 2008 - 2009 *Teaching Assistant*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Led recitation sections for *Principles of Microeconomics* and *Principles of Macroeconomics*.

## Research Experience

- Fall 2011 *Research Assistant*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Research assistant to Professor Amil Petrin and Professor Joel Waldfogel.
- Summer 2011 *Research Assistant*, Department of Strategic Management and Organization, Carlson School of Management, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Research assistant to Professor Joel Waldfogel.

## Papers

- "The Effects of Intellectual Property on the Market for Existing Creative Works"
- "The Welfare Effects of the Introduction of E-books: Low Prices are Just the Beginning," with Joel Waldfogel

## **Computer Skills**

Stata, SAS, Matlab, SPSS

## **Languages**

German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), French (intermediate)

## **Abstract**

“The Effects of Intellectual Property on the Market for Existing Creative Works”

The 1998 Sonny Bono Act extended copyright by 20 years so that works created in 1922 and before are in the public domain while works created later remain on copyright. Taking works off copyright tends to promote their availability which benefits consumers. But it also allows entry to dissipate producer surplus, particularly for high-value works. At the same time, many copyright-protected books, especially those of low value, have gone out of print. Under copyright, these "orphan" works are effectively unavailable as new products and putting them in the public domain can raise the welfare of both producers and consumers. Evaluating the welfare impact of the copyright extension requires estimation of the differences in consumer and producer surplus across a wide range of books between actual and counterfactual copyright regimes. I assess these differences using a structural model of demand for books, along with an entry model, to simulate the elimination of copyright for books published after 1923. I find that a copyright extension decreases welfare from fiction bestsellers by decreasing variety, causing a decrease in consumer surplus that outweighs the increase in profits. Holding fixed the costs of entry a move into the public domain increases total surplus from most titles, indicating insufficient entry under copyright protection.

"The Welfare Effects of the Introduction of E-books: Low Prices are Just the Beginning," with Joel Waldfogel

Since the Kindle's appearance in 2007, digitization has had two major impacts on the markets for books. First, prices have fallen substantially. Second, the number of new titles available has more than doubled, driven in large part by self-published volumes. Using data from a variety of sources, we document the effects of these digitally enabled innovations on welfare. Average prices paid for new books have fallen, and units purchased have risen, giving rise to gains for consumers. Self-published books, many of which would not have found their way to consumers prior to digitization, make up a substantial and growing share of sales (nearly 10 percent as of mid-2012), thus potentially expanding the market. We aim at identifying the welfare effects of these price and variety changes.