LUWEN MAI
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2026 (expected)
Dissertation Title: *Intrahousehold Labor Dynamics in the U.S. Labor Market: Late 20th and Early 21st Centuries.*
Main advisor: Daniele Paserman
Dissertation Committee: Daniele Paserman, Johannes Schmieder, and Keren Horn

M.A., Economic Policy, Boston University, Boston, MA, May 2019
Master Thesis Title: *The Motherhood Penalty: From the Homosexual Perspective*
Main advisor: Robert Margo

B.A., Economics *(Summa Cum Laude)*, Boston University, Boston, MA, May 2017
Senior Honors Thesis Title: *Marriage Effect on Wage Income for Homosexuals and Within-Household Specializations: Evidence from 2013-14 American Community Survey*
Main advisor: Daniele Paserman

B.S., Mass Communication Studies *(Summa Cum Laude)*, Boston University, Boston, MA, May 2017

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics (Family Economics), Environmental Economics, Urban Economics

WORKING PAPERS

"For Better or For Worse: The Added Worker Effect in the 21st Century U.S.," June 2025.
- *Job Market Paper. Restricted U.S. administrative microdata*

"Displacement and Domestic Dynamics: Life Cycle, Parenthood, and Paths to Recovery," (joint with Keren Horn), August 2025.
- *Restricted U.S. administrative microdata*

"Childhood Exposure to State Child Support Guidelines and Long-Run Labor Market Outcomes," October 2023.

"The Motherhood Penalty: From the Homosexual Perspective," March 2019.

"Marriage Effect on Wage Income for Homosexuals and Within-Household Specializations: Evidence from 2013-14 American Community Survey," (joint with Kevin Lang, Daniele Paserman, and Steve Rogers), April 2017.

PRESENTATION

WERISE Conference, Boston, MA, 2025 [poster presentation]
Economics of the Household Conference, San Diego, CA, 2017 [presentation by coauthor]

FELLOWSHIP

Lu Lingzi Scholarship, Boston University, Fall 2017 – Spring 2019

SPECIAL SWORN STATUS (SSS)

Obtained security clearance to perform statistical research in a Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC) using restricted microdata

- *U.S. Census Bureau, Cambridge, MA (Spring 2022 – present)*

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Dept of Economics, University of Massachusetts-Boston, Spring 2025 – present
"Hurricanes, Floods and Fires: Understanding the Disparate Employment Impacts of Climate Change"

- *Special Sworn Status Researcher. Restricted U.S. administrative microdata*

Research Assistant, Dept of Economics, Tufts University, Fall 2021 – Fall 2024
"The Geography of Worker Adaptation: Industry, Skills, Retraining, Mobility, and Housing Costs"

- *Special Sworn Status Researcher. Restricted U.S. administrative microdata*

Research Assistant, Dept of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2018
"Gender Roles and Household Time Allocation and Adjustment: Evidence from Japanese Panel Survey"

Research Assistant, Dept of Small & Micro-Businesses, YuanHu Sub-branch, GuangXi Zhuang Autonomous Region Brach, China Construction Bank, Summer 2015
Construct data dashboards and formulate monthly reports

PEER-REVIEW SERVICE

Review of Economics of the Household, Summer 2024 & Spring 2025

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Empirical Economics 2, Dept of Economics, Boston University, Summer 2024
Teaching Fellow, Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis, Dept of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2021 & Spring 2022
Teaching Fellow, Introductory Microeconomic Analysis, Dept of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2020
Academic Tutor, Athletic Department, Boston University, Fall 2016 – Fall 2018
Academic Mentor, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University, Spring 2015 & 2016

LANGUAGES: Fluent in Chinese (Mandarin) and English

COMPUTER SKILLS: Stata, LaTeX

REFERENCES

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LUWEN MAI

For Better or For Worse: The Added Worker Effect in the 21st Century U.S. (Job Market Paper)

The added worker effect (AWE) – where one spouse increases labor supply in response to the other's job loss – serves as a key mechanisms of intra-household insurance among married or long-term partnered couples. This paper provides a life-cycle perspective on the muted AWE observed in developed countries, with evidence drawing on restricted U.S. administrative microdata. Using an event study framework combined with a *matched* difference-in-difference approach, I show that the aggregate muted AWE masks substantial heterogeneity: younger couples exhibit positive labor supply responses, while older couples display retirement-like labor market exits. The presence of children strengthens the AWE response, particularly among mothers. In contrast, in childless households, female spouses are more likely to reduce their own labor force participation, often accommodating their displaced husbands' need to relocate or pursue new employment opportunities.

Displacement and Domestic Constraints: Life Cycle, Family Roles, and Self-Employment Transitions *(with Keren Horn, disclosure review pending)*

This project complements my job market paper "For Better or For Worse: The Added Worker Effect in the 21st Century U.S." by analyzing how life cycle stages, family structure, and household dynamics shape labor market recovery after job displacement. Drawing on restricted U.S. administrative microdata, it examines how parental status, gender and spousal earnings interact to influence unemployment risks and post-displacement earnings trajectories. The paper also investigates self-employment as a potential recovery strategy and evaluates how its effectiveness varies across demographic and household profiles.

Childhood Exposure to State Child Support Guidelines and Long-Run Labor Market Outcomes

Federal legislation on child support payment calculations may result in differential labor market impacts by gender. This study focuses on the implementation of statewide child support payment guidelines in the mid- to late-1980s and estimates the long-run effects on employment and labor income from childhood exposure to such guidelines. One contribution of this paper is summarizing the year of guideline adoption for each state. I use longitudinal micro-data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, as well as quantile and ordinary least squares regressions in this study. Results show that, although there are no discernible long-run employment and earnings effects on the overall sample, longer exposure to state child support guidelines is associated with a 20% decrease in male labor income and a 7% increase in female labor income, even after controlling for state and cohort fixed effects. Further analyses suggest that the implementation of state child support guidelines has a weak impact on child support payments in the sample. However, it has unexpectedly encouraged parental separation, which potentially contributes to the differential long-run labor market outcomes for men and women.

January 2025