

Carolyn Davin

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Fields of Interest

Labor Economics, Economics of the Family, Economics of Education, Economic History, and Demography

Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Notre Dame	May 2028 (exp.)
M.A. Economics, University of Notre Dame	July 2024
B.S. Applied & Computational Mathematics & Statistics and Economics (Honors), University of Notre Dame	May 2021

Research Affiliations

Research Affiliate, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research	2026 –
Special Sworn Status, U.S. Census Bureau	2026 –

Publications

Davin, Carolyn, and Thiago Ferreira (2022). “Longer-Run Neutral Rates in Major Advanced Economies,” FEDS Notes. Washington: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, December 01, 2022, <https://doi.org/10.17016/2380-7172.3220>.

Working Papers

“From Mobilization to Marriage: World War II and Men’s Family Formation”

In this paper, I study how local exposure to World War II mobilization affected men’s transitions into marriage, household formation, and early parenthood. I combine the 1940 full-count Census with linked 1940–1950 Census records to construct a county-level measure of wartime mobilization and follow men from their prewar counties of residence to their postwar family outcomes. The empirical strategy combines within-state differences in county mobilization with flexible differences across single-year age cohorts. Specifications include county fixed effects and state-by-birth-year fixed effects, allowing the relationship between mobilization and postwar outcomes to vary nonparametrically by age in 1945. Higher county mobilization is associated with greater entry into marriage, spouse presence, and early parenthood among younger cohorts, while the relationships attenuate among older cohorts. The corresponding age profile for World War II veteran status follows a similar pattern. I provide new evidence that wartime mobilization changed men’s transitions into adult family roles and highlights the direct and local channels through which military mobilization may have reshaped postwar families.

“Changes at Conception: Impacts of Pregnancy and Childbirth on Labor Market Outcomes, Household Specialization and Gender Attitudes” (with Wilfried Adohinzin, Allen Hardiman, Rebecca Thornton, and Theodoros Velentzas)

A large literature documents declines in women’s employment following childbirth, but most estimates rely on annual data and implicitly assume labor supply remains stable until birth. In this paper, we use monthly

pregnancy and birth timing from the Generations and Gender Survey covering 13 European countries, which records pregnancy status and expected month of childbirth, to examine labor supply and household dynamics from conception. We implement a matched event study design that traces outcomes across pregnancy trimesters and matches future parents to observationally similar childless individuals to recover pre-pregnancy trends. We find that 35 to 40 percent of the total decline in maternal employment observed at childbirth occurs during pregnancy, with the largest reductions in the third trimester. Fathers also adjust before birth, increasing employment and hours worked during their partner’s pregnancy; these responses are concentrated among unmarried men. These patterns indicate that labor market divergence begins during pregnancy rather than at childbirth. We further show that these changes coincide with coordinated shifts in other household behavior: women take on a greater share of routine tasks, financial strain worsens, within-couple conflict increases, and beliefs about family roles adjust. Overall, pregnancy marks the onset of household reoptimization, as labor supply, household production, financial constraints, and beliefs begin to adjust prior to childbirth. Our findings suggest that annual data may understate how early parenthood-related changes emerge and may misattribute pregnancy-related adjustments to the post-birth period.

Works in Progress

- “The Cost of Child Care.” *Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Care*. In progress (with Chloe Gibbs).
“Lines That Last: Historical Districts and Urban Inequality.” (with Evan Mast).
“Regulating Care: Effects on Child Care Markets and Workers.” (with Jacob Bastian and Chloe Gibbs).

Research Experience

Research Assistant to Dan Hungerman, University of Notre Dame	July 2026 –
Research Assistant to Evan Mast, University of Notre Dame	Aug. 2025 –
Research Assistant to Chloe Gibbs, W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research	Aug. 2025 – Nov. 2025
Research Assistant to Marinho Bertanha, University of Notre Dame	Jan. 2025 – June 2025
Senior Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Board of Governors	July 2021 – July 2023

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, University of Notre Dame, Graduate Econometrics	Aug. 2024 – July 2025
Student Athlete Tutor, University of Notre Dame	Jan. 2018 – Oct. 2020

Presentations

ASSA Annual Meeting, CSWEP Session	January 2027
Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting	November 2026
W.E. Upjohn Institute Summer Conference	June 2026
Notre Dame Economics Department Graduate Student Workshop	2025, 2026

Fellowships, Honors, and Awards

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	Aug. 2023 –
Richard and Peggy Notebaert Premier Fellowship	Aug. 2023 –
Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society	May 2021 –
Outstanding Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics Student Award	May 2021
Undergraduate Research Fellow, Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study	Aug. 2020–May 2021
Economics Honors Program	Aug. 2020–May 2021

Computational Skills

Stata, Matlab, R, Python, L^AT_EX, Excel

Other Work Experience

Economic Research Intern, Federal Reserve Board of Governors	June 2020 – Dec. 2020
Sports Analytics Intern, Performance Science Team, Notre Dame	Jan. 2019 – Oct. 2020

Service

Co-Organizer, Notre Dame Economics Graduate Student Workshop	Aug. 2025 – Aug. 2026
Co-Chair, Notre Dame Economics Graduate Student Committee	Aug. 2025 – May 2026
Professional Development Chair, ND Graduate Student Government	July 2024 – July 2025
Board Member, Federal Reserve Board RA Resource Group Leadership Board	July 2022 – July 2023
Leader, Federal Reserve Board RA Women in Economics Initiative	July 2022 – July 2023

Referee Service

Journal of Population Economics

References

Kasey Buckles

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Daniel Hungerman

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