

CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Notre Dame
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Notre Dame, IN 46556

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henrymdownes.com

RESEARCH FIELDS

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Public Economics, Economic History, Economic Demography

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame – Notre Dame, IN

Ph.D. in Economics

Exp. May 2025

M.A. in Economics

2020

University of Alabama – Tuscaloosa, AL

2015

B.A. in Economics, Political Science, and History, *summa cum laude*

Visiting Student at Universität Mannheim

2013

PUBLICATIONS

Downes, H., Phillips, D. C. and Sullivan, J. X. (2022), ‘The Effect of Emergency Financial Assistance on Healthcare Use’, *Journal of Public Economics* **208**, 104626. [[Published Version](#)]

WORKING PAPERS

‘Did Organized Labor Induce Labor? Unionization and the American Baby Boom’
(Job Market Paper) [[PDF](#)]

Labor unions have many well-documented effects on economic outcomes that are plausibly related to family formation. I study the impact of unionization on fertility using evidence from the largest expansion of unionism in American history: the enactment of the 1935 National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). I introduce new estimates of local union membership and exploit variation in exposure to the NLRA shock to estimate the place level effect of union growth on fertility outcomes. Unionization has positive effects on birth rates and completed fertility, and can account for approximately 20% of overall fertility increases during the Baby Boom. Effects are driven primarily by wage growth, protection against adverse labor market shocks, and impacts on female labor force participation.

‘Can Moves to Opportunity be Constructed? Evidence from the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit’ (with John Soriano and George Zuo)

WORK IN PROGRESS

‘Jim Crow in Federal Labor Law? The Davis-Bacon Act and Black Economic Mobility’

‘Growth Dynamics of the American Labor Movement’ (with Rob Gillezeau)

‘The Effects of Moving to LIHTC-Subsidized Housing on Labor Market Outcomes’ (with Stephanie Karol, John Soriano, and George Zuo)

TEACHING

Moreau College Initiative

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| Instructor | Research Internship Program | 2023 |
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University of Notre Dame

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| Instructor | Principles of Microeconomics (UG) | 2023 |
| TA | Statistics for Economists (UG) (x2) | 2022-2023 |
| Tutor | Econometrics (UG) | 2022 |
| Tutor | Statistics for Economists (UG) | 2021 |

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

University of Notre Dame

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| Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities | 2019-2022 |
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University of Alabama

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| Alabama Center for Insurance Information and Research | 2015-2016 |
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EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS

2024: Mountain West Economic History Conference, Northwestern University, NBER Summer Institute, Economic History Association, Miami University, Southern Economic Association (scheduled)

2023: Midwest Economic Association (session organizer, chair, and presenter), World Congress of Cliometrics, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

2022: Young Economist Symposium, Social Science History Association

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

External

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| Economic History Association, Graduate Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,000) | 2024-2025 |
| Smith Richardson Foundation, Domestic Public Policy Program (\$268,091) | 2023-2025 |

University of Notre Dame

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| Graduate School, Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition Winner | 2024 |
| Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award | 2024 |
| Graduate Student Government, Conference Presentation Grant | 2024 |
| Institute for Ethics and the Common Good, Graduate Fellowship | 2023-2024 |
| Center for Social Concerns, Graduate Fellowship | 2022-2023 |
| Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Graduate Research Grant | 2022 |
| Graduate School, Professional Development Grant | 2021 |

University of Alabama

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| College of Arts & Sciences, Most Outstanding Junior | 2014 |
| Department of Economics, Special Achievement Award | 2014 |

SERVICE

University of Notre Dame

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| Committee Member, Committee for Childcare Stipends, Graduate Student Government | 2024-present |
| Organizer, Graduate Student Research Workshop | 2021-2022 |
| Co-Chair, Economics Department Graduate Student Council | 2021-2022 |
| Ambassador, Economics Department | 2019-present |

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

Stata, MATLAB, R, Python, ArcGIS, L^AT_EX

PERSONAL

Citizenship: U.S.A.

Special Sworn Status, U.S. Census Bureau

REFERENCES

Kasey Buckles (Co-Chair)
Professor of Economics
University of Notre Dame
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Daniel Hungerman
Professor of Economics
University of Notre Dame
dhungerm@nd.edu

William Evans (Co-Chair)
Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Economics
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James Sullivan
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