Child care choices and children’s cognitive achievement: The case of single mothers

The effects of child care compared with maternal care on children’s development have been a key issue for researchers and policy makers in early childhood education. This presentation applies economic analysis to explore this question in relationship to children’s cognitive development and the case of single mothers, using a large longitudinal data set from the USA. Findings suggest different cognitive outcomes for formal and informal care, for more or less educated mothers and for girls and boys.

“...had a positive effect, in particular it had positive effects when the mother had either low education or low income.”

Internationally renowned economist Professor Michael Keane has began his 5 year Australian Research Council Federation Fellowship at UTS in 2006. Professor Keane is a world leader in choice modelling, the statistical technique that involves developing mathematical models to predict how individuals or companies make different types of decisions. Professor Keane works with the Faculty of Business in the Centre for the Study of Choice, the Centre for Health Economics Research and Evaluation, and the Quantitative Finance Research Centre.