

Briana Ballis

CONTACT INFORMATION University of California, Merced, Department of Economics
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Citizenship: USA

EMPLOYMENT Assistant Professor of Economics, University of California, Merced, 2020-present

EDUCATION Ph.D. Economics, University of California, Davis, 2020.
M.A. Economics, Boston University, 2011.
B.A. Economics, Boston University, 2011.

RESEARCH INTERESTS Labor Economics, Public Finance, Economics of Education.

PUBLICATIONS **The Long-Run Impacts of Special Education**, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* Volume 13 (4), 2021, pages 72-111. (with Katelyn Heath)

Loss and Risk Preferences and Exam Performance, *Economics of Education Review* Volume 90, 2022. (with Lester Lusher and Paco Martorell)

Dreamers and Beyond: Examining the Broader Educational Effects of DACA, forthcoming, *Journal of Human Resources*

WORKING PAPERS **The Long-Run Impacts of Racial Gaps in Special Education** (with Katelyn Heath)

Black students are about 1.5 times more likely to be receiving special education (SpEd) services relative to white students. While there is concern that this implies some black students are inappropriately placed in SpEd, the impacts of the disproportionate representation of minority students in SpEd remains unclear. Using administrative data from Texas, we find that capping black disproportionality led to small gains in high school completion and college attainment for black students in special and general education. Overall, our results suggest that reductions in SpEd misclassification among black students may serve to reduce gaps in later-life success across race.

Early Life Health Conditions and Racial Gaps in Education

This paper uses administrative data from Texas and the shift to Medicaid Managed care (MMC) to study the effects of infant health on outcomes throughout childhood and into adulthood. MMC has been shown to significantly worsen health in Texas, specifically among Black infants. In this paper, I document that the decline in health among Black infants reduced later academic achievement by 0.05 of a standard deviation from 3rd to 8th grade, increasing the black-white test-score gap by 14-18 percent. This significant reduction in achievement suggests that poor infant health has an impact on the black-white achievement gap comparable to reducing school segregation and equalizing school resources and home resources. Overall, I conclude that the effects of infant health for black infants have important effects on childhood development and overall well-being.

WORKS IN PROGRESS **How do Students and Schools Respond to Early Signals of College Readiness** (with Minahil Asim, Scott Carrell, Michal Kurlaender, and Paco Martorell)
Do the Health Effects of WIC transmit to Children's Academic Achievement? (with Mari-
anne Page)
The Effects of Special Education on Crime (with Katlyn Heath)

Diversity in Schools: Immigrants and the Short-Run Academic and Long-Run Outcomes of US-Born Students (with Derek Rury and Che Sun)
Examining Sibling Spillovers on Short and Long-Run Outcomes (with Jose Rosa)
Parent Divorce and Child Achievement (with Sam Arenberg, Andrew Johnston and Seth Neller)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS **College Readiness in the Era of Common Core** (with Michal Kurlaender, Sherrie Reed, Kramer Cohen), *The Getting Down to Facts II Project Technical Report*, 2018.
Geographic Adjustment of Medicare Payments for the Work of Physicians and Other Health Professionals (with Kathleen Dalton, Gregory Pope and Walter Adamache), *Report for the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission*, 2013.

POLICY WRITINGS **Special education: Beneficial to many, harmful to others** (with Katelyn Heath), *Brookings Institution Brown Center Chalkboard*, 2021.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE
Instructor, Undergraduate Econometrics (UC Merced) Spring 2022
Instructor, Graduate Econometrics II (UC Merced) Spring 2021, Spring 2022
Teaching Assistant, Public Economics (UC Davis) Spring 2016
Teaching Assistant, Labor Economics (UC Davis) Winter 2016
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Microeconomics (UC Davis) Winter 2015, Spring 2015, Fall 2015
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Macroeconomics (UC Davis) Fall 2014

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE
Research Assistant to S. Carrell, M. Kurlaender, & P. Martorell (UC Davis) March 2016 -June 2018
Research Assistant to P. Martorell (UC Davis) July 2015 -March 2016
Economist 1 (RTI International) October 2011 -July 2014
Research Assistant to C. Olivetti (Boston University) 2011

EXTERNAL AWARDS
Early Career Research Award, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, \$7,500 (2023-2024)
Russell Sage Foundation (Co-PIs D Rury & C Sun), \$175,184 (2023-2025)
American Educational Research Association (AERA) Dissertation Award, \$11,500 (2019-2020)
National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, \$19,625 (2018-2019)
Disability Research Consortium Dissertation Fellowship (SSA via Mathematica), \$28,000 (2018-2019)
Roe L. Johns Travel Grant, (AEFP), \$250 (2018)

INTERNAL AWARDS
UCM : Academic Senate Faculty Research Grant (Co-PI Andrew Johnston), \$14,881 (2023-2024)
UCD : Russell J. and Dorothy Bilinski Dissertation Fellowship, \$30,000 (2019-2020)
UCD : Institute for Social Sciences Summer Research Support Award, \$750 (2019)
UCD : Graduate Student Travel Award, \$1,000 (2019)
UCD : Institute for Social Sciences Summer Research Support Award, \$500 (2018)
UCD : Institute for Social Sciences Summer Research Support Award, \$800 (2017)
UCD : Non-Resident Tuition Remission, (2014-2015)

PRESENTATIONS (including upcoming)
2023: University of Nebraska, Labor Summit; Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) 28th Annual Conference, Western Economic Association International (WEAI) 98th annual conference, Workshop on Economics of Education (School of Business and Economics of the Universidad de los Andes, Chile)
2022: Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) 43rd Annual Conference, Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) 47th annual conference
2021: American Economics Association (AEA) Annual Meeting; San Diego State University; Washington & Lee University; Northeast Labor Symposium for Early Career Economists (NLS-E Princeton); Western Economic Association International (WEAI) 96th annual conference; 14th Annual All-California Labor Economics Conference; National Tax Association 114th Annual Conference

2020: Florida State University; Louisiana State University; Tulane University; University of California, Merced; University of Delaware; University of Zurich; 5th IZA Workshop: The Economics of Education; Southern Economic Association (SEA) 90th annual conference; University of South Carolina

2019: Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) 44nd annual conference; Western Economic Association International (WEAI) 94th annual conference; Claremont McKenna - Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics (SoCCAM); UC Davis Alumni conference (poster), Social Security Administration Research Consortium Meeting 21st annual conference (poster); University of Hawaii at Manoa; All California Labor Economics Conference (poster); Southern Methodist University; Center for Poverty Research Fall Graduate Student Retreat (UC Davis); Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference (EMCON); UC Davis Microeconomic Theory Brownbag; University of Nevada, Reno; Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) 41st Annual Conference; Fall Migration Research Cluster Workshop (UC Davis); Southern Economic Association (SEA) 89th annual conference

2018: Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) 43rd annual conference, UC Davis Alumni Conference (poster), Western Economic Association International (WEAI) 93rd annual conference; Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM) 40th Annual Conference

2017: UC Davis Microeconomic Theory Brownbag

Affiliations

California Education Lab

UC Davis Center for Poverty Research

Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group (HCEO): Inequality: Measurement, Interpretation & Policy

**Professional
Activities**

Referee: Journal of Human Resources, Economics of Education Review, Education Finance and Policy, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis; Regional Science and Urban Economics; Economic Analysis and Policy; Demography; Economics and Human Biology

Updated: April, 2023