

Jessica H. Brown

Department of Economics
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U.S. Citizen

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Economics, University of South Carolina	<i>August 2019-Present</i>
Policy Fellow, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research	<i>January 2026-Present</i>
Research Fellow, Institute for Labor Studies (IZA)	<i>April 2024-Present</i>
Faculty Affiliate, Wilson-Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities	<i>October 2021-Present</i>

VISITING POSITIONS

Short-Term Visiting Scholar, Griswold Center, Princeton University	<i>March 2025</i>
AEA Summer Fellow, W.E. Upjohn Institute	<i>Summer 2022</i>

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics	<i>2019</i>
Princeton University	
Committee: Alan Krueger (chair), Leah Boustan, Will Dobbie, Alex Mas, Ilyana Kuziemko	
M.A. in Economics	<i>2015</i>
Princeton University	
B.S. in Mathematics and Economics, magna cum laude	<i>2011</i>
University of Notre Dame	

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Economics, Labor Economics, Economics of Child Care

PUBLISHED OR ACCEPTED PAPERS

"The Labor Market Effects of Pregnancy Accommodation Laws" with Emily Battaglia
Journal of Population Economics, Vol. 38, Article 88, 2025.

"Secure Communities as Immigration Enforcement: How Secure is the Child Care Market?"
with Umair Ali and Chris M. Herbst
Journal of Public Economics, Vol.233:105101, 2024.

"The Impact of a Long-Term Care Information Campaign on Insurance Purchase"
Journal of Health Economics, Vol. 92:102822, 2023.

"Child Care over the Business Cycle" with Chris M. Herbst
Journal of Labor Economics, Vol. 40(S1): S429-S468, 2022.

“Mandated Benefits, Imperfect Information, and Moral Hazard: A Model and Application to Temporary Disability Insurance”

Southern Economic Journal, Vol. 88(3): 1037-1064, 2022.

“The Global COVID-19 Student Survey: First Wave Results” with David A. Jaeger, Jaime Arellano-Bover, Krzysztof Karbownik, Marta Martínez-Matute, John Nunley, R. Alan Seals, and 37 others

Covid Economics, Vol. 79(1): 152-217, 2021.

WORKING PAPERS

“Minimum Wage, Worker Quality, and Consumer Well-Being: Evidence from the Child Care Market” with Chris M. Herbst

(Third Round R&R, Journal of Human Resources)

“Undersupply or Lack of Demand?: Evaluating Measures of Child Care Access”

“An Equilibrium Model of the Impact of Increased Public Investment in Early Childhood Education” with Chloe Gibbs, Chris M. Herbst, Aaron Sojourner, Erdal Tekin, and Matthew J. Wiswall

“Does Public Pre-K Have Unintended Consequences on the Child Care Market for Infants and Toddlers?”

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Moore Fellowship, Darla Moore School of Business	2025-present
Riegel and Emory Human Resource Center Grant (\$5,000)	2025-2026
Riegel and Emory Human Resource Center Grant (\$5,000)	2024-2025
Washington Center for Equitable Growth Early Career Scholar (\$30,000)	2024-2026
Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant, with Chris M. Herbst (\$454,022)	2024-2027
Darla Moore School of Business Internal Grant (\$4,270)	2023-2024
Darla Moore School of Business Internal Grant (\$2,000)	2020-2021
Darla Moore School of Business Internal Grant (\$5,000)	2019-2020
Richard A. Lester Fellowship for Industrial Relations, Princeton University	2017-2018
Louis A. Simpson *60 Graduate Fellowship, Princeton University	2013-2014
Phi Beta Kappa, University of Notre Dame	2011
Omicron Delta Epsilon, University of Notre Dame	2011

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2026: Association for Education Finance and Policy (*scheduled*)

2025: Princeton University, Florida State University, Society of Labor Economists, Association for Public Policy & Management, Southern Economic Association

2024: American Economic Association, Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop, Society of Labor Economists, Triangle Economics of Education Workshop, Brookings Institution, NBER

Summer Institute, Association for Public Policy & Management, Southern Economic Association

2023: University of Notre Dame Alumni Conference, Princeton University Industrial Relations Centennial, University of Virginia (Education), Southern Economic Association

2022: Association for Public Policy & Management, Clemson University, Census LED Webinar, Carolina Regional Empirical Economics Day, Southern Economic Association

2021: Association for Education Finance and Policy, Southeastern Micro Labor Workshop

2020: Eastern Economic Association Annual Meeting, Tufts University

2019: University of South Carolina, Joint Committee on Taxation, George Washington University, Upjohn Institute, Federal Trade Commission, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Association for Public Policy & Management, Southeastern Health Economics Study Group

2018: University of Notre Dame, Princeton University, Economics Graduate Students' Conference at Washington University in St. Louis, Haverford College

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee:

AERA Open, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Journal of Public Health, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, Child & Youth Care Forum, Contemporary Economic Policy, The Economic Journal, Economica, Evaluation and Program Planning, Health Economics, International Journal of Child Care and Education Policy, Journal of Demographic Economics, Journal of Family and Economic Issues, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Capital, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Urban Economics, LABOUR: Review of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations, Oxford Economic Papers, PLOS ONE, Review of Economics of the Household, Social Service Review, Southern Economic Journal

Grant Reviewer:

Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Inter-American Development Bank GDLab ("The Care Economy" external advisor), Washington Center for Equitable Growth

Program Committee:

2025: Association for Public Policy & Management (Child & Family Policy; Education)

2024: Association for Public Policy & Management (Child & Family Policy)

Updated January 2026