

Sarah A. Bainn

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EDUCATION

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| Ph.D. in Economics, North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC | 2021 – Present |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">Dissertation: <i>“Essays on the Economics of Reproductive Health, Disability, and Public Policy”</i>Committee: Profs. Adriana Corredor-Waldron (co-chair), Raymond Guiteras (co-chair), Zheng Li & Jane Cooley-Fruehwirth | |
| M.Sc. in Economics, Baylor University, Waco, TX | 2019 – 2021 |
| B.A. in Economics, University of Ghana, Accra, Ghana | 2014 – 2018 |

RESEARCH FIELDS

Health Economics, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

JOB MARKET PAPER

“The Effects of Reproductive Health Policies on Maternal and Infant Health”

Abstract: In 2013, Texas implemented House Bill 2 (HB2), a law that imposed stringent operational requirements on abortion providers, resulting in the closure of numerous abortion clinics across the state. This policy change introduced cross-county variation in access to abortion services over time, which I leverage to estimate the effects of restricted access on maternal and infant health. I find that a 100-mile increase in distance to the nearest abortion clinic is associated with a 26% increase in the maternal morbidity rate among Texas residents. Further analysis indicates that the increase in maternal morbidity is primarily driven by a higher incidence of severe obstetric complications, including third and fourth degree perineal lacerations and ruptured uterus cases. For infant health, I find no average effect but uncover significant adverse outcomes concentrated among Hispanic infants. These findings underscore the broader public health implications of abortion access and suggest that in the post-Dobbs legal environment, continued restrictions may exacerbate adverse health outcomes and deepen existing disparities.

WORKING PAPERS

“Medicaid Expansion and Disability Employment,”

Abstract: The Affordable Care Act (ACA), enacted in 2010, sought to expand Medicaid eligibility to low-income individuals with incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL). This policy could affect employment outcomes among individuals with disabilities through multiple channels. On one hand, providing access to health insurance independent of employment requirements might reduce the incentive to work, potentially lowering employment rates within the disabled population. On the other hand, the higher income threshold for Medicaid eligibility could encourage labor force participation by allowing individuals to seek employment without the risk of losing health coverage. Using data from the American Community Survey (ACS) and a staggered Difference-in-Differences (sDID) research design, I find that the ACA had a negative, though statistically insignificant, effect on employment among individuals with disabilities, and a positive but also statistically insignificant effect on labor force participation. Results from a Two-Way Fixed Effects (TWFE) model yield similar results, though with differences in magnitude. The discrepancy between the TWFE and sDID estimates highlights potential endogeneity bias in the TWFE approach, underscoring the importance of using more robust quasi-experimental methods when evaluating staggered policy interventions.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Family Planning Budget Cuts and Sexually Transmitted Infections,”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Independent Instructor, NC State University	2024 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Principles of Microeconomics: Spring 2024, Spring 2025	
Head Lab Instructor, NC State University	2022 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fundamentals of Economics: Fall 2022Principles of Economics: Fall 2025	
Lab Instructor, NC State University	2021 – 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fundamentals of Economics: Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023Principles of Macroeconomics: Fall 2024	
Graduate Assistant, Baylor University	2019 – 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Macroeconomics: Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021	
Teaching Assistant, University of Ghana	2018 – 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Economics: Fall 2018, Spring 2019Statistics: Fall 2018, Spring 2019	

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Consultant, World Bank	2024 – Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisted with survey design, survey weighting and sampling for Enterprise Surveys.Assisted with cleaning and standardizing datasets and data quality control for Enterprise Surveys.	
Data Analytics Fellow, Chief Evaluation Office, Department of Labor	Summer 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaborated with the research team at the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) to identify registered provider desertsAnalyzed data using R to identify counties in the U.S with provider deserts	
Summer Intern, PricewaterhouseCoopers,	Summer 2017
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Collaborated with a staff of 6 to complete audit processesConducted risk analysis to determine the viability of a merge between 2 companiesReconciled bank statements with payments in general account ledger totaling \$100,000 using Microsoft Excel	

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Poole Economics Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, NC State University	2024
ASHEcon Diversity Scholarship, ASHEcon	2024

WORKSHOPS

NBER Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research (Boston, MA)	2024
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SERVICE

Treasurer (EGSA), NC State University

Communication Strategist, Research in Color

Graduate Academic Mentor (Kokernot Hall), Baylor University

Economics Representative (Graduate Business Association), Baylor University

OTHER INFORMATION

Programming: Python, STATA, MATLAB, R

Sadie Collective Member

The Black Economists Network Member

American Society of Health Economists Member

Language: English(fluent), Twi(native), French(beginner)

Citizenship: Ghana

REFERENCES

Prof. Adriana Corredor-Waldron (co-chair)
Assistant Professor
Dept. of Economics
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Dr. Allison Lowe Reed
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Prof. Raymond Guiteras (co-chair)
Associate Professor
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