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Education

- Ph.D., Economics, University of Colorado Boulder, May 2022 (Expected)

  Dissertation: Essays in Health and Human Capital Accumulation

  Committee: Tania Barham (co-advisor), Terra McKinnish (co-adivsor), Brian Cadena, Shuang Zhang

- M.A., Economics, University of Colorado Boulder, May 2018
- B.A., Economics, University of Central Florida (with Honors), May 2016

Research Interests

Health, development, labor, childhood interventions

Publications

- "Thirty-Five Years Later: Long-Term Effects of the Matlab Maternal and Child Health / Family Planning Program on Women's Well-Being" (with Tania Barham, Andrew Foster, Jena Hamadani, Warren C. Jochem, Gisella Kagy, Randall Kuhn, Jane Menken, Abdur Razzaque, Elisabeth D. Root and Patrick S. Turner) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 118, no. 28, July 2021, p. e2101160118, doi:10.1073/pnas.2101160118.

Working Papers

- "Who Benefits Most from a Same-Race Mentor? Optimal Matching in a Nationwide Youth Mentoring Program" (with Zachary Szlendak and Corey Woodruff) *Job market paper*
- "Long Term and Intergenerational Impacts of Quasi-Random Child Health and Family Planning Program in Bangladesh on Health and Human Capital" (with Tania Barham, Gisella Kagy and Jena Hamadani)

Works in Progress

- "Long Run Impacts of Famine Exposure: A Study of the 1974-1975 Bangladesh Famine" (with Gisella Kagy)

Presentations

2021: ASHEcon Annual Meeting, MEA Annual Meeting, PAA Annual Meeting, WEAI Intenational Conference, WEAI Annual Conference, IBS Speaker Series, IBS Gradute Research Symposium

2020: WEAI Annual Conference, PAA Annual Meeting (Canceled)

Professional Service

Session organizer & chair, "Human Capital Accumulation in Adolescence & Early Adulthood" 2021 WEAI Annual Conference

Organizer, Graduate Student Research Seminar (2017-present)

Research Experience

June 2017–Present: Research Assistant, Matlab Health and Socioeconomic Survey, Tania Barham,

Spring 2019: Research Assistant, Health & Society Program, Institute of Behavioral Science

Teaching Experience

Instructor:

Math Tools for Economists II (x2), *Instructor overall ratings:* 5.50, 5.77/6

Intro to Statistics, *Instructor overall rating:* 5.04/6

Teaching assistant:

Principles of Microeconomics (x3), Principles of Macroeconomics, Intro to Statistics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Environmental Economics

Honors and Awards

Stanford Calderwood Student Teaching Award, University of Colorado Boulder (2020)
Reuben A. Zubrow Fellowship, University of Colorado Boulder (2019)
Prize in Econometrics, University of Colorado Boulder (2017)
Research and Mentoring Program Scholarship, University of Central Florida (2015-2016)
Distinguished Undergraduate Researcher Award, University of Central Florida (2016)
Student Research Grant, University of Central Florida (2015)

References

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Paper Abstracts

Who Benefits Most from a Same-Race Mentor? Optimal Matching in a Nationwide Youth Mentoring Program

(Job Market Paper)

We identify the impacts of assigning a mentor of the same race or ethnicity on the social, emotional and academic development of youth relative to assigning a mentor of a different race or ethnicity. Using the universe of matches from a nationwide youth mentoring program, we estimate a selection-on-observables model that is motivated by the matching heuristic match specialists use and the balance of pre-match observables across same-race/ethnicity status. We find that on average youth in same-race/ethnicity mentoring relationships had no significant improvements compared to those in cross-race matches after a year of mentoring. However, Black and Hispanic youth who were assigned a same-race/ethnicity mentor had slightly higher self-perceived school ability and improved attitudes concerning risky behaviors. In contrast to previous work, we find little evidence that race/ethnicity-matching improves grades or expectations for future educational attainment. These results imply that when racial-ethnic minority mentors are in short supply, matching on race or ethnicity at the expense of another desirable trait may not lead to improved youth development.

Long Term and Intergenerational Impacts of Quasi-Random Child Health and Family Planning Program in Bangladesh on Health and Human Capital

Improving the health and nutrition of young children is important not only for immediate well-being, but also because it is believed to reduce poverty in the long-run through improved human capital. In addition, there may be intergenerational transfers of endowments and investments from improved health and nutrition that augment the human capital of the next generation. Little, however, is known about the long-term and intergenerational effects of programs targeted to improve health and nutrition in early childhood on human capital. This paper examines the effects of the quasi randomly placed maternal and child health and family planning in Matlab, Bangladesh on the human capital of the generation that directly received benefits and their children. Results demonstrate sustained impacts on height into adulthood for the generation that was directly impacted, and improved height and cognition for daughters in the next generation.

Thirty-Five Years Later: Long-Term Effects of the Matlab Maternal and Child Health / Family Planning Program on Women's Well-Being

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, July 2021

The success of large-scale family planning programs depends on potential long-term benefits for women's health and economic empowerment. They are presumed to reduce total pregnancies and family size, which may free up women's time and resources. However, few studies have established long-term effects on health. We investigate the highly influential Matlab Maternal Child Health / Family Planning quasi-experiment effects on lifetime fertility and multiple dimensions of health 35 years after introduction of services. For cohorts of women defined by age at program initiation, using baseline and follow-up survey data, we find the program led to fewer children but few significant effects on health or economic production with one exception: women born 1950-1961, who experienced the largest MCH/FP effects on contraception and childbearing, have significantly poorer metabolic and functional health. Despite strong arguments in favor of long-term benefits, we observe no positive effects of this family planning program on long-term health.