

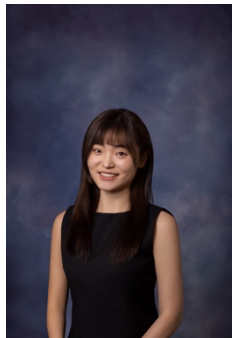
TULANE

School *of* Liberal Arts

Department *of* Economics

2025-2026 Job Market Candidates

	Name and Contact Information	Fields of Study	Job Market Paper	References
	Mehrdad Baratian Email: mbaratian@tulane.edu Website CV (page 4)	Health Economics Innovation Labor Economics	“Shocks, Reallocation, and the Direction of Innovation: The Case of COVID-19”	Kevin Callison (Chair) Engy Ziedan Katy Bergstrom
	Ruipu Gao Email: rgao4@tulane.edu Website CV (page 6)	Economics of Education Labor Economics	“The Impact of Optional Practice Training: The Response of Foreign And Domestic College Graduates in the Labor Market”	Douglas N. Harris (Chair) Emily E. Cook Elliott Isaac
	Nicholas Lacoste Email: nlacoste1@tulane.edu Website CV (page 8)	Public Economics Machine Learning and Non-Parametric Econometrics Development Economics	“Optimal Audit Targeting with Machine Learning: Evidence from Pakistan” (with Zehra Farooq)	William Dodds (Chair) Katy Bergstrom Augustine Denteh
	Yu Liu Email: yliu79@tulane.edu Website CV (page 11)	Health Economics Economics of Education Economics of Aging Applied Econometrics	“Higher Education and Adult Health: Evidence from China's College Entrance Exam Suspension”	Kevin Callison (Chair) Patrick Button Douglas N. Harris Mary Olson



Name and Contact Information	Fields of Study	Job Market Paper	References
Barbara Lundebjerg Email: blundebjerg@tulane.edu Website CV (page 13)	Economics of Education Economics of Crime Discrimination Experimental Economics	“The Impact of DACA on Juvenile Crime and School Safety”	Douglas N. Harris (Chair) Patrick Button Emily E. Cook Wei Long
Gabriel J. Olivier Email: golivier1@tulane.edu Website CV (page 16)	Economics of Education Labor Economics Political Economy Empirical Policy Analysis	“Minimum Wage Policy and Human Capital Formation: College Enrollment and Major Choice”	Douglas N. Harris (Chair) Patrick Testa Emily E. Cook
Lele Zhao Email: lzhao6@tulane.edu Website CV (page 19)	Economics of Education Health Economics Demographic Economics	“Education as Insurance: Property Division and Women’s Education”	Katy Bergstrom (Chair) Stefano Barbieri Kevin Callison Elliott Isaac



Mehrdad Baratian

Ph.D. Candidate

Tulane University, New Orleans

✉ Mbaratian@tulane.edu

🌐 <https://github.com/M-Baratian>

🌐 www.linkedin.com/in/m-baratian

EDUCATION

•Tulane University

Ph.D. Candidate in **Econometrics and Quantitative Economics**

Specializations: *Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Innovation*

2021 present

New Orleans, LA.

•Tulane University

Master in **Econometrics and Quantitative Economics**

Specializations: *Applied Microeconomics*

2021-2023

New Orleans, LA.

•Tehran Polytechnic

Master of Science: **Business Administration**

Graduated Top 3 in Class

2016-2018

Tehran

•University of Isfahan

Bachelor of Science: **Mechanical Engineering**

Achieved a Top 1% Ranking in the National University Entrance Exam

2010-2015

Isfahan

FIELDS

Health Economics, Innovation, Labor Economics

WORKING EXPERIENCE

Leadership Role at Tulane University:

2022-2024

- Vice President, Graduate Student Association—led cross-council initiatives; managed budgets; university liaison.

Negin Bazr Co.

2018-2021

- Product Marketing Manager, Market Researcher.
- Developed and demonstrated advanced teamwork, decision-making, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills within the private sector, contributing to successful project outcomes and driving organizational efficiency.

Isfahan Subsea Research and Development Center

2021

- Operating the Towing-Tank lab at one of the most advanced subsea research centers in West Asia.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

•Causal Inference

Difference-in-Differences; Regression Discontinuity; Matching; Instrumental Variables

•Quantitative Methods

Econometric Modeling; Predictive Analytics; Deep Learning; Data Analysis

•Natural Language Processing

Neural Networks; BERT models; TF-IDF; Clustering; Classification

•Programming

Python; Stata; SQL

•Computing

Amazon Web Services (AWS); Tulane University High-Performance Computing (Cypress)

•Languages

English; Farsi

WORKING PAPERS

•Shocks, Reallocation, and the Direction of Innovation: The Case of COVID-19

Job Market Paper

- **Abstract:** Shocks reallocate attention, lab capacity, and funding across fields. I ask how major shocks reshape the field composition of research effort and whether substitution or complementarity dominates. Using COVID-19 as a global shock, I map PubMed articles (2017–2022) into 30 topical clusters with NLP and construct monthly research-effort indices. I then separate level shifts from trend breaks using interrupted time series and a stacked event-study difference-in-differences. Three patterns emerge. First, trend slowdowns: relative to pre-period growth, the median cluster's monthly growth rate falls by about seven percentage points, with many clusters registering statistically significant declines. Second, substitution toward the shock-proximate area: negatively exposed fields experience within-cluster effort drops on the order of 10–13% relative to their counterfactual pre-trends, while the COVID-19 cluster's share of total effort rises sharply at the peak. Third, complementarities: a subset of method- or platform-adjacent clusters accelerates by roughly 4–6 percentage points. These findings imply that policymakers should prioritize neglected clusters during shocks—via bridge funding and access safeguards—to mitigate unintended crowd-out, while also supporting complementary platforms that scale beneficial spillovers. Beyond COVID-19, the measurement and identification strategy provides a general framework to characterize the structure of reallocation under any major shock, guiding targeted interventions when disruptions arise

•SNAP Generosity and Mental Health

Working paper

- Methods: Difference-in-Differences; dose–response Difference-in-Differences.
- Finding: SNAP allotments support mental health during economic hardship, with effects emerging beyond a minimum benefit threshold.

TEACHING EXPERIENCES

•Research & Teaching Assistant, Tulane University

2022 Present

- Courses: Intermediate Microeconomics; Health Economics; Introduction to Macroeconomics; Introduction to Microeconomics.

•Teaching Assistant — Strategic Management, Tehran Polytechnic

Spring 2018

- Course: Strategic Management.

AWARDS

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| • Graduate Student Summer Research Award, Tulane University | <i>June 2024, May 2025</i> |
| • Graduate Studies Student Association Travel Award, Tulane University | <i>May 2024</i> |
| • Joachim-Herz Foundation Award | <i>June 2024</i> |
| • Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science Research Grant Award | <i>June 2024, April 2025</i> |

CONFERENCE AND PRESENTATION

* First Author Presenter

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| * Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Seattle, WA. | <i>Fall 2025</i> |
| * Southern Economic Association (SEA) Tampa, FL. | <i>Fall 2025</i> |
| * Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Washington, D.C. | <i>Fall 2024</i> |
| * Essen Economics of Mental Health Workshop, CINCH - Health Economics Research Center Universität Duisburg-Essen. Minneapolis, MN. | <i>August 2024</i> |
| * American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon). California, San Diego San Diego, CA. | <i>June 2024</i> |

REFERENCES

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1- Kevin Callison
Assistant Professor
Department of Public Health
Tulane University
Email: kcallison@tulane.edu
Phone: (614) 989-1764 | 2- Engy Ziedan
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Tulane University
Email: eziedan@tulane.edu
Phone: (504) 862-8343 | 3- Katy Bergstrom
Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Tulane University
Email: kbergstrom@tulane.edu |
|--|---|--|

Ruipu (Simon) Gao

Email: rgao4@tulane.edu | Cell: +1 5042611911

Add: 206 Tilton Hall, 6823 St. Charles Avenue, New Orleans, LA, 70118

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/ruipugao

Personal Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/ruipugao/home>

Education Background:

2021-2026 (expected)	Tulane University	Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
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Dissertation Committee:	Douglas Harris	dharris5@tulane.edu	504-865-5321
	Emily Cook	ecook4@tamu.edu	540-308-0807
	Elliott Isaac	eisaac@tulane.edu	504-865-5321

2019-2021	University of Wisconsin-Madison	Master of Science in Economics
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2015-2019	Capital Normal University	Bachelor of Science in Statistics
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Research Field:

Education Economics, Labor Economics

Publications:

Chinese Academy of Agricultural Science (Beijing)

Ruipu Gao and Ling Xin. "Evaluation on the Development Level of China's New Agricultural Management System." *Economist*, 2017.

Ruipu Gao, Ling Xin, and Heping Jiang. "Evaluation of Comprehensive Grain Production Capacity in Main Grain Producing Areas in China." *Chinese Journal of Agricultural Resources and Regional Planning*, 2018.

Tulane University (New Orleans)

Ruipu Gao and Emily Cook, "How Does the Price of College Affect Students' Choice of Major," Reject and Resubmit, 2024.

Working Papers:

Job Market Paper: The Impact of Optional Practice Training: The Response of Foreign And Domestic College Graduates in the Labor Market

Abstract: While policymakers increasingly emphasize the role of foreign STEM graduates in boosting U.S. innovation and economic growth, less attention has been paid to how their expanding presence may shape the labor market choices of domestic college graduates. The Optional Practical Training (OPT), a temporary work permit that allows F-1 international students to work in the U.S. after graduation, was extended twice in 2008 and 2016. This paper examines how the extensions of OPT affected (1) the likelihood that domestic college graduates choose STEM occupations and (2) the starting wages of both foreign and domestic graduates. Using data from the Current Population Survey and the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System spanning 2002 to 2023, I implement dosage difference-in-differences (dosage DD) and complement the analysis with a policy-induced instrumental variables strategy. The dosage DD results indicate that following the 2008 OPT extension, the likelihood of domestic college graduates working in STEM occupations declined by 3%, and their starting wages fell by 4%, while no significant effect was observed for the starting wages of foreign graduates. After the 2016 OPT extension, domestic graduates experienced a 1.7% decline in starting wages, whereas foreign graduates saw a 3.6% increase. This paper suggests that while an influx of foreign STEM talent positively influences the local economy, policymakers should also consider its spillover effects, such as the negative discouragement of domestic students from entering the STEM fields.

How Does the Price of College Affect Students' Choice of Major (co-author with Emily Cook)

Abstract: We illustrate two ways in which the price paid for college tuition ("net tuition") may affect students' major choice: 1) a selection effect in which increased net tuition discourages attendance among students with high non-pecuniary returns to low-wage majors, and 2) a "switching" effect in which all students are more likely to choose a high-wage major when net tuition is high, because the marginal utility of consumption increases with net tuition. Using fixed-effects regressions on data from public colleges from 2000-2019 and an IV strategy based on state-level appropriations budgets, we estimate a \$1,723 increase in the annual wage associated with college graduates' degree fields per a \$1,000 increase in net tuition.

Works in Progress:

The Effect of School Vouchers on the Educational Performance and Capital Expenditure of Public Schools (co-author with Douglas Harris)

Abstract: This paper examines the recent universal school voucher programs by analyzing their impact on public schools' educational performance (test scores) and capital expenditures through both cross-state and within-state analyses. The paper uses data from the National Longitudinal School Database (NLSD) and the Stanford Education Data Archive (SEDA), and employs a synthetic difference-in-differences (sdid) approach.

Conference and Presentations:

2024	Western Economic Association International (WEAI)	Seattle, WA
2025	Association For Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)	Washington, DC.
2025	Eastern Economic Association (EEA)	New York City
2025	Forthcoming: Southern Economic Association (SEA)	Tampa, FL
2026	ASSA Annual Meeting 2026	Philadelphia, PA
2024 and 2025	Econ Lunch Seminar at Tulane University	New Orleans, LA

Other Research Experience:

Department of Mathematics at Capital Normal University

2015	Member of the Research Group: Mutual Proof of the Seven Basic Theorems in Mathematical Analytics
2018	Leader of the Research Group: The application of the Monte Carlo method in Financial Options
2019	Graduation Thesis: "Study of Monte Carlo Method and Its Applications"

Department of Economics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison

2020	Research assistant of Xiaoxia Shi
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Tulane University

2022	Research assistant of Dr. Emily Cook
2023	Research assistant of Dr. Mary Olson

Technical Skills:

Programming Languages: Stata (advanced), MATLAB (intermediate), Python (advanced), R (intermediate), SQL, Tableau, Git, SAS

Statistics, Economics, and Mathematics Tools: Causal Inference, Advanced Econometrics, Probability Theory, Multivariate Statistical Analysis, Ordinary Differential Equation, Real Analysis, Advanced Microeconomics, Advanced Macroeconomics, Stochastic Process, Time Series, Game Theory

Machine Learning for Data Analysis: Support Vector Machines, Random Forest, Causal Forest, Decision Trees, K-Means Clustering, Model Validation, Feature Engineering, Convolutional Neural Network (CNN)

Field Course of Economics: Development Economics, Public Finance, Labor Economics, Economics of Education

Awards and Honors:

2024	Won GSSA 2024 summer travel grant
2024	Won Graduate Summer Research and Written-Up Award

References:

Douglas N. Harris Professor and Department Chair of Economics Department of Economics, Tulane University Email: dharris5@tulane.edu Phone: 504-865-5321	Elliott Isaac Assistant Professor Department of Economics, Tulane University Email: eisaac@tulane.edu Phone: 504-865-5321
Emily E. Cook Assistant Professor Department of Economics, Texas A&M University Email: ecook4@tamu.edu Phone: 540-308-0807	

NICHOLAS LACOSTE

Email: nlacoste1@tulane.edu

Personal Website: <https://nickmlacoste.github.io/>

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/nicholas-lacoste-9bba19114

EDUCATION

Tulane University Ph.D. Economics Advisors: Profs. William Dodds, Katy Bergstrom, Augustine Denteh	2021 – (expected) 2026
Louisiana State University M.S. Data Analytics	2018 – 2019
Louisiana State University B.S. Economics Concentration: Empirical Economic Analysis <i>Summa cum Laude</i> · E.J. Ourso College of Business co-Valedictorian	2014 – 2018

RESEARCH FIELDS

Public Economics
Machine Learning and Non-Parametric Econometrics
Development Economics

WORKING PAPERS

- [1] Katy Bergstrom, William Dodds, **Nicholas Lacoste**, and Juan Rios. “Estimating the Welfare Cost of Labor Supply Frictions.” *Revise-and-Resubmit at the Journal of Public Economics*.
- [2] **Nicholas Lacoste** and Zerah Farooq. “Optimal Audit Targeting with Machine Learning: Evidence from Pakistan.” (*Job Market Paper*)
- [3] Feng Chen, Douglas N. Harris, and **Nicholas Lacoste**. “Let 1,000 Flowers Bloom (or Wilt): Heterogeneity in National Market-Level Charter School Effects.” *Under Review*.
- [4] **Nicholas Lacoste**. “The Potential for Improved Implementation of Microfinance through AI-Driven Targeting.”

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- [1] **Nicholas Lacoste**. “On an Optimal Standard Deduction and its’ Uses”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

* Denotes scheduled

Tulane University
Instructor

- Introductory Microeconomics* Spring 2026

Tulane University
Teaching Assistant

- Development Economics (Ph.D.) Spring 2025
- Development Economics Fall 2024

- Economics of Big Data Spring 2024, Fall 2023
- Introductory Microeconomics Spring 2024, Fall 2023
- Introductory Macroeconomics Spring 2025, Fall 2024, Spring 2023, Fall 2022
- Intermediate Microeconomics Fall 2022

Tulane University

Guest Lecturer

- Development Economics (Ph.D.) – “Causal AI and Large Language Models” Spring 2025
- Empirical Methods for Political Economy – “Machine Learning for Economists” Fall 2024

Certifications

- *Certificate in Pedagogical Practice* – Tulane Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching Spring 2025

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Tulane University

Research Assistant

- Professor William Dodds August 2023 – Present
- Professor Katy Bergstrom August 2023 – Present

Louisiana State University

Research Assistant

- Economics and Policy Research Group August 2018 – May 2019

EMPLOYMENT

Cognizant Technology Solutions

Senior Associate Data Scientist

June 2019 – July 2021

- Conducted econometric forecasting and high-dimensional optimization with emphasis on evolutionary algorithms.

CSRS, Inc.

Intern to the Executive Office

May 2016 – August 2017

Baton Rouge, LA

- Assisted with financial modeling, bond issuance analysis, and research on infrastructure and real estate development projects.

CONTRACTUAL RESEARCH

Microsoft Corporation

Demand Management and Forecasting

February 2020 – July 2021

Redmond, WA

- Designed forecasting models and planning frameworks for remote server demand.

General Electric Appliances

Pricing and Sales Forecasting

September 2019 – February 2020

Louisville, KY

- Developed optimal pricing algorithms and conducted price elasticity estimation and sales forecasting.

Hanesbrands, Inc.

Client Targeting and Forecasting

January 2019 – May 2019

Remote

- Constructed lifetime-value measures and autoregressive models for forecasting business-to-business sales.

- Applied discrete-choice modeling to predict season-ticket nonrenewal and created risk-scoring systems for targeted outreach.

HONORS, AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

J.E. Land Fund Grant	2025
Tulane University School of Liberal Arts Fellowship	2021 – Present
Louisiana State University Medal as co-Valedictorian	2018
Econometrics Student of the Year: Louisiana State University	2018
Tiger Excellence Scholars Award	2014 – 2018

CONFERENCES AND INVITED LECTURES

* Denotes scheduled

2026

- ASSA*

2025

- National Tax Association (NTA)*, International Institute of Public Finance (IIPF), Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science (CAIDS) “Lunch and Learn” Seminar, Tulane University Lunch Seminar Series (Fall and Spring)

2024

- Tulane University Lunch Seminar Series (Fall and Spring), Western Economic Association International (WEAI), Southern Economic Association (SEA), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Tulane Economics Ph.D. Program Recruitment Coordinator	2023
Chief Editor: <i>Tulane Economics Working Paper Series</i>	2023 – Present
Fundraising Chair: Global Business Brigades LSU Chapter	2017

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Scripting Languages	R, Python, Stata, MATLAB, SAS
Query Languages & Databases	SQL/POSTGRES, Microsoft Azure, AWS
Visualization Software	Microsoft Power BI, Tableau
Other Relevant	L ^A T _E X, Unix/Linux OS, GitHub, Schwab Thinkorswim

OTHER INFORMATION

Citizenship: United States

Last updated: September 26, 2025

YU LIU

September 2025 ◇ New Orleans, LA

+1(504) 509-0736 ◇ yliu79@tulane.edu ◇ [LinkedIn](#)

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Tulane University **2021-2026 (expected)**
Dissertation: “Essays on Health and Aging in China”
Committee: [Kevin Callison](#) (Chair), [Patrick Button](#), [Douglas Harris](#), and [Mary Olson](#)

M.S. in Economics, Central University of Finance and Economics **2017-2020**
B.S. in Management, Huazhong Agricultural University **2013-2017**

RESEARCH FIELDS

- Health Economics, Economics of Education, Economics of Aging, Applied Econometrics

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

- “Higher Education and Adult Health: Evidence from China’s College Entrance Exam Suspension.”

Abstract: While the correlation between education and health is well-established, causal evidence on the role of higher education in producing health in developing countries remains scarce. This study exploits a natural experiment in China, where high school seniors between 1966 and 1969 were denied timely access to higher education due to the suspension of the national college entrance examination (NCEE), to study the causal effects of college completion on health. Employing a fuzzy regression discontinuity design, I find that the NCEE suspension resulted in a 29.3% reduction in college completion for the disrupted cohorts by age 50 compared to unaffected cohorts. This lost educational opportunity led to significant and lasting adverse health consequences. Estimates imply that a one percentage-point increase in college completion reduces the likelihood of smoking and drinking in later life by 1.1 and 2.3 percentage points, respectively. Further analysis suggests that these effects are partly driven by lost labor market returns, are concentrated in provinces where college disruption was most acute, and are not present for later cohorts who faced milder restrictions on access to higher education. Together, the results point to higher education as a critical determinant of population health, with implications for both education policy and health equity in resource-constrained settings.

Publication

- “Facility Acquisition and Care Quality in the United States Dialysis Industry.” with Ilana Segal, Truc Bui, and Kevin Callison. *Journal for Healthcare Quality* (forthcoming).

Working Paper

- “The Effect of State Mental Health Parity Laws on Physician Behavior.”

Research in Progress

- “Gender Identity, Race, Ethnicity, and Health Insurance Discrimination in Access to Mental Health Care: Evidence from an Audit Correspondence Field Experiment.” with *Patrick Button, Barbara Lundebjerg, Luca Fumarco, Benjamin Harrell, and David Schwegman*.
- “Does Retirement Improve Health? The Assessment of Retirement on Hospital Readmission in China.” with *Lele Zhao and Lu Yao*.

- “The Impact of Telemedicine on Physicians’ Offline Behavior and Patient Health Outcomes: Evidence from China.” with *Lele Zhao and Lu Yao*.
- “The Hidden Costs of Police Brutality: Police-Involved Killings and Public Finance” with *Stephanie F. Cheng and Wei Long*.
- “Medicare Spending, Mobility and Health Outcomes.” with *Kevin Callison*.

PRESENTATIONS AND SEMINARS

SEA 95th Annual Meeting (scheduled)	2025
ASSA Annual Meeting	2025
APPAM Fall Research Conference	2024
Tulane Economics Lunch Seminar	2023/2024/2025

HONORS AND AWARDS

GSSA Travel Award	2024/2025
CAIDS Summer Graduate Grant	2024
SLA Graduate Student Summer Research and Write-up Fellowship	2024
Excellent Team Leader, China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS)	2020
Outstanding Master’s Thesis, Central University of Finance and Economics	2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ECON 3983 STATA Lab, Independent Instructor	Spring 2024
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TEACHING ASSISTANT

ECON 7530 Advanced Income and Employment Theory I (PhD level);
 ECON 4230/6230 Econometrics; ECON 4500/6500 Health Econ & Policy; ECON 4330/6330 International Trading Relations;
 ECON 3230 Econometrics; ECON 1020 Intro to Macroeconomics; ECON 1010 Intro to Microeconomics.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Audit Group, Ernst & Young Hua Ming LLP, China	2020-2021
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OTHER INFORMATION

Restricted Data Access	CTS Physician Data, CMS-HRS Restricted Data
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REFERENCES

Kevin Callison (Chair)

Associate Professor
 Department of Health Policy and Management
 Tulane University
kcallison@tulane.edu

Douglas Harris

Professor and Department Chair
 Department of Economics
 Tulane University
dharris5@tulane.edu

Patrick Button

Associate Professor, Department of Economics
 Executive Director, [CAIDS](#)
 Tulane University
pbutton@tulane.edu

Mary Olson

Associate Professor
 Department of Economics
 Tulane University
molson3@tulane.edu

Barbara Lundebjerg

📍 Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70115 ✉ blundebjerg@tulane.edu ☎ +1-970-396-5997

🌐 sites.google.com/barbara-lundebjerg in [barbara-lundebjerg](https://www.linkedin.com/in/barbara-lundebjerg)

Research Interests

Education, Crime, Discrimination, and Experimental Economics

Education

PhD	Tulane University , Economics Committee: Douglas Harris (Chair), Patrick Button, Emily Cook, Wei Long	2021 - 2026
BA	University of Northern Colorado , Economics, <i>Magnum Cum Laude</i>	2015 - 2019
BS	University of Northern Colorado , Business Administration (Accounting and Finance), <i>Magnum Cum Laude</i>	2015 - 2019

Job Market Paper

The Impact of DACA on Juvenile Crime and School Safety [🔗](#) (Funded by Arnold Ventures, \$16,300, and Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science, \$5,000)

DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) provides temporary work authorization and deportation protection to individuals meeting strict age, residency, education, and criminal history criteria. Although not its primary focus, DACA's requirements shift young people's incentives, and this project investigates whether those shifts prompted changes in student misbehavior. Specifically, I use a Difference-in-Differences approach and student-level administrative data from Texas to assess DACA's impact on juvenile crime and school discipline. I compare likely undocumented students to those who are not by combining two unique administrative flags—showcasing granularity not seen in previous literature. Relative to likely undocumented students' averages, DACA decreased in-school and out-of-school suspensions per student per year by 13% and 24%, respectively. Expulsions and transfers to alternative education programs serve as proxies for juvenile crime, and each fell by 18% and 22.5% per student per year due to DACA. All findings are significant at the 1% level and robust to sample and specification variations. These results have important implications for disciplinary policy, demonstrating how students' incentives can be shifted to deter juvenile crime and misbehavior.

Working Papers

[“Does Violence Breed more Violence? The Impact of Police Killings on Juvenile Delinquency”](#) [🔗](#)

Works in Progress

“Gender Identity, Race, Ethnicity, and Health Insurance Discrimination in Access to Mental Health Care: Evidence from an Audit Correspondence Field Experiment” - with Patrick Button (PI), Yu Liu, Luca Fumarco, Ben Harrell, and David Schwegman – *Status: experiment in the field, current sample size N = 2,500 (50% complete)*

“Parent's Choice or School's Choice? Discrimination Against Students in Admission to Private, Charter, and Traditional Public Schools.” - with Patrick Button, Douglas N. Harris, and Hussain Hadah – *Status: Initiating funding, planning pilot study, and filing pre-analysis plan. (Funded by J-PAL, \$140,747)*

External Funding Awards

Arnold Ventures [🔗](#): Causal Research on Community Safety and the Criminal Justice System **\$16,300**
Funding for “The Impact of DACA on Juvenile Crime and School Safety” Co-PI with Douglas N. Harris [Granting organization requires faculty sponsor for graduate students]

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) [🔗](#): Social Policy Research Initiative **\$140,747**
Funding for “Parent's Choice or School's Choice? Discrimination Against Students in Admission to Private, Charter, and Traditional Public Schools” with Patrick Button (PI), Hussain Hadah, and Douglas Harris

Internal Funding Awards

Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science Graduate Student Summer Research Grant	\$5,000
J.E. Land Fund for School of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Travel	\$1,000
Graduate School Student Association Travel Fund Award (received Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)	\$1,250

Other Research Activities

Research Coordinator and RA Supervisor under Patrick Button, Tulane University	2022 - Present
Research Assistant under Gary Hoover, Tulane University	2022

Presentations

Western Economics Association International, Tulane Economics Department Lunch Seminar, Southern Economic Association (Accepted), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (Accepted)	2025
Western Economics Association International, Tulane Economics Department Lunch Seminar, Southern Economic Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Association for Education Finance and Policy	2024
Tulane Economics Department Lunch Seminar	2023

Teaching Experience

Instructor

Introduction to Microeconomics	2025
Data Analysis Using Stata (Aka Stata Lab)	2023

Guest Lecturer

Intermediate Microeconomics	2025
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Teaching Assistant

Introduction to Microeconomics	2023 - 2025
Introduction to Macroeconomics	2023 - 2024

Leadership Roles

President, Association of Graduate Economics Students	2023 - 2025
Representative, Graduate Studies Student Association	2023 - 2025
Representative, Graduate Council	2024 - 2025

Academic Workshops and Mentoring Programs

Mentee in Association for Mentoring and Inclusion in Economics	2024 - 2025
Mentee in CSQIEP Mentoring Conference	2024
American Enterprise Institute: Education Policy Academy	2023
Warwick Business School: Summer School on the Behavioral Science of Diversity & Inclusion	2022

Work Experience

PHOENIX Analytics Services: Financial Analyst	2019 - 2021
Xcel Energy: Accounting and Finance Intern	2019
J. Stuart Yeager, CPA PC: Tax Intern	2019
Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City, Denver Branch: Supervision and Risk Management Intern	2018
Northern Colorado Credit Union: Member of the Supervisory Committee	2017 - 2019

References

Douglas N. Harris

Professor and Department Chair
Department of Economics
Tulane University
Phone: +1 (504) 862-8352
Email: dharri5@tulane.edu

Patrick Button

Associate Professor
Department of Economics, and
Executive Director
Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science
Tulane University
Phone: +1 (949) 295-6115
Email: pbutton@tulane.edu

Emily Cook

Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Texas A&M University
Phone: +1 540-308-0807
Email: ecook4@tamu.edu

Wei Long

Associate Professor & Director of Undergraduate Studies
Department of Economics
Tulane University
Phone: +1 (504) 862-8345
Email: wlong2@tulane.edu

Eunice Ofori (Teaching Reference)

Associate Director for Instructional Design
Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching
Tulane University
Phone: +1 (504) 314-7697
Email: eofori@tulane.edu

Additional Information

Software Languages: Stata, R, Python, $\text{\LaTeX}$

Languages: English (Native), Spanish (Beginner)

Citizenship: United States

Gabriel J. Olivier

CONTACT	Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118 +1 (504) 509-1709	golivier1@tulane.edu gabrieljolivier.github.io
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FIELDS	Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Political Economy, Empirical Policy Analysis
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EDUCATION	Tulane University , New Orleans, LA Ph.D., Economics Committee: Douglas N. Harris (Chair), Patrick Testa, and Emily Cook	Anticipated May 2026
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	Louisiana State University , Baton Rouge, LA B.A., Economics (Concentration: Empirical Economic Analysis) B.S., Mathematics (Concentration: Mathematical Statistics) B.A., Political Science (Concentration: Public Policy & Political Analysis) Honors: <i>summa cum laude</i> and College Honors	2021
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JOB MARKET PAPER	Minimum Wage Policy and Human Capital Formation: College Enrollment and Major Choice. <i>Abstract:</i> The minimum wage affects both employment and wages and therefore the opportunity cost of anything substituted for employment. Importantly, one such substitution is human capital formation, including college education. A higher minimum wage increases the opportunity cost of college attendance and the earnings of employed students, which may discourage or encourage attendance through substitution or income effects respectively. To investigate the effects of minimum wage increases on college enrollment and major choice, I focus on recent high school graduates and large increases in effective state minimum wages from 2004 to 2013. All states experience a change in their effective minimum wage during this period, and I focus on the timing and magnitude of these changes to identify effects. In two separate difference-in-differences analyses using ACS and NCES data, I find that increases in effective state minimum wages increase the likelihood of enrolling in college (income effect) but also substantially increase the probability of dropping out before completion (substitution effect). More students initially enroll in college, but after enrollment, the dropout effect takes over, resulting in lower net enrollment. While the dropout effect dominates overall, I find uneven effects across college majors for 4-year colleges, with losses in lower-earning majors (business, education, and psychology), and increases in higher-earning majors (STEM, health, engineering, and biology). This is consistent with the theory that a higher forgone wage makes college enrollment less rational for certain lower-earning majors.
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WORKING PAPERS	The Effects of Universal School Vouchers on Private School Tuition and Enrollment: A National Analysis (with Douglas N. Harris) Media references: The New York Times , Fordham Institute's Education Gadfly Podcast and WWL New Orleans
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RESEARCH IN PROGRESS	Desegregation Busing and the Market for Private Schools Forced Migration, Xenophobia, and Educational Attainment: The Acadian Diaspora and the 1921 Louisiana Ban on Cajun French in Public Schools
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PRESENTATIONS	2025: SEA (Tampa, FL), APPAM (Seattle, WA), AEFPP (Washington, D.C.), Harvard School Choice Conference (Cambridge, MA), Tulane Economics Lunch Seminar (New Orleans, LA) 2024: AEFPP (Baltimore, MD) presenting two papers, APPAM (National Harbor, MD), SEA (Washington, D.C.), Tulane Economics Lunch Seminar (New Orleans, LA)
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2023: Tulane Economics Lunch Seminar (New Orleans, LA).

TEACHING

Instructor of Record

Introduction to Microeconomics	40 Students
Stata Lab	29 Students
Designed, implemented, and refined a new course for the Tulane Economics Department that will become a degree requirement in AY 2025-26.	
This course follows the undergraduate Econometrics course (corequisite) by reviewing Econometric theory and implementing it in Stata.	

Teaching Assistant

Graduate Econometrics I (Ph.D), Undergraduate Econometrics, World Economy, Approaches to Environmental Studies (methods course), Stata Lab, Introduction to Microeconomics, Introduction to Macroeconomics

**OTHER
PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE**

Research Analyst, Convergence Strategy Group	2025-Present
Collected data both manually and through web scraping, analyzed data, interpreted trends, and created data-focused reports to help inform clients about the economic conditions surrounding casinos in particular areas.	
Research Affiliate, Education Research Alliance for New Orleans (ERA) and National Center for Research on Education, Access, and Choice (REACH)	2023-Present
Worked to expand the National Longitudinal School Database (NLSD) with data I collected from Private School Review via web scraping and instructed and supervised interns on data tasks.	
Studyville ACT Program Coordinator	2019-2021
Created, implemented, refined, and sold an ACT prep program to a private study center in Baton Rouge, LA. The program is still in use today and is based on data-generation, as instruction is mapped to students' incorrect answers on ACT-approved practice materials.	

**GRANTS AND
AWARD**

Tulane University	
J.E. Land Grant (\$1500)	2025
GSSA Travel Grant (\$500)	2024, 2025
Louisiana State University	
Economics, Finance, and ITF Majors Macroeconomics Award	2021

**CERTIFICATIONS
AND SKILLS**

Tulane University	
Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching Certification	2024
3-semester graduate pedagogy program	
Louisiana State University	
College Reading and Learning (CRLA) Certification 2/3	2019
Technical Skills	
Stata, R, LaTeX, and Python	

REFERENCES

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Toni Weiss

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Executive Director of Classroom Engagement
Center for Engaged Learning and Teaching
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Department of Economics
Texas A&M University
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LELE ZHAO

✉ lzhao6@tulane.edu ☎ 504-509-0709 🌐 lelezhao-econ.github.io 📍 New Orleans, LA

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics

Expected May 2026

Tulane University, New Orleans, LA

Dissertation: “Essays on Policy-Induced Behavioral Change in Education and Health in China”

Committee: Katy Bergstrom (Chair), Stefano Barbieri, Kevin Callison, Elliott Isaac

M.A. in Economics

2021

Central University of Finance and Economics, Beijing, China

B.A. in Economics

2018

Shandong University of Finance and Economics, Jinan, China

FIELDS

Education Economics, Health Economics, Demographic Economics

PUBLICATIONS

Jianmei, Zhao, and **Lele Zhao**. 2022. “Mobile Payment Adoption and the Decline in China’s Household Savings Rate.” *Empirical Economics*, 63: 2513-37.

WORKING PAPERS

“Education as Insurance: Property Division and Women’s Education.”

(*Job Market Paper*)

Abstract: This paper examines the impact of China’s 2011 marriage law reform, which shifted property division from equal sharing to deed-based, on women’s education. Using a two-period model and a continuous difference-in-differences design exploiting provincial variation in male-only deed share, I find that reduced marital surplus increased women’s four-year college enrollment, consistent with education serving as insurance against economic insecurity in marriage markets.

“The Impact of Straw Burning Ban on Children’s Health in China.”

“Does Retirement Improve Health? The Assessment of Retirement on Hospital Readmission in China.” (with Yu Liu and Lu Yao)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Impact of Telemedicine on Physicians’ Online Behavior and Patient Health Outcomes: Evidence from China.” (with Yu Liu and Lu Yao)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Spring 2025

Econ 3250 Stata Lab

Teaching Assistant

Fall 2022 - Fall 2025

Econ 1010 Intro to Microeconomics, Econ 1020 Introduction to Macroeconomics

Econ 3010 Intermediate Microeconomics, Econ 3230 Econometrics, Econ 3340 Government and the Economy

Econ 3370 World Economy, Econ 3420 Economic History of the United States

Econ 4230/6230 Econometrics, Econ 4980 Industrial Organization

RELEVANT POSITIONS

Research Assistant

Prof. Stefano Barbieri, Tulane University	Fall 2022 - Spring 2023
Prof. Jianmei Zhao, Central University of Finance and Economics	2019-2021
Prof. Li Yu, Central University of Finance and Economics	2019
Prof. Lezheng Liu, Central University of Finance and Economics	2018

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Tulane University Graduate Fellowships	2021-Present
Graduate Student Summer Research Award, Tulane University	2025
The J.E. Land Fund Award, Tulane University	2025
Graduate Student Summer Write-Up Award, Tulane University	2024
Excellent Master's Thesis, Central University of Finance and Economics	2021
Graduate Academic Scholarship, Central University of Finance and Economics	2018-2020
Excellent Graduate, Shandong University of Finance and Economics	2018
First and Second-Class Scholarship, Shandong University of Finance and Economics	2015 - 2018
National Encourage Scholarship, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China	2015

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (poster)	2026
American Economic Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA	2025
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL	2025
Tulane University Economics Department Lunch Seminar Series, New Orleans, LA	2023–2025
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C.	2024
Chinese Economists Society Annual Meeting, Hangzhou, China	2024

REFERENCES

Katy Bergstrom (Chair)	Stefano Barbieri	Kevin Callison	Elliott Isaac
Assistant Professor	Professor	Associate Professor	Assistant Professor
Department of Economics	Department of Economics	Department of Economics	Department of Economics
Tulane University	Tulane University	Tulane University	Tulane University
kbergstrom@tulane.edu	sbarbier@tulane.edu	kcallison@tulane.edu	eisaac@tulane.edu

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Elliott Isaac

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Professor

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Senior Program Coordinator:

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