

## 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	<a href="mailto:mike.geruso@utexas.edu">mike.geruso@utexas.edu</a>
Prof. Dean Spears	The University of Texas at Austin	<a href="mailto:dspears@utexas.edu">dspears@utexas.edu</a>

### 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, Nathan Franz, Sangita Vyas, Nicholas Lawson, Melissa LoPalo, Mark Budolfson, Michael Geruso, and Dean Spears

Revisions requested from *Demography*

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 depopulation 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 life-long 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.