



# APPAM

39th Annual Fall Research Conference



ASSOCIATION FOR  
PUBLIC POLICY ANALYSIS  
& MANAGEMENT

Measurement  
Matters:  
Better Data  
for Better  
Decisions

November 2 - 4, 2017  
Chicago, Illinois

## **Dominique Baker**

***Assistant Professor of Education Policy, Southern Methodist University***

Dominique Baker is an Assistant Professor of Education Policy in the Annette Caldwell Simmons School of Education and Human Development and an Associate in the John Goodwin Tower Center for Political Studies. Her research focuses on the effects of higher education access policies on students, particularly those who are underrepresented within higher education. She is currently a researcher with the Texas OnCourse Research Network, focusing on factors that influence the debt burden of Texas graduates.

She earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies from Peabody College at Vanderbilt University. She was the recipient of an Association for Institutional Research dissertation grant, Vanderbilt University Provost's Graduate Fellowship, Vanderbilt University Experimental Education Research Training Fellowship, and UCEA Barbara L. Jackson Scholarship. She has been named a Thomas B. Fordham Institute and American Enterprise Institute Emerging Education Policy Scholar. She earned her Master of Education in Student Affairs Practice in Higher Education and Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Virginia. Prior to pursuing her Ph.D., Dominique served as an Assistant Dean in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at the University of Virginia.

## **Seth Gershenson, American University**

***Assistant Professor & Labor Economist***

Dr. Gershenson is an Associate Professor of Public Policy in the School of Public Affairs at American University. Dr. Gershenson is also a faculty affiliate of AU's School of Education and a Research Fellow at The Institute of Labor Economics (IZA). His research interests are in the economics of education, labor economics, time use, and education policy.

## **Carolyn Hill**

***Senior Fellow, MDRC***

Carolyn Hill joined MDRC in 2014 from Georgetown University where she was a tenured associate professor of public policy. Carolyn is working on the Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation and the Families Forward Demonstration. She also co-curates MDRC's Implementation Research Incubator and helps lead MDRC's Implementation Research Group, which supports innovative and rigorous implementation research methods across the organization's policy areas and studies. Hill is the author of three books and a number of journal articles that address implementation, public management, performance measurement, and program evaluation, including *Public Management: Thinking and Acting in Three Dimensions*. She earned a B.A. in political science and Russian area studies from the University of Missouri-Columbia in 1989, an M.A. in public affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996, and a Ph.D. in public policy from the University of Chicago in 2001.

**Bob Kaestner**

***Professor of Public Policy and Economics, University of Illinois, Chicago***

Robert Kaestner is a Professor at the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois Chicago. Dr. Kaestner is also a Research Associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research, a consultant to the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Senior Fellow of the Schaeffer Center for Health economics, and an Affiliated Scholar of the Urban Institute. Dr. Kaestner received his Ph.D. in Economics from the City University of New York. He received his BA and MA from Binghamton University (SUNY).

Dr. Kaestner's areas of research interest are the economic and social determinants of health, health demography, and health, labor and social policy evaluation. He has published over 100 articles in academic journals. Dr. Kaestner is Co-Editor/Managing Editor of the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Associate Editor of Journal of Health Economics, Associate Editor of American Journal of Health Economics, Associate Editor of the Review of Economics of the Household, and on the Editorial Board of Demography.

**Jeffrey Lubell**

***Principal Associate & Director of Housing and Community Initiatives, Social & Economic Policy, Abt Associates***

Jeffrey Lubell—a leading authority on housing and community development—is the director of Housing and Community Initiatives at Abt Associates. In that capacity, he provides policy, program and research expertise to assist policymakers in solving the nation's pressing challenges in the areas of affordable housing, economic inclusion and asset-building, and community development.

Prior to joining Abt, Lubell was the executive director of the nonprofit Center for Housing Policy and earlier served as director of the Policy Development Division in the Office of Policy Development and Research at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. A former Fulbright Scholar, Lubell holds a JD from Harvard Law School.

**Elizabeth Mann**

***Fellow in the Brown Center on Education Policy, Brookings Institution***

Elizabeth Mann is a Fellow in the Brown Center on Education Policy at Brookings. She studies the politics of education, and in particular, how federal-state relationships shape education policy. Her research investigates how presidents pursue their policy goals through extra-legislative strategies at the subnational level, focusing on waivers granted from federal laws in K-12 education, welfare, and Medicaid. In other work, Elizabeth studies how aggregate U.S. partisanship changes over time and how attitudes towards women's role in society have changed.

Elizabeth earned her Ph.D., M.A., and B.A. in political science at the University of Michigan. Previously, she worked at the HighScope Center for Early Education Evaluation and as a middle school social studies teacher through Teach for America.

**Andrew McEachin**

***Policy Researcher, RAND Corporation***

Dr. McEachin is a Policy Researcher at the RAND Corporation. Prior to joining RAND, he was an Assistant Professor of Educational Policy Analysis and Program Evaluation in the Department of Leadership, Policy, and Adult and Higher Education at North Carolina State University, and an IES Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Virginia's Curry School of Education. Dr. McEachin received his Ph.D. in Education Policy and M.A. in Economics from the University of Southern California and his A.B. in History from Cornell University.

The unifying goal of Dr. McEachin's research is to generate rigorous policy-relevant evidence to help educators and policy-makers in their efforts to raise student achievement and narrow achievement gaps. His research agenda focuses on the determinants of persistent achievement gaps as well as evaluating the effect of popular responses by policymakers and educators to reduce these gaps. Examples of these include standards-based accountability, school choice initiatives, teacher labor markets, and curricular intensification.

***Cynthia Osborne***

***Associate Professor, LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin***

Dr. Cynthia Osborne is an Associate Professor at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) and Director of the Child and Family Research Partnership, a center that aims to strengthen families and public policy through rigorous research. She is also the director of the Center for Health and Social Policy, a network of scholars whose work focuses on reducing social disparities. She has extensive experience conducting long-term program evaluations, helping organizations understand what works and why, and how to ensure sustainable implementation of effective policies. Her work includes numerous large-scale evaluations of programs that serve vulnerable children and families including: multiple state-wide programs of the Texas child support system, one of the largest home visiting programs in the country (Texas), state-wide CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates), and numerous fatherhood programs. She serves as the Chair of the Responsible Fatherhood working group for the national collaborative Fatherhood Research and Practice Network and directs UT Austin's institutional membership of the University-Based Child Family Policy Consortium. Dr. Osborne holds a Ph.D. in Demography and Public Affairs from Princeton University, a Master in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and a Master of Arts in Education from Claremont Graduate University.

**Rob Santillano*****Researcher – Economist, Mathematica Policy Research***

At Mathematica, Robert studies a broad set of education policy questions ranging from the impacts of professional development for early childhood educators, to the distribution of teachers of various quality across schools. He also served as a senior member of the What Works Clearinghouse systematic review team for the Institute of Education Sciences. He received his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department where his dissertation focused on the integration of immigrant students in public schools.

**Kosali Simon*****Herman B. Wells Endowed Professor, Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs***

Dr. Kosali Simon joined SPEA as a professor in 2010. In 2016 she was also named a Herman B Wells Endowed Professor, becoming only the third recipient of this honor at Indiana University. Her current main research focus is the impact of health insurance reform on healthcare and labor market outcomes. Simon is a research associate of the National Bureau for Economic Research, a group with which she has been affiliated since 2002. She serves as a member of the governing body of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and management (APPAM). She also served a three-year term with the nation's largest health philanthropy, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF). In 2007, Simon was recognized for her early contributions to health services research as the recipient of the John D. Thompson Prize for Young Investigators.