

# MONIQUE E. DAVIS (she/her)

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## EDUCATION

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- Ph.D.** University of Minnesota Sep 2019 to present  
College of Food, Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences  
Applied Economics  
Doctoral Candidate (3.946/4.000)  
Expected Graduation: May 2025
- B.S.** North Carolina A&T State University Aug 2008 to May 2013  
Historically Black College or University (HBCU)  
College of Arts & Sciences; School of Business & Economics  
Applied Mathematics; Economics  
Summa Cum Laude (4.000/4.000)

## RESEARCH FIELDS

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Labor Economics (JEL J) Health, Education, and Welfare (JEL I)  
Applied Microeconomics (JEL D)

## TEACHING FIELDS

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Microeconomics (JEL D) Labor Economics (JEL J)  
Econometrics (JEL C)

## AREAS OF INTERESTS

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Economics of Minorities/Gender (JEL J15/J16) Education and Inequality (JEL I24)  
Equity, Justice, and Inequality (JEL D63) Stratification Economics (JEL Z13)

## WORKING PAPER

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**“Safety for Whom? How Law Enforcement and School Resource Officer Training Impacts Racial Gaps in School Exclusionary Discipline” ([Job Market Paper](#))**

**Abstract:** This paper presents novel findings on the impact of statewide law enforcement credentials and special training mandates for school resource officers (SROs) on Black-White gaps in school exclusion. I analyze U.S. schools using data from the 2013-14 through 2020-21 Civil Rights Data Collection and supplementary sources. The study leverages state and time variation in adopting SRO credential and training statutes between 2014-15 and 2020-21. The analysis compares Black-White exclusion gaps in middle and high schools with SROs between treated and untreated schools. I estimate average treatment effects on the treated using an advanced difference-in-difference method. The results indicate that requiring SROs to hold sworn law enforcement credentials increases racial gaps in suspensions and law enforcement referrals in majority Black schools but not in minority Black schools and that SRO training

policies often exacerbate, rather than mitigate, racial exclusion gaps. I then evaluate whether racial differences in socioeconomic outcomes result from individual behaviors and cultural norms or structural factors like systemic discrimination—the first study to assess whether individualist or structuralist mechanisms underlying SRO and racial disparities in school discipline better explain the findings. The findings suggest the need for structural changes to address racial disparities in school discipline.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

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### **“Does Investing in Schools Reduce Violent Crime?” with Jamein Cunningham and Kenneth Whaley (*Scheduled to present at 2025 ASSA Annual Meeting*)**

**Abstract:** This study investigates whether increased funding for public schools can reduce violent crime exposure among Black males in the United States. Recognizing that local governments often face trade-offs between school funding and public safety, we examine the impact of increased state funding during the school finance reform era. State finance reforms aimed at disadvantaged communities led to significant cash infusions for low-income school districts. Our findings reveal that counties with higher shares of low-income school districts experienced a relative decrease in homicide rates for young Black males following these reforms. Additionally, the reform-induced increase in school spending contributed to a broader decline in homicides among Black men of all ages from 1970 to 2010. These results suggest that investing in education can play a crucial role in reducing violent crime and addressing racial disparities in crime victimization.

### **“Investigating Racial Inequity in School Exclusion and Its Compounding Effects in the Labor Market”**

**Abstract:** Success in the labor market is often contingent upon access to educational resources. Black students, however, are disproportionately denied these resources due to school suspensions and are also more likely to face labor market discrimination as adults. This paper investigates the relationship between racial disparities in school suspensions and adult employment and earnings. Using the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth – 1997 Cohort, I examine the intersection of race, school suspensions, and labor market outcomes to understand how suspensions impact long-term employment prospects for Black and White individuals. Leveraging state and temporal variation in adopting K-12 zero tolerance laws, I employ a two-stage least squares estimator to identify the causal effects of suspension on adult employment and earnings. The insights from this study illuminate how racial inequality in education exacerbates economic disparities later in life. Additionally, this research has significant implications for policies addressing racial disparities within hierarchical systems such as education and the labor market.

### **“The Impact of Indiana's Governor's Work Ethic Certificate on Post-Secondary Education and Employment” with Chloe R. Gibbs and Abigail Wozniak**

**Abstract:** Employers often need help assessing high school graduates' employability due to asymmetric information. To address this, Indiana developed the Governor's Work Ethic Certificate (GWEC), an initiative for twelfth-grade students to demonstrate skills and characteristics valued by employers. Recognized by local employers and post-secondary institutions, the GWEC aims to assist students in securing employment or admission to further education. With support from the Smith Richardson Foundation, this study evaluates the

potential impact of the GWEC on post-secondary jobs and wages by analyzing program data from select participating schools linked with state administrative workforce records. We estimate the local average treatment effect on employment and earnings using a regression discontinuity design based on the GWEC completion criteria. We also investigate racial differences in the benefits of completing the GWEC initiative. The findings could inform improvements to the GWEC program and provide a model for similar workforce development programs in other states, ultimately enhancing high school graduates' transition into the workforce.

### **“Evaluating the Causal Relationships between Literacy and School Discipline” with Paul Glewwe**

**Abstract:** Does low literacy cause more school discipline, or do disciplinary issues cause lower literacy? This study investigates the causal relationships between literacy and school discipline by asking this question. Using administrative data from a midsize school district in Minnesota, we employ rigorous causal inference methods to estimate the impacts of literacy levels on school discipline rates and vice versa. By quantifying these effects bidirectionally, we aim to identify which direction has the most substantial influence. Additionally, we explore racial differences in these relationships to understand potential disparities among student groups. Our study contributes to the education policy landscape by shedding light on the root causes of literacy and discipline issues, offering insights that can inform targeted reforms. By clarifying the causal pathways, our findings seek to enhance interventions to improve educational outcomes and reduce disparities in school discipline practices.

### **“Racial Disparities in the School-to-Prison Pipeline: Investigating the Impacts of South Carolina’s School Disturbance Law” with Ashley Rojas**

**Abstract:** The school-to-prison pipeline (STPP) encompasses the policies and processes that remove students from the U.S. K-12 education system and place them into the juvenile or adult carceral system. Black students are disproportionately more likely to experience the STPP than White students. In our study, we use a unique South Carolina law criminalizing school disturbances and administrative data from the Department of Juvenile Justice to provide empirical evidence of the racial disparities in the STPP. Using variation in the letter and interpretation of the law over time, we estimate the effects of the school disturbance law on racial differences in referrals to the criminal/legal system. The findings from our analysis could inform current reform efforts combatting the broad use of this statute.

## **PUBLICATION**

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Davis, M. E. (2024). “Black Economics: Reclaiming the Narrative for Economic Revitalization”. In M. Brown, J. Dieck, S. C. Golden, H. J. King, & A. Parede-Beaulieu (Eds.), SPARK: Rejuvenation in Academic Research (Vol. 4). Published by the Community of Scholars Program Writing Initiative. Retrieved from <https://sparkezone.com/2024/04/05/black-economics-reclaiming-the-narrative-for-economic-revitalization/>

## PRESENTATIONS, POSTERS, AND EXHIBITS

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**Bold:** Indicates presenting author

**Davis, M. E.** “Safety for Whom? How Law Enforcement and School Resource Officer Training Impacts Racial Gaps in School Exclusionary Discipline”

- 2025 Allied Social Science Association Annual Meeting (scheduled: January 3-5, 2025)
- Southern Economic Association 94<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (scheduled: November 23-25, 2024)
- 2024 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference (scheduled: November 21-23, 2024)
- 2024 Freedom and Justice Summer Conference
- 2024 AEA Summer Mentoring Pipeline Conference
- 2024 Economics of Race, Racism, and Structural Inequality Conference
- 88<sup>th</sup> Annual Meetings of the Midwest Economics Association
- The Economics of Racism Virtual Seminar Series, January 25, 2024

Cunningham, J., **Davis, M. E.**, and Whaley, K. “Does Investing in Schools Reduce Violent Crime?”

- 2025 Allied Social Science Association Annual Meeting (scheduled: January 3-5, 2025)
- Access, Equity, and Education: A Conference in Honor of Rodney J. Andrews, Ph.D.

## PROFESSIONAL & RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis**, Minneapolis, MN Jun 2021 to present  
**Graduate Research Assistant**  
Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute

**Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis**, Minneapolis, MN Jun 2020 to Aug 2020  
**Supervision, Regulation, and Credit Graduate Intern**  
System Analytics and Support – Large and Foreign Banking Organizations Analytics

**University of Minnesota**, Minneapolis, MN Jul 2019 to Aug 2019  
**Graduate Research Assistant**  
Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice

**JPMorgan Chase & Co.**, New York, NY Jul 2015 to May 2019  
**Data Science Senior Associate**  
Consumer & Community Banking Data & Analytics – Focused Analytic Solutions Team  
**Big Data Associate**  
JPMorgan Intelligent Solutions – Data Insights & Science

**JPMorgan Chase & Co.**, Columbus, OH Jul 2013 to Jul 2015  
**Corporate Analyst Development Program**  
*Process Improvement Analyst*, Mortgage Cash Operations  
*Risk & Controls Analyst*, Global Business & Document Services  
*Analytics & Business Management Analyst*, Mortgage Banking Continuous Improvement  
*Project Management Analyst*, Anti-Money Laundering Investigations

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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<b>University of Minnesota</b> , St. Paul, MN	Sep 2020 to May 2021
<b>Graduate Teaching Assistant</b>	
Department of Applied Economics	
<i>Undergraduate Courses</i>	
APEC 3001: Applied Microeconomics – Consumers, Producers, and Markets	
<i>Graduate Ph.D. Courses</i>	
APEC 8001: Applied Microeconomic Theory – Consumer Choice and Consumer Demand	
APEC 8002: Applied Microeconomic Theory – Production and Choice Under Uncertainty	
<b>North Carolina A&amp;T State University</b> , Greensboro, NC	Jan 2009 to May 2013
<b>Supplemental Instruction Leader</b>	
Department of Mathematics and Statistics	
<i>Undergraduate Courses</i>	
MATH 101: Fundamentals of Algebra and Trigonometry I	
MATH 110: Pre-Calculus for Engineers and Scientists	
MATH 111: College Algebra and Trigonometry	
MATH 131: Calculus I	

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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2024 Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management	
Equity and Inclusion Student Fellowship	Fellow
2024 Western Economic Association International	
Graduate Student Workshop	Participant (16 of 55 candidates)
2024-25 University of Minnesota	
Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship	1 <sup>st</sup> Alternate (of 191 doctoral candidates)
2024 National Academy of Education/Spencer	
Dissertation Fellowship	Semifinalist (55 of 380 candidates)
American Economic Association	
Summer Economics Fellows Program	Jun 2021 to Aug 2021
College of Food, Agricultural & Natural Resource Sciences	
Diversity Fellowship	Sep 2019 to Aug 2020
North Carolina A&T State University	
Dowdy Scholar – Category I (Full Scholarship)	Aug 2008 to May 2012

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

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<b>University of Minnesota</b>	
<i>Department of Applied Economics</i>	
<b>Women in APEC</b>	
Committee Member	2024-2025
Founder and Committee Chair	2023-2024
<b>Food &amp; Agricultural Economics Faculty Search Committee</b>	
Graduate Student Representative	2021-2022

## SOFTWARE SKILLS

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R, STATA, Python, MATLAB, SQL, LaTeX

## VOLUNTEERISM

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Big Brothers Big Sisters Twin Cities – Mentor  
Tutoring Chicago – Tutor

## MEMBERSHIPS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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American Economic Association  
National Economic Association  
Midwest Economics Association  
Western Economic Association International  
Southern Economic Association  
Association for Public Policy Analysis &  
Management  
American Economic Association Mentoring  
Program

The Sadie Collective  
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated  
Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor  
Society  
Pi Mu Epsilon, Incorporated  
First Degree Black Belt (Ryukyu Kempo  
and Modern Arnis)  
Badminton Doubles Team 2008 Illinois  
High School State Qualifier

## REFERENCES

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**Dr. Paul Glewwe**, Professor  
Distinguished McKnight Professor  
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Phone: 612-625-0225  
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**Dr. Samuel L. Myers, Jr.**, Professor  
Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice  
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**Dr. Abigail Wozniak**, Vice President and Director  
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