

MAXWELL BULLARD

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EDUCATION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, College Station, TX
PhD in Economics | College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Expected: Spring 2026

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, Milwaukee, WI
MS in Applied Economics | Graduate School of Management

December 2019

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, Milwaukee, WI
BS in Business Administration | College of Business Administration | Cum Laude

May 2017

RESEARCH FIELDS

Public Economics; Labor Economics; Behavioral Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Lifetime and Intergenerational Effects of Place: Evidence from the Orphan Train Movement”
with Jacob Van Leeuwen [\[PDF\]](#)

***Abstract:** Where children grow up shapes their economic outcomes, but identifying causal place effects is difficult because families choose where to live. To overcome this challenge, we study the Orphan Train Movement, a large-scale child welfare program from 1853-1929 that relocated orphaned children from northeastern cities to families across the United States. Institutional procedures resulted in quasi-random variation in placement locations based on arrival timing to an orphanage. We digitize archival records and link riders to Census data to measure long-run outcomes. We define place opportunity using county-level characteristics capturing education, urbanization, wealth, and labor market size. Riders placed in high-opportunity counties earn more lifetime income, have fewer children, and are less likely to work in agriculture. These effects persist into the second generation. Examining dimensions separately reveals that urbanization, wealth, and labor market size drive effects. We find important age heterogeneity, where older children show similar marginal gains from high-opportunity places despite younger children having higher adult baseline earnings. Decomposing place effects by geographic scale shows household factors are approximately five times larger than county-level measures, though both are independently significant. Intergenerational transmission operates through a persistent change to individuals rather than geographic persistence, as effects continue despite high migration from riders' original placement counties. We provide the first causal evidence that place effects transmit and amplify across generations.*

WORKING PAPERS

“Birth Mother Search for Adoptive Parents” with Marco Castillo and Ragan Petrie [\[PDF\]](#)

***Abstract:** Mothers considering placing a child for adoption face information and time constraints. We use a unique dataset that records mothers' search and adoption decisions at a large private adoption agency in the U.S. to characterize mother decision-making. Several stylized patterns of mothers' behavior emerge. Search intensity and decision attention respond to deadlines, such as child birth date and changes in abortion restrictions, suggesting the design of search platforms may be consequential for the welfare of the child. Informed by these findings, we use a simple model of search with a deadline to assess the welfare effect on our sample of the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the case Dobbs vs. Women's Health Organization to repeal national access to abortion. This decision affected mothers' behavior in ways predicted by theory. We estimate a drop in welfare for mothers in our sample, mainly concentrated on minority mothers.*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Efficacy of Advocacy in Foster Care”

“Measuring the Impact of Male Unemployment on Intrafamilial Outcomes” with Matthew Eaton and Miranda I. Lambert

“Southern Lynchings and Children's Educational Attainment” with Mary Kate Batistich, Kalena E. Cortes, and Kendall J. Kennedy

“Contextualizing Preferences in Family Formation” with Marco Castillo and Ragan Petrie

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant

August 2020– Present

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

- **Instructor of Record:**

- ECON 412: Public Finance | Undergraduate | Summer 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2023
 - Instructor-weighted average student evaluations: 4.76/5.00 (SU 25), 4.50/5.00 (SP 25), 4.84/5.00 (FA 23)

- **Research Assistant:**

- Dr. Kalena E. Cortes | Fall 2024, Summer 2024, Spring 2024, Summer 2023
- Dr. Ragan Petrie | Summer 2023, Fall 2022, Summer 2022

- **Teaching Assistant:**

- ECON 323: Microeconomics Theory | Undergraduate | Fall 2025
- ECON 452: International Trade Theory and Policy | Undergraduate | Fall 2025
- ECON 440: Experimental Economics | Undergraduate | Spring 2023
- ECON 656: Field Experiments in Economics | Graduate | Spring 2023
- ECMT 461: Introduction to Economic Data Analysis | Undergraduate | Spring 2021, Spring 2022
- ECON/WGST 318: The Economics of Gender and Race | Fall 2021
- Economics Tutoring Lab | Graduate and Undergraduate | Fall 2020

Graduate Assistant

August 2018– December 2019

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Graduate Student Lecturer

August 2018– December 2019

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- Instructor-weighted average student evaluations: 5.61/6.00

GRANTS

- Institute for Humane Studies | Humane Studies Fellowship | \$2,500
- Center of Digital Humanities Research at Texas A&M University | Technical Assistance Award | \$515
- College of Arts and Sciences at Texas A&M University | Doctoral Student Research, Travel, and Professional Development Award | \$2,000

PRESENTATIONS

2025 (*including scheduled*)

- Texas State University, Marquette University, Midwest Economics Association (MEA's), Atlanta Workshop on Public Policy and Child Well-being (PPCW)

2024

- Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), Southern Economic Association (SEA's), STATA Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Atlanta Workshop on Public Policy and Child Well-being (PPCW)

2023

- Texas Applied Microeconomics Student (TEAMS) Workshop

AWARDS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Economics Departmental Assistantship | Texas A&M University | 2019-2026
- Association for Mentoring & Inclusion in Economics Mentee | 2022-2023
- Walter Froehlich Memorial Award for the Outstanding MSAE Professional Project | 2021
- Economics Departmental Assistantship | Marquette University | 2018-2019
- Dean's List, Big East all-academic team, Chi Alpha Sigma Leadership Board | 2015-2017

SKILLS AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Programs: Stata, LaTeX, Excel, Python, SQL
- Citizenship: USA

REFERENCES

Ragan Petrie

Dissertation Committee Co-Chair
Department of Economics
Texas A&M University
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