

# Research Statement

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# 1 Vision

My research addresses issues and policies that effect the economics of discrimination with a specific interest in LGBTQIA+ households and individuals. The increased focus in the media and the improvement of data sources being used to identify these individuals allows us to look at how these marginalized groups are effected in a way that we were unable to see just a couple decades ago. Due to this, and improved methods of modern applied econometrics, we can create research and write papers that can effect future policy changes. I have conducted research using health data, labor data, and have created and run an experiment to generate my own data to work towards the goal of making my research the forefront of effecting these changes and plan to devote my future research to attaining similar goals.

## 2 Dissertation Research

### 2.1 Same-Sex Marriage and Birth Rates

Same-sex marriage has had substantial impacts on the composition of same-sex households. Unfortunately, due to difficulties in the creation of data that identify these individuals, and the lack of size of this community, researchers have had difficulty in being able to examine the methods of fertility of this group. My work uses well known data sources in new ways and uses new the methods of econometrics with staggered timing difference-in-difference models to address these issues and answer questions that were unable to be previously answered. Two of my papers have focused on this missing component to the literature.

The first of which is my job market paper “Another Baby Boom? How Same-Sex Marriage and the Affordable Care Act Increased Births in the US”. In this paper I use CDC data to look into the effects of Same-Sex Marriage and the Affordable Care Act on ART clinics. These two policy changes occur at a similar time and effect these clinics and the number of births at these clinics in different ways, so I formulate how to separate the effects of these policies. I find that the Affordable Care Act causes sustained increases of frozen (cheaper)

birth methods in states that had insurance coverage mandates through the expansion of that coverage to include Medicaid when compared to states that did not have insurance mandates due to state-level caps on the total coverage. Meanwhile, I find that Same-Sex Marriage causes increases in frozen, donated births that seems to be driven by same-sex individuals increasing their usage of ART and that this effect returns to zero due to an exhaustion of demand and increases in the number of clinics after these policies. This suggests that any policy changes overturning these policies could cause these clinics to close due to lowered demand and decrease the number of births that have resulted from these policies.

This paper was actually influenced from the findings of my other paper “Same-Sex Marriage Legalization and Adoptive Same-Sex Families”. This paper uses American Community Survey data to identify and examine adoptive same-sex families and the effect that Same-Sex Marriage has on them. Using a control group of opposite-sex couples, we see a decrease in the number of adoptive lesbian couples after Same-Sex Marriage, which adoptive gay couples see no changes. This is coupled with large increases in household income in the bottom quartile of adoptive lesbian couples. I believe this is due to individuals in the bottom quartile leaving the sample and attempting to instead go through ART treatments as the spouse with the lower salary would be more likely to carry the child as the higher salaried individual is more likely to keep their job to support their family.

## **2.2 Transgender Discrimination**

Due to the difficulties regarding collecting data to study same-sex individuals, it can often be beneficial to create an experiment to test hypotheses that represent these individuals without endangering them, or needing a sufficiently large number of these individuals. It also avoids issues with the individual possibly not being identifiable in the scenario of interest as being same-sex. One such method of research is by conducting a Resume Audit Study to test hiring discrimination while changing only one attribute of a resume. My third paper uses this idea to attempt to ask some previously unanswered questions regarding transgender

discrimination in the hiring process and identify the efficacy of state-level protections in this process.

My paper “State-level protections for LGBT+ individuals and Hiring Discrimination on Non-Binary, Transgender Individuals” uses the aforementioned method of a resume audit study to attempt to answer three questions. The first of which being, what is the magnitude of discrimination against individuals who use pronouns on their resumes. The second being, whether the magnitude that individuals with non-binary pronouns experience discrimination is larger than those with CIS-gendered pronouns. The final and largest contribution is whether the state level employment protections of LGBT+ individuals has a spillover on the hiring process for individuals that use pronouns as they are a possible identifier of a transgender identity. A power test was run in New Jersey to calculate a necessary sample size of 3200 resumes sent in pairs of two to 1600 jobs, with one resume containing pronouns and the other containing none. This experiment began in April 2024 and the final results of this experiment expect be fully collected by December and analyzed over the Winter 2024.

### **3 Future Research Directions**

I plan to focus my future research on mostly LGBT+ individuals/households and on other minority groups. I feel that we are finally collecting data on these individuals that can tell us more about the evolution of policies and events that affect these individuals. While working with these groups I plan to look at these effects through the use of my knowledge in health, labor, and experimental economics to attempt to answer questions that other economists have been unable to in the past.