

Paige Schoonover

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Department of Economics
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of Colorado Boulder (expected)	2025
M.A., Economics, University of Colorado Boulder	2022
B.S., Mathematics, University of Tennessee	2018

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Education Economics, Health Economics, Labor Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

A Promise Worth Keeping? Impacts of Tennessee Promise

In this paper, I examine a novel tuition assistance program, the Tennessee Promise. Since the Fall of 2015, the state of Tennessee has covered all tuition and fees not covered by other scholarships or grants for high school graduates at qualifying two-year institutions. I use the timing of the policy's implementation and employ quasi-experimental methods to demonstrate that the Tennessee Promise program increased associate's degree attainment by 1.2 percentage points and bachelor's degree attainment by 2.4 percentage points four years after implementation for cohorts graduating high school in 2015 and 2016. Seven years after program implementation, there is a 1.2 percentage point increase in associate's degrees and a 0.6 percentage point increase in bachelor's degrees for the same cohorts, indicating that the program increased associate's degrees and decreased time to degree for bachelor's degrees. I find that this increase in educational attainment leads to increases in wage income and delays in marriage and childbirth, indicating that Tennessee Promise was successful not only in increasing educational attainment but also improving socioeconomic outcomes of treated cohorts. The findings from this study may be more generalizable than those from localized studies, offering broader lessons on the potential impacts of similar initiatives in other states or at the federal level.

WORKING PAPERS

Reacting to Recalls: Contraceptive Choice Impacts of Defective Birth Control Pills in Chile (*Second Round Revise and Resubmit at Journal of Population Economics*)

I examine the impact of an oral contraceptive recall and the news of resulting pregnancies in Chile on contraceptive choice. Using an event study approach, I compare changes in contraceptive use for women residing in comunas with a government pharmacy who are more likely to only be offered the recalled brand of birth control pill to women residing in comunas with private pharmacies who would be offered a wider variety of birth control pill brands following the recalls. The results show that the recall and subsequent news coverage led to a 22.5 percent decrease in oral contraceptive use. There is evidence that this was associated with increased use of long-acting reversible contraceptives (LARCs) and increased usage of no effective form of contraception, although these results are not statistically significant. The results are highly heterogeneous, with women residing in rural areas and women in relationships responding more strongly to the recalls.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Cost of Specialization: Educational Attainment and the Limits of Field-Restricted Community College Initiatives

Access and Opportunity: How Reproductive Health Policy Shapes Education and Workforce Participation Post-Dobbs

Digital Misinformation and Contraceptive Choices: The Impact of Social Media on Reproductive Health Behavior

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, University of Colorado Boulder <i>CU Population Center & Institute of Behavioral Science, Reporting to Profs. Sara Yeatman & Brian Cadena</i>	2022-2024
Research Assistant, University of Colorado Boulder <i>Department of Economics, Reporting to Prof. Mahdiah Yazdani</i>	2021
Research Experience for Undergraduates, Purdue University <i>Department of Mathematics, Reporting to Prof. Jonathon Peterson</i>	2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, University of Colorado Boulder <i>Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory</i>	Fall 2022, Summer 2024, Fall 2024
Instructor of Record, University of Colorado Boulder <i>Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory (online)</i>	Summer 2023
Teaching Assistant, University of Colorado Boulder <i>Principles of Microeconomics & Principles of Macroeconomics</i>	2020-2022

WORK EXPERIENCE

Data Analyst, alliantgroup	2018-2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Used statistical methods to analyze large payroll and expense datasets• Prepared detailed reports and presentations for clients and leadership	

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Stanford Calderwood Student Teaching Award <i>Department of Economics, University of Colorado Boulder</i>	2024
Third Year Paper Award <i>Department of Economics, University of Colorado Boulder</i>	2023
Leslie Whittington Endowed Fellowship for Excellence in Economics <i>Department of Economics, University of Colorado Boulder</i>	2022

PRESENTATIONS

<i>Southern Economic Association Conference</i>	2024
<i>University of Colorado Boulder Graduate Student Seminar</i>	
<i>University of Colorado Boulder Applied Economics Seminar</i>	
<i>Southern Economic Association Conference</i>	2023
<i>University of Colorado Boulder Graduate Student Seminar</i>	
<i>University of Colorado Boulder Applied Economics Seminar</i>	
<i>University of Colorado Boulder Graduate Student Seminar</i>	2022

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Institute of Behavioral Science Population Program Director Search Committee	2023, 2024
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AFFILIATIONS AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Affiliate, Institute of Behavioral Science - University of Colorado Boulder
CU Population Center, Population Program
Member, Southern Economic Association

SKILLS

Software: Stata, Matlab, R (*basic*), L^AT_EX

REFERENCES

Advisor

Professor Brian Cadena
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Teaching Reference

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