

I am a labor, health, and education economist and a postdoctoral fellow at Tulane University's Department of Economics and Murphy Institute. My research uses causal inference methods, field experiments, and administrative data to evaluate policies and understand economic behavior in contexts such as discrimination, identity formation, peer effects, institutional effectiveness, and public health interventions. Since graduating in 2023, I have published two papers, written five working papers, have a paper in progress that won a \$140,747 grant from J-PAL, and have grants under review for two more papers at the Russell Sage Foundation and Society of Family Planning for \$262,541.

### **Labor Market, Educational Outcomes, and Racial and Ethnic Identities**

My research explores how external bias and social environments influence racial and ethnic identity formation and its economic consequences. In *The Effect of Racial and Ethnic Attitudes on Hispanic Identity in the U.S.* (published in the *Southern Economic Journal*), I show that greater state-level bias significantly reduces self-reported Hispanic identity among objectively Hispanic individuals, revealing how prejudice can suppress ethnic identification. This work constructs a novel dataset using birthplace information across three generations to identify an 'objectively' Hispanic sample, then examines how local attitudes correlate with identity choices. My work extends to Asian American identity in *Asian Identity and Economic Outcomes* (revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*), where I find that increased anti-Asian sentiment reduces Asian self-identification.

Building on these identity dynamics, *The Impact of Hispanic Last Names and Identity on Educational and Labor Market Outcomes* (published in the *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy*) quantifies the economic costs of ethnic signals. By comparing children of inter-ethnic marriages—those with Hispanic fathers and White mothers versus those with White fathers and Hispanic mothers—I find substantial penalties for Hispanic name signals: 0.39 fewer years of education, 5 percentage point lower earnings for men, and higher unemployment rates.

Two collaborative projects with Augustine Denteh examine *Immigration Enforcement and Hispanic Children Outcomes* and *Assimilation of Hispanics and Arabs in America*, investigating how enforcement policies affect educational and health outcomes and studying intergenerational changes in identity and labor market integration.

Through my ongoing collaboration with the Research and Innovation for Social and Economic Inclusion (RISEI) Lab at Northwestern University, we are evaluating programs aimed at improving labor market outcomes for underserved populations, particularly individuals with disabilities. Our current work in progress includes evaluating transition services that prepare youth with disabilities for competitive integrated employment and examining occupational mobility and upskilling patterns in vocational rehabilitation programs. We are also developing research on intergenerational transmission of disability and employment outcomes, as well as exploring applications of AI technologies in vocational services.

### **Audit Correspondence Field Experiments**

I use audit studies to directly measure discrimination across multiple domains. *Sexual Orientation and Racial Discrimination in Mortgage Lending: An Audit Correspondence Field Experiment* (with Patrick Button, David Schwegman, Javiera Selman, Tran Nguyen-Phuong, and Cathy Balfe) is currently in the field, quantifying discrimination against same-sex couples in mortgage markets. Each mortgage loan originator receives two emails examining both sexual orientation and racial discrimination simultaneously.

*Parent's Choice or School's Choice? Discrimination Against Students in Admission to Private, Charter, and Traditional Public Schools* (with Patrick Button, Douglas Harris, and Barbara Lundebjerg) is an

audit study to quantify educational access discrimination across race/ethnicity, LGBTQ+ status, disability, academic background, disciplinary issues, and socioeconomic status. This project compares discrimination patterns between public, private, and charter schools. Additionally, we will measure discrimination patterns in states with universal voucher programs and charter school policies to understand how school choice expansions may affect equitable access to education. This project has received \$140,746.6 from J-PAL's Social Policy Research Initiative, with an invitation for a full proposal from the Russell Sage Foundation. The idea behind this paper came from my published work documenting low education among native-born interethnic Hispanics with Hispanic last names, which motivated my investigation into discrimination in educational access against minorities.

*Auditing Crisis Pregnancy Centers: Racial biases, misinformation, and the misallocation of government resources* (with Patrick Button, Clare Daniel, Julie Hernandez, Mirya Holman, and Anna Mahoney) examines discrimination in sexual and reproductive healthcare access, comparing crisis pregnancy center responses to Hispanic and Black individuals versus White individuals. This project is awaiting funding decisions from the Society of Family Planning for \$137,104.

### **Health Economics and Policy Evaluation**

I also examine mental health spillovers and evaluates policies affecting vulnerable populations' wellbeing. In *Peer Effects in Adolescent Mental Health*, I address the understudied area of mental health spillovers by instrumenting friends' mental health using friends-of-friends' mental health status. I find significant short-run effects on academic achievement, socialization, and risky behaviors, with a one standard deviation increase in friends' mental health associated with a 0.73 standard deviation increase in one's own mental health. The effects are particularly pronounced among females and students with large social networks. Building on these findings, I am pursuing research on the broader impact of mental illness on long-term schooling and labor market outcomes, and the impact of online gambling on mental health and labor market outcomes.

My policy evaluation work includes *Effects of Gun Control Laws on Suicide* (with co-author Gael Compta), which uses advances in staggered difference-in-differences methodology to examine waiting period effects on suicide rates using restricted death records from 1959–2019. Given that suicide is often an impulsive act and nearly half of U.S. suicides involve firearms—the most lethal and readily available method—we provide the first causal evaluation of waiting-period laws on firearm suicides. We find that waiting periods significantly reduce firearm suicides for men by 1.3 per 100,000, with reductions also observed for the overall population, adults aged 55+, and white individuals, though these estimates were statistically insignificant. Importantly, waiting periods did not cause substitution to non-firearm suicide methods. These findings suggest that even brief delays in firearm access can disrupt the pathway from suicidal ideation to death, indicating that cooling-off periods may be a crucial policy tool for suicide prevention.

*The Effect of Immigration Enforcement on Suicide Rates Among Hispanic Youth* focuses on the mental health consequences of the Secure Communities program, one of the most significant federal immigration programs of the 21st century. Using comprehensive mortality data and the program's staggered rollout from 2008 to 2013, I use the Callaway and Sant'Anna difference-in-differences method to show that immigration enforcement led to increased youth suicide rates in affected counties. Specifically, SC led to an increase in suicide rates among Hispanic children aged 5-14. I show significant variations depending on local policy contexts: counties with sanctuary policies experienced a decrease in suicide rates following program implementation, while those without such ordinances witnessed increases. Due to potential underreporting, these findings likely underestimate immigration enforcement's broader mental health impacts.