

ALICE HEATH

alice_heath@hks.harvard.edu

857-999-5250

<https://scholar.harvard.edu/aliceheath>



HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Harvard Kennedy School,
79 John F. Kennedy Street,
Cambridge, MA 02138

Placement Director: Marcella Alsan
Program Director: Nicole Tateosian

marcella_alsan@hks.harvard.edu
nicole_tateosian@hks.harvard.edu

617-495-1923
617-496-4485

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
Harvard Kennedy School
jeffery_liebman@hks.harvard.edu
617-495-8518

Professor Marcella Alsan
Harvard Kennedy School
marcella_alsan@hks.harvard.edu
617-495-1923

Professor Mark Shepard
Harvard Kennedy School
mark_shepard@hks.harvard.edu
617-495-1186

Professor David Cutler
Harvard University
david_cutler@harvard.edu
617-495-7730

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 Fall 2022
Teaching Fellow for Dan Levy
Evaluation: 4.78/5

Policy in Action Consultancy, Brown University Spring 2021, 22
Advisor (2022)
Adjunct Lecturer (co-taught, 2021)
Evaluation: 4.81/5

	Policy Analysis and Problem Solving , Brown University Adjunct Lecturer <i>Evaluation: 4.72/5</i>	Fall 2020
	Analytic Frameworks for Policy , Harvard Kennedy School Teaching Fellow for Richard Zeckhauser <i>Evaluations: 4.875, 5, 5, 4.88/5</i>	Fall 2018, 19, 20, 21
	Game Theory , Harvard Kennedy School Teaching Fellow for Janina Mateuseki <i>Evaluation: 4.88/5</i>	Spring 2015
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” <p>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 highly-publicized maltreatment deaths that I construct 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. Agencies respond less to less-publicized deaths; this suggests they are not continuously updating but instead respond primarily to scrutiny. Most evidence is consistent with scrutiny inducing re-optimization rather than overreaction: agencies increase removals of children at highest risk of re-investigation, do not increase removals of the lowest-risk children, and injuries among Medicaid recipients 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 attention can drive government decision-making and impact citizen welfare.</p>	
Research in Progress	“The Impact of Public Health Insurance on Child Health and Parental Labor Supply: Evidence from Arizona’s CHIP Freeze” <p>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 level could no longer enroll children in public health insurance, but children 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 level declined by 7 percentage points, and the portion earning between 0 and 50 increased by the same amount.</p>	
	“Stigma and Social Safety Net Participation” (with Kelsey Pukelis and Michael Holcomb) <p>Stigma may prevent participation in social safety net programs and impose utility costs on individuals already receiving benefits. 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. The descriptive survey measures the</p>	

general population’s attitudes and beliefs about individuals who participate in social programs, the observability of participation, barriers and benefits associated with participation, and second-order beliefs related to stigma. 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)

Means-tested government programs have been shown to be highly effective at mitigating the effects of poverty. However, 20 to 50 percent of households do not participate in programs for which they are eligible. This paper focuses on stigma — an often-cited, but rarely empirically tested psychological barrier that may affect take-up. We posit that three dimensions of stigma — societal, internalized, and anticipated — can influence participation in means-tested programs. We use survey evidence to quantify the magnitude of stigma associated with government assistance and measure how the three dimensions of stigma vary by program and population.

Presentations	AEA Economics of LGBTQ+ Individuals Virtual Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School Economics and Social Policy Seminar	2023
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, GitHub	
Citizenship	United Kingdom, United States	