

MICHAEL BRISKIN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, 2026 (expected)

Dissertation Committee: James Feigenbaum, Robert Margo, and Joshua Goodman

M.A., Political Economy, Boston University, Boston MA, 2023

A.B., Economics, Brown University, Providence RI, 2016

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Economic History, Economics of Education

PUBLICATIONS

“Organization and Performance of US Health Systems,” (with Nancy D. Beaulieu, Michael E. Chernew, J. Michael McWilliams, Mary Beth Landrum, Maurice Dalton, Angela Yutong Gu, Rachel Wu, Zakaria El Amrani, Helene Machado, Andrew L. Hicks, and David M. Cutler) *JAMA*, (2023) 329(4): 325–335.

WORKING PAPERS

“Teacher Supply and Long-Run Student Outcomes: Evidence from World War II,” October 2025. Job Market paper.

“Women, War, and Weak Instrument: A Re-Reassessment of the Role of World War II on Women’s Labor Supply,” October 2025.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Private Health Insurance, Physician Labor Markets, and Health Outcomes in Mid-Twentieth Century America”

“The Effects of Combat on Labor Market Outcomes and Longevity: Evidence from Linked World War II Army Hospital Records” (with Yicheng Chen and Vasudha Ramakrishna)

“Subject-Specific School Investment and Labor Market Outcomes: Evidence from the National Defense Education Act” (with Joshua Goodman, Tadeja Gračner, Mingyan Ma, and Christine Mulhern)

PRESENTATIONS

American Economic Association, Philadelphia, PA, 2026 (scheduled) (poster)

Harvard University, Graduate Workshop in Economic History, Cambridge, MA 2025

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, PA 2025

Economic History Association, Philadelphia, PA 2025

American Economic Association, San Francisco, CA, 2025

Association for Education Finance and Policy, Washington, D.C. 2025

Southern Economic Association, Washington, D.C. 2024

Harvard University, Graduate Workshop in Economic History, Cambridge, MA 2024

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Philadelphia Fed Mentoring & Advancing PhDs Program, September 2025
NBER Graduate Fellow in Aging and Health Economics, 2024-2025
Best Second Year Paper, BU Economics, Honorable Mention, 2023
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Honorable Mention, 2020

WORK EXPERIENCE

ACADEMIC

Boston University, Research Assistant for Joshua Goodman, Summer 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2025
Boston University, Research Assistant for Linh Tô, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024
National Bureau of Economic Research, Research Specialist for David Cutler, 2018-2020
Brown University, Research Assistant for Matthew Kraft, 2015-2016

NON-ACADEMIC

Senior Analyst, Analysis Group, Boston, MA 2016-2018

REFeree EXPERIENCE

Journal of Human Resources

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow, EC101 Introduction to Economics (undergraduate), Boston University, Fall 2023
Teaching Fellow, EC204 Empirical Economics II (undergraduate), Boston University, Fall 2021

COMPUTER SKILLS: Stata, R, SAS, LaTeX

CITIZENSHIP: United States

REFERENCES

Professor James Feigenbaum

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Boston University
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Professor Robert Margo

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Teacher Supply and Long-Run Student Outcomes: Evidence from World War II (Job Market Paper)

World War II spurred an unprecedented exodus of teachers from American schools, primarily men leaving for military service. Using a difference-in-differences framework that exploits geographic variation in the pre-war gender composition of the teacher workforce and students' ages, I estimate the effects of childhood exposure to this teacher supply shock on educational attainment and labor market outcomes. Increased exposure reduces high school and college completion, as well as adult income. States more affected by this shock responded by hiring more teachers on emergency licenses, resulting in a decrease in teachers' educational attainment. These changes in the composition of the teacher workforce persisted long after the war, suggesting that even temporary shocks to teacher supply can have lasting impacts on student outcomes through changes in teacher quality.

Women, War and Weak Instruments: A Re-Reassessment of the Role of World War II on Women's Labor Supply

This paper revisits World War II's effect on female labor force participation (FLFP) using newly available complete count census data from 1940 and 1950. I replicate two seminal papers—Acemoglu, Autor, and Lyle (2004) and Goldin and Olivetti (2013)—which use the state-level military mobilization rate of men as a source of variation in women's labor supply. When applying their specifications to the complete count data, I find substantially smaller and typically insignificant effects of the war on FLFP. The mobilization rate is therefore a weak instrument for growth in FLFP, calling into question estimates that use mobilization to instrument for FLFP's effects on wages. I repeat these analyses using 10,000 random 1% subsamples of the complete count data, comparable to the 1% samples used by these authors. In all cases, the distribution of estimates varies widely, suggesting that different census samples can generate very different conclusions when estimating the effects of state-level treatment. These findings challenge previous conclusions about WWII's impact on women's labor force participation and highlight broader methodological concerns for research using small census samples.