SAMUEL W. ARENBERG

Applied Microeconomist

Curriculum vitae

PhD Candidate, Economics
The University of Texas at Austin

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Education

The University of Texas at Austin	PhD, Economics	2022 (Expected)
The London School of Economics	MSc, Economics	2014
George Washington University	BS, Economics	2009

Fields

Fields: Development economics, labor economics, public economics
Topics: Demography, environment, health, incarceration, inequality

References

Prof. Michael Geruso	The University of Texas at Austin	mike.geruso@utexas.edu
Prof. Dean Spears	The University of Texas at Austin	dspears@utexas.edu

Teaching

Introduction to Econometrics	2021–Present
Development and Population Economics	2020
Labor Economics	2019
Education Economics	2018
Health Economics	2016–17

Experience

Prof. David Chan	Stanford University	2015–16
Prof. Rohini Pande	Harvard University	2015
Prof. Steve Machin	The London School of Economics	2014
Prof. Lori Beaman	Northwestern University	2011–12

Authorizations

US citizenship
Special Sworn Status (Census Bureau)

Research

Working papers

1. **The Impact of Youth Medicaid Eligibility on Adult Incarceration** [Draft]
   Job market paper, with Seth Neller and Sam Stripling

   Revisions requested from *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*
   Awarded IPUMS Best Graduate Student Research Using Health Surveys

   This paper identifies an important spillover associated with public health insurance: reduced incarceration. In 1990, Congress passed legislation that increased Medicaid eligibility for individuals born after September 30, 1983. We show that Black children born just after the

cutoff are 5 percent less likely to be incarcerated by age 28, driven primarily by a decrease in incarcerations connected to financially motivated offenses. Children of other races, who experienced almost no gain in Medicaid coverage as a result of the policy, demonstrate no such decline. We find that reduced incarceration in adulthood substantially offsets the initial costs of expanding eligibility.

2. **Heritable Fertility Is Not Sufficient for Positive Long-term Population Growth** [Draft]
with Kevin Kuruc and Dean Spears

   All leading long-term global population projections agree on continuing fertility decline, resulting in a rate of population size growth that will continue to decline towards zero and would eventually turn negative. However, a literature inspired by mathematical biology has suggested that because fertility is heritable (*i.e.*, higher-fertility parents tend to have higher-fertility children) and heterogeneous within a population, long-term population growth must eventually be positive. In this research note, we show that heritable fertility is not sufficient for positive long-term population growth, for empirical and theoretical reasons. First, empirically, even higher-fertility sub-populations show declining fertility rates which may eventually be below replacement (and in some populations already are). Second, in a simple Markov model, because heritability is imperfect, the combination of heritability and fertility rates may be quantitatively insufficient: it may be that higher-fertility parents nevertheless produce too few children who retain higher-fertility preferences. These results underscore the importance both of understanding the possible consequences of long-term fertility decline and of the causal importance of culture and choice in human populations.

Works in progress

1. **The First Estimates of Life Expectancy by County of Birth in the United States: Implications for Geographic Inequality**

   Part of FSRDC Project UT-02603

   Life expectancy in the United States varies widely by geography: The gap between the top and bottom-ranking counties is over twenty years. These disparities, however, are based on where people die. This paper provides the first sub-state estimates of life expectancy based on where the deceased were born.

2. **Ashes to Ashes: The Lifelong Consequences of Early-life Exposure to Wildfires**
with Seth Neller

   Part of FSRDC Project UT-02272

   This paper assesses the impact of in utero and early childhood wildfire exposure on lifelong outcomes, including longevity, disability, human capital accumulation, and economic achievement in mid-to-late adulthood.

3. **The Later-life Impacts of Early-Life Lead Exposure: Evidence from Changes in Vehicle Emission Standards in the United States**
with Seth Neller

   Part of FSRDC Project UT-02272

   Leveraging the phaseout of leaded gasoline in the United States, this paper uses restricted Census and Social Security data to estimate the impact of early-life lead exposure on later-life measures of economic well-being.