ALICE HEATH

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Placement Director: Marcella Alsan Program Director: Nicole Tateosian

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Education **Harvard University**

Ph.D. in Public Policy, expected 2024

Harvard Kennedy School Master in Public Policy, 2016

University of Manchester

Post-Graduate Certificate in Education (Outstanding), 2012

University of Oxford

BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (First Class), 2011

Fields Labor Economics, Public Economics, Health Economics

References Professor Jeffrey Liebman

Professor Marcella Alsan Harvard Kennedy School Harvard Kennedy School

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Fellowships, **Grants & Awards**

GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (Harvard University) 2023 GSAS Division of Social Sciences Research Fund (Harvard University) 2022 Mind, Brain and Behavior Graduate Student Award (Harvard University) 2021 Center for American Politics Graduate Seed Grant (Harvard University) 2021 Stone PhD Scholar (Harvard Kennedy School) 2021-24 GSAS Fellowship (Harvard University) 2018-24 Distinction in Student Teaching Award (Harvard Kennedy School) 2018 Belfer International and Global Affairs Fellowship (Harvard Kennedy School) 2016 Women and Public Policy Program Adrienne Hall Intern (Harvard Kennedy School) 2016 John F. Kennedy Fellowship (Harvard Kennedy School) 2014-16 John Hicks Prize for best performance in Microeconomics (University of Oxford) 2014-16 Gerald Meier Prize for best performance in Economics (University College Oxford) 2011 Academic Scholarship (University College Oxford) 2010-11

Teaching Thinking Analytically in an Uncertain World, Harvard Kennedy School

Teaching Fellow for Dan Levy

Evaluation: 4.78/5

Policy in Action Consultancy, Brown University

Advisor (2022)

Adjunct Lecturer (co-taught, 2021)

Evaluation: 4.81/5

Fall 2020

Fall 2022

Spring 2021, 22

Policy Analysis and Problem Solving, Brown University

Adjunct Lecturer *Evaluation: 4.72/5*

Analytic Frameworks for Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

20, 21

Teaching Fellow for Richard Zeckhauser

Evaluations: 4.875, 5, 5, 4.88/5

Spring 2015

Fall 2018, 19,

Game Theory, Harvard Kennedy School Teaching Fellow for Janina Mateuseki

Evaluation: 4.88/5

Research and Professional Employment The People Lab, Harvard Kennedy School

Research Fellow

2022-present

Government Performance Lab, Harvard Kennedy School

Research Project Leader (2018-present) Government Innovation Fellow (2016-18) 2016-present

Burnage Academy for Boys, Manchester UK

Key Stage 4 Coordinator (2012-2014) Teacher of Mathematics (2011-2014) 2011-2014

Job Market Paper

"Optimization or Overreaction? How Highly-Publicized Tragedies Drive Child Protection Policy"

Do government responses to tragedy reflect optimization in the face of information or overreaction due to bias or distorted incentives? I examine this question in the context of the child protection system, which impacts one in three children in the US. Using a new dataset of tragedies constructed from full-text newspaper archives and a difference-in-differences identification strategy, I find that agencies increase their removal rates by 19% in response to a highly-publicized tragedy. Similar tragedies occur frequently, but agencies only respond to highly-publicized deaths; this suggests that agencies are not continuously optimizing but instead respond primarily to scrutiny. Most evidence is consistent with the scrutiny inducing re-optimization rather than overreaction: agencies increase removals of the highest-risk children, do not increase removals of the lowest-risk children, and injuries among the Medicaid population decrease. But tragedies also induce some mis-optimization: Black children's removal rates rise more than White children's even after conditioning on risk. The paper sheds light on how media can drive government policy and the consequences for citizen welfare.

Research in Progress

"The Impact of Public Health Insurance on Child Health and Parental Labor Supply: Evidence from Arizona's CHIP Freeze"

I examine the impact of a temporary freeze in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) on parental labor supply and children's health outcomes. In 2010, Arizona was the only state to freeze its CHIP program. Following the freeze, families earning between 140 and 200% of the federal poverty line could no longer enroll children in public health insurance, though children who already enrolled could maintain their coverage. This policy created a sharp decrease in public benefits available to families with newborns. I use triple difference and regression discontinuity designs to examine the impact on parental labor supply and child health. The freeze reduced parental earnings: the portion of families earning between 140 and 200% of the federal poverty line declined by 7pp, and the portion earning between 0 and 50 increased by the same portion.

"Stigma and Social Safety Net Participation" (with Kelsey Pukelis and Michael Holcomb)

We use a descriptive survey and survey experiment to assess the role of stigma as a barrier to take-up in the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) and the potential for interventions to alleviate stigma and increase take-up. We hypothesize that psychological stigma costs arise when

benefits participation conflicts with (1) a personal value or identity, or (2) a real or perceived social norm. The descriptive survey measures the general population's beliefs about individuals who participate in social programs, the observability of participation, barriers and benefits associated with participation, and attitudes of others towards participants. The experiment tests the impact of three interventions on stigmatizing beliefs and interest in SNAP participation.

"Evaluating the Role of Stigma as a Barrier to Take-up of Government Programs" (with Jessica Lasky-Fink, Elizabeth Linos, and Heidi Wallace)

Academic	Attendee, AEA CSQIEP Queer Economics PhD Student Mentoring Conference	2023
Service and	Co-chair, HKS PhD Student Association Diversity and Inclusion Committee	2021-23
Activities	Co-organizer, HKS Anti-Racism in Economics	2020-21
	Attendee, Boston University Women in Economics Mentoring Workshop	2020
	Undergraduate Mentor, Harvard Women in Economics	2019-20

Software skills R, Stata, LaTex

Personal information

Citizenship: United Kingdom, United States