

Brachel Champion

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Education

Ph.D., Economics, University of Colorado Boulder, May 2022 (Expected)

M.A., Economics, University of Colorado Boulder, May 2018

B.A., Economics, University of Central Florida (with honors), May 2016

Research Interests

Health, labor, development

Job Market Paper

“Who Benefits Most From a Same-Race Mentor? Evidence From a Nationwide Youth Mentoring Program” (with Zachary Szlendak and Corey Woodruff)

Abstract: We identify the impacts of assigning a mentor of the same race or ethnicity on the social, emotional and academic development of youth relative to assigning a mentor of a different race or ethnicity. Using the universe of matches from a nationwide youth mentoring program, we document that a rich set of pre-match observables are balanced across same-race/ethnicity match status. We find that Black and Hispanic youth assigned a same-race/ethnicity mentor had slightly faster growth in self-perceived school ability and attitudes toward risky behaviors after twelve months of mentoring, relative to cross-race matches. On the other hand, cross-race matched Hispanic youth had improvements in course grades and cross-race matched Black youth were more likely to report having a “special adult” in their life. In contrast to previous work on race-matching, we do not find improvements in grades or expectations for future educational attainment. Given that racial/ethnic minority mentors are often in short supply, these results imply matching on race or ethnicity at the expense of other desirable traits is not necessarily optimal.

Publications

“Thirty-Five Years Later: Long-Term Effects of the Matlab Maternal and Child Health / Family Planning Program on Women’s Well-Being” (with Tania Barham, Andrew Foster, Jena Hamadani, Warren C. Jochem, Gisella Kagy, Randall Kuhn, Jane Menken, Abdur Razzaque, Elisabeth D. Root and Patrick S. Turner) *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol. 118, no. 28, July 2021, p. e2101160118, doi:10.1073/pnas.2101160118.

Working Papers

“Early Childhood Health and Family Planning: Long-Term and Intergenerational Effects on Human Capital” (with Tania Barham, Gisella Kagy and Jena Hamadani)

Works in Progress

“Long Run Impacts of Famine Exposure: A Study of the 1974-1975 Bangladesh Famine” (with Gisella Kagy)
“Mental Health Parity and Depression”
“Dynamic Social Network Effects of Refugee Resettlement”

Presentations

2021: ASHEcon Annual Meeting, MEA Annual Meeting, PAA Annual Meeting, WEAI International Conference, WEAI Annual Conference, IBS Speaker Series, IBS Graduate Research Symposium

2020: WEAI Annual Conference, PAA Annual Meeting (Canceled)

Professional Service

Session organizer & chair, "Human Capital Accumulation in Adolescence & Early Adulthood" 2021 WEAI Annual Conference

Organizer, Graduate Student Research Seminar (2017-present)

Research Experience

June 2017–Present: Research Assistant, Matlab Health and Socioeconomic Survey, Tania Barham

Spring 2019: Research Assistant, Health & Society Program, Institute of Behavioral Science

Teaching Experience

Instructor:

Math Tools for Economists II (x2), *Instructor overall ratings: 5.50, 5.77/6*

Intro to Statistics, *Instructor overall rating: 5.04/6*

Teaching assistant:

Principles of Microeconomics (x3), Principles of Macroeconomics, Intro to Statistics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Environmental Economics

Honors and Awards

Stanford Calderwood Student Teaching Award, University of Colorado Boulder (2020)

Reuben A. Zubrow Fellowship, University of Colorado Boulder (2019, 2021)

Prize in Econometrics, University of Colorado Boulder (2017)

References

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Gisella Kagy, PhD (professional reference)

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