

## ANTHONY BALD

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**HARVARD**  
UNIVERSITY

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**Education****Harvard University**

Ph.D. Public Policy, 2019 to 2025 (expected)

**Pomona College**

B.A. Economics, *magna cum laude*, 2013 to 2017

**Fields**

Primary: Labor economics

Secondary: Health economics, Economic history

**References**

Professor Marcella Alsan  
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**Fellowships & Awards**

Health & Aging Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, NBER	2023-2024
Partnering in Education Research Fellowship, Harvard University	2021-2023
Bok Center Distinction in Teaching Award, Harvard University	2021
Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Brown University	2017-2019

**Teaching**

Program Evaluation, Harvard University (graduate)	2022, 2024
Teaching Fellow for Professor Thomas Kane	
Introduction to Econometrics, Harvard University (undergraduate)	2021
Teaching Fellow for Professor Davide Pettenuzzo	
Quantitative Research Methods, Boston University (graduate)	2021
Teaching Fellow for Professor Andrew Bacher-Hicks	

**Research Positions**

Research Assistant, Center for Education Policy Research, Harvard University	2021-2023
Research Assistant to Professor Justine Hastings, Brown University	2017-2019
Economic Policy Intern, U.S. Department of the Treasury	2016

**Job Market Paper****The Birth of an Occupation: Professional Nursing in the Era of Public Health**

This paper studies the origins of nursing as a professional occupation. In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, hospitals founded training schools for nurses to meet the growing demand for medical care. Training schools increased overall nurse supply and soon became the primary pathway for young women to receive a professional nursing credential. I estimate how the availability of nurse training affected labor market outcomes. Using linked census records and training school openings as a source of variation, I show that white women who were geographically close to an opening in adolescence were more likely to become trained nurses. Effects are largest for women from well-off families, as

proxied using father's occupation. Availability of nurse training caused women to substitute away from other occupations and had little effect on labor force participation or occupation-based measures of income. Furthermore, by their thirties, women who were geographically close to an opening were less likely to become physicians. These results paint a mixed picture: Nurse training provided new opportunities for women in the workforce, reinforcing existing gender segregation in medicine. Over the course of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, nursing would grow to become the largest majority-female occupation in the United States.

## Publications

“Economics of Foster Care”

(with Joseph J. Doyle Jr., Max Gross, and Brian Jacob)

*Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 36(2): 223-246, 2022

Foster care provides substitute living arrangements to protect maltreated children. The practice is remarkably common: it is estimated that five percent of children in the United States are placed in foster care at some point during childhood. These children exhibit poor outcomes as children and adults, and economists have begun to estimate the causal relationship between foster care and life outcomes. This paper provides background on the latest trends in foster care policy and practice to highlight areas most in need of rigorous evidence. These trends include efforts to prevent foster care on the demand side and to improve foster home recruitment on the supply side. With increasing data availability and a growing interest in evidence-based practices, there are a range of opportunities for economic research to inform policies that protect vulnerable children.

“The Causal Impact of Removing Children from Abusive and Neglectful Homes”

(with Eric Chyn, Justine Hastings, and Margarita Machelett)

*Journal of Political Economy*, 130(7): 1919-1962, 2022

This paper measures impacts of removing children from families investigated for abuse or neglect. We use removal tendencies of child protection investigators as an instrument. We focus on young children investigated before age six and find that removal significantly increases test scores and reduces grade repetition for girls. There are no detectable impacts for boys. This pattern of results does not appear to be driven by heterogeneity in pre-removal characteristics, foster placements, or the type of schools attended after removal. The results are consistent with the hypothesis that development of abused and neglected girls is more responsive to home removal.

## Working Papers

“Labor Earnings and Community College Enrollment Since COVID: Evidence from California”

(with Brian Johnson, Christopher Avery, and Elise Swanson).

Community college enrollments have fallen nearly 20 percent since 2019. In this paper, we examine the extent to which earnings growth has depressed enrollments in the California Community Colleges system, the largest network of community colleges in the U.S. We instrument for county labor earnings growth using a Bartik instrument approach that allows us to estimate labor earnings elasticities of enrollment by county for individuals over age 25 with a high school education. We estimate a pre-COVID elasticity of -0.99, and we find modest evidence that enrollment has become less sensitive to labor earnings since 2019. Enrollment declines are far greater than we would predict using observed earnings growth and estimated elasticities: Of the 18 percent decline in enrollments from Fall 2019 to Fall 2022, we attribute just 8 to 10 percent to earnings growth.

## Papers in Progress

“Health and the Return to Schooling: Evidence from School Hygiene Laws”

“Preparation, Preferences, and Peers: An Examination of Selection into Career and Technical Education”

## Seminars & Conferences

AEA CSQIEP Conference	2024
NBER SI Development of the American Economy (poster)	2024
Essen Health Conference	2024

	Association for Education Finance and Policy	2024
	Emerging Education Policy Scholars	2024
	Economic History Association	2023
	Social Science History Association	2023
	Economic History Association (poster)	2022
	Becker Friedman Institute Price Theory Summer Camp	2022
<b>Research Grants</b>	Stone Research Grant, Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy (\$4,000)	2024
	Research Assistant Grant, PREDOC (\$4,000)	2023
	Dissertation Research Grant, Harvard Graduate Student Council (\$1,000)	2022
<b>Academic Service</b>	Referee:	
	<i>American Economic Journal: Economic Policy</i>	
	<i>Contemporary Economic Policy</i>	
	<i>Economics of Education Review</i>	
	<i>Journal of the European Economic Association</i>	
	<i>Journal of Human Resources</i>	
	<i>Journal of Policy Analysis and Management</i>	
	<i>Journal of Population Economics</i>	
	<i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i>	
<b>Affiliations &amp; Memberships</b>	American Economic Association (AEA)	
	Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)	
	American Educational Research Association (AERA)	
	Economic History Association (EHA)	
	Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS)	
	Society of Labor Economists (SOLE)	
	Social Science History Association (SSHA)	