

Micah Villarreal

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Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2025 (expected)
M.A. in Economics, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2020
B.A. in International Relations & Economics, Wellesley College, 2015

Research Fields

Labor Economics, American Economic History, Intergenerational Mobility

Working Papers

“Black Gold: The Effect of Wealth on Descendants of the Enslaved”
“Last Place Aversion in the Jim Crow South”

Works in Progress

Professional Activities

Visiting Graduate Student, Center for Economic History at Northwestern University, 2023–2024
AEA Dissertation Fellow at The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Summer 2023
Co-President of “We are Economics at UCSB” (WESB), 2020–2022
Graduate Associate at the Broom Center for Demography, 2020–2023

Research Grants

Early Career Grant, Washington Center for Equitable Growth, 2024 (\$15,000)
Dissertation Research Grant, Russell Sage Foundation, 2024 (\$10,000)

Fellowships & Awards

Doctoral Scholars Fellowship, UC Santa Barbara Graduate Division, 2022–2025
Graduate Research Fellowship, The National Science Foundation, 2019–2024
Peggy Howard Fellowship, Wellesley College Department of Economics, 2019
Natalie Bolten Prize for Best Econometrics Paper, Wellesley College, 2015

Conferences & Seminars

- 2025 American Economic Association Meetings (scheduled)
- 2024 UT Knoxville Economics, Bay Area Economic History Workshop at Stanford University, UCSB Applied Microeconomics Lunch, CSMGEP Summer Pipeline Mentoring Conference, IPUMS Data-Intensive Research Conference, Economic History Association (scheduled), Trans-Pacific Labor Seminar (scheduled), Southern Economic Association (scheduled)
- 2023 Princeton University Industrial Relations Section Labor Lunch, The Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Northwestern University Economic History Lunch

Research Assistance Experience

- Research Assistant to Professor Youssef Benzarti, 2021
- Programmer Analyst in the Social and Economic Policy Division, Abt Associates Inc., 2015–2018
- Undergraduate Research Assistant to Esther Duflo, 2015

Teaching Experience

- Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Econometrics, 2023

Pre-Doctoral Work

- “Using the Family Self-Sufficiency Program to Help Families with Housing Assistance Improve Earnings, Credit Score, and Debt Levels: A Quasi-Experimental Analysis” (with Judy Geyer, Leslie Freiman and Jeff Lubell), *Journal of Consumer Affairs*, 2018.
- “What is the impact of a first-year experience course and mentoring program on early postsecondary outcomes? Experimental evidence from the Broncos FIRST program” (with Jennifer Ash, Austin Nichols, Andrea Beach and Daniel Collier). U.S. Department of Education. Cambridge, MA: Abt Associates, 2019.
- “Interim Cost-Benefit Analysis of the Compass Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Program. Conducted for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development” (with Sam Dastrup, Leslie Freiman, Jeff Lubell and Daniel Weiss). Abt Associates, 2017.
- “Evaluation of the Compass Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) Programs Administered in Partnership with Public Housing Agencies in Lynn and Cambridge, Massachusetts” (with Judy Geyer, Leslie Freiman and Jeff Lubell). U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Cambridge, MA: Abt Associates. 2017.

Languages & Skills

- Languages:** English (native), Spanish (conversational)
- Programming Languages:** Stata, R, ArcGIS, Python. GitHub, L^AT_EX.

References

Peter Kuhn (chair)

Distinguished Professor
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Gonzalo Vazquez-Bare

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