Matthew D. Baird
Senior Staff Economist

✉ matthewdbaird@gmail.com
☎ 412-660-1457
⌂ mdbaird.github.io

Professional Summary

Senior Staff Economist and applied data scientist with deep expertise in causal inference, experimentation, and large-scale behavioral data. I lead end-to-end research at LinkedIn—spanning statistical modeling, labor economics, and experimentation—to inform policy, product, and business decisions on workforce dynamics, AI adoption, and economic opportunity.

Education

Ph.D., Economics
University of California Los Angeles (2012)

M.S., Economics
University of California Los Angeles (2009)

B.S., Economics
Brigham Young University (2007)

Key Skills

Causal inference & applied econometrics

Experimentation & program evaluation

Python, R, SQL (large scale data analysis)

Statistical modeling & data visualization

Technical leadership & mentorship

Behavioral & labor-market data analysis

Experience

Research Leadership Highlights
- *Led multidisciplinary teams across economics, data science, and public policy.*
- *Trusted technical advisor to executive, product, and external stakeholders; frequent presenter (100+ presentations and panels).*
- *Principal/co-principal investigator on 10 applied research projects totaling $6M+.*
- *Over 80 peer-reviewed publications cited thousands of times in top journals.*

2022-Present
Senior Staff Economist ● LinkedIn Economic Graph Research Institute

Led applied research on labor-market behavior using large-scale platform data. Using advanced statistical methods in Python, R, and SQL, I design and analyze experiments and quasi-experimental studies evaluating policy changes, AI adoption, and product-relevant labor outcomes. I direct the Economic Opportunity research program and serve as a technical leader across the research and data science community. I regularly partner with product, legal, and policy teams, translating analysis into decisions affecting millions of users.

2013-2023
Adjunct Economist (2022-2023); Economist (2016-2022); Associate Economist (2013-2016) ● RAND Corporation

Served as principal or co-principal investigator on 10 funded projects totaling over $6 million. I led proposal development, managed multidisciplinary research teams, designed and executed causal evaluations, and directed publication and dissemination to policy, academic, and practitioner audiences.

2018-2022
Co-Director ● Center for Causal Inference ● RAND Corporation

Led a multidisciplinary research center advancing causal (experimental and quasi-experimental) methodology. Oversaw grant programs and doctoral fellowships and co-founded the inaugural Causal Inference Symposium (150 participants, 10 countries).

2010-2023
Professor of Policy Analysis at Pardee RAND Graduate School (PRGS); Lecturer ● Carnegie Mellon University; University of Pittsburgh; University of California, Los Angeles; Brigham Young University

Taught doctoral-level courses in causal inference, applied econometrics, and labor economic policy. Served as dissertation chair and mentor to Ph.D. students.