

KATE MUSEN

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EDUCATION

Columbia University	2020 – Present
Doctor of Philosophy, Economics, in progress	
Master of Arts (en route), Economics, May 2022	
Master of Philosophy (en route), Economics, May 2023	
Swarthmore College	2014 – 2018
Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Highest Honors, Minors in Psychology and Mathematics	
GPA: 3.97/4.00	

OTHER EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES

IRP Training Series On Poverty and Economic Mobility Research	2023 – 2024
Participant	
Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics	August 2021
Attendee	
University of Edinburgh	Spring 2017
Visiting Undergraduate Student in the School of Mathematics	

AFFILIATIONS

California Child Welfare Indicators Project	February 2023 – Present
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HONORS AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2020 – 2025
Reubens Travel and Research Award, Columbia University	January 2024
Wueller Pre-Dissertation Award, Runner-up, Columbia University	January 2024
Wueller Teaching Award, Runner-up, Columbia University	September 2023
Harriss Prize for Best Second Year Paper, Runner-up, Columbia University	January 2023
Dean's Fellow, Columbia University	2020 – 2021
Adams Prize in Economics, Swarthmore College	June 2018
— “awarded annually for the best paper applying quantitative methods to an economic issue or problem”	
Phi Beta Kappa	May 2018
Sigma Xi: The Scientific Research Honor Society	March 2017
National Merit Scholar	May 2014

RESEARCH GRANTS

Transition-Age Youth Research & Evaluation Hub (\$7,780)	2023
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RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Prof. Janet Currie	November 2021 – Present
<i>Princeton University</i>	
Pre-Doctoral Fellow to Profs. Raj Chetty & Nathan Hendren	July 2018 – July 2020
<i>Opportunity Insights, Harvard University</i>	
Research Assistant to Prof. Syon Bhanot	January 2016 – May 2018
<i>Behavioral Economics Lab, Swarthmore College</i>	

Joel Dean Fellow in Economics <i>Department of Economics, Swarthmore College</i>	Summer 2017
Research Assistant to Prof. Jay Bhattacharya <i>Center for Primary Care & Outcomes Research, Stanford University</i>	Summer 2016
Data Science Intern <i>Information Sciences Institute, University of Southern California</i>	Summer 2015
Research Assistant to Prof. Jay Bhattacharya <i>Center for Primary Care & Outcomes Research, Stanford University</i>	Summer 2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow for Principles of Economics <i>Department of Economics, Columbia University</i>	Spring 2023
Teaching Fellow for Economics of Race <i>Department of Economics, Columbia University</i>	Fall 2022
Teaching Assistant for Intermediate Microeconomics <i>Department of Economics, Swarthmore College</i>	Fall 2016

WORKING PAPERS

“Minimum Wages and Racial Infant Health Inequality: Evidence from the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1966” [\[link\]](#)

Abstract: The Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) of 1966 increased the federal minimum wage to \$1 in several previously excluded industries starting in 1967. These changes disproportionately affected Black workers, substantially narrowing the racial wage gap over the period of just a few years. In this paper, I use a triple differences approach to evaluate the effect of narrowing the racial wage gap on the infant mortality gap. I estimate the model at the county level, exploiting variation in industry employment shares measured in the early 1960s. Intuitively, counties that pre-reform had higher shares of employment in industries affected by the FLSA of 1966 were more treated by the reform and experienced greater narrowing of the racial wage gap. I find that an increase in covered employment by one percentage point reduced the infant mortality gap by about 0.16 deaths per 1,000 births (or 1.2% of the mean gap).

“A Hard Pill to Swallow: Spillovers of the Opioid Epidemic on Educational Progress” [\[link\]](#)

Abstract: Despite a substantial increase in the number of children living in households and exposed to neighbors with opioid addiction in the past two decades, the impacts of this trend on children are poorly understood. This paper provides novel estimates of the causal effects of exposure to the opioid epidemic on educational progress for California students. I develop a new time-varying instrument for prescription opioids derived from Purdue Pharma’s evolving marketing strategy, which targeted areas with high rates of different diseases over time. Moving from the 25th to the 75th percentile of instrumented per capita opioids, standardized test scores fall by a third of one percent to one percent of the mean. High school exit exam pass rates fall by a greater magnitude. I find no evidence of overall changes in dropout rates, but ninth- and tenth-grade dropout rates increase. Estimates from IV regressions are much larger in magnitude than those using OLS. I find a significant adverse impact of community opioid use on the academic performance of the marginal affected child, highlighting previously overlooked intergenerational consequences of the opioid crisis.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Fostering a Gentler Flight from the Nest: Effects of Foster Care Reform on Labor Market Outcomes in California”

“First Do No Harm? Doctor Decision Making and Patient Outcomes” (with Janet Currie and W. Bentley MacLeod)

“Did Prior Authorization Requirements Reduce Inappropriate Prescribing of Antipsychotics to Children on Medicaid?” (with Janet Currie)

“Salt Iodization and Infant Health in the United States” (with Donato Onorato)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

Transition Age Youth Special Interest Group Annual Meeting,
CESifo / ifo Junior Workshop on the Economics of Education (scheduled) 2024

Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists,
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting,
Children’s Data Network 2023

Behavioral and Experimental Economists of the Mid-Atlantic Conference 2019

OTHER WRITING

“Recreational Marijuana Legalization and Tobacco Use: Early Evidence from Colorado and Washington,”
Senior Honors Paper at Swarthmore College

SERVICE

Rapporteur for Current Research in Applied Microeconomics Seminar 2023 – 2024
University Seminars, Columbia University

Mentor to Undergraduates January 2022 – Present
Economics Department Undergraduate Mentoring Program, Columbia University

SKILLS

Computer Languages and Software Stata, Python, Matlab, R, L^AT_EX, Bash, oTree,
Django, HTML, CSS, JavaScript, Xpress-Mosel,
Qualtrics, SPSS

Languages English (native speaker)
Spanish (full professional working proficiency)

PERSONAL

Citizenship: United States