

HARNEET KAUR

Fay W. Boozman College of Public Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
Center for the Study of Obesity, 4301 West Markham, Little Rock, AR 72205

hkaur@uams.edu | harneetkaur.in

Education

Ph.D. in Social Science (Policy and Economics Concentration), Syracuse University 2025

Dissertation: Exploring the Interplay of Restorative Justice, Mental Health, and Support Structures in Shaping Student Outcomes

Committee: Prof. Sarah Hamersma (Advisor), Prof. Ying Shi, Prof. Maria Zhu

Ph.D. Coursework in Economics, SUNY Stony Brook University 2018–19

M.A. in Economics, Panjab University 2016

B.A. in Economics, Panjab University 2014

Honors in Economics

Academic Employment

Postdoctoral Fellow, College of Public Health, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences 2025–Present
Little Rock, AR

- Manage and analyze linked statewide K–12 administrative education records and all-payer claims data for projects on universal free meals, mental health, discipline, and Medicaid spending.
- Apply causal inference methods, including difference-in-differences, fixed effects, and event-study designs, to evaluate education and health policy interventions.
- Integrate weather records, school administrative data, and accelerometer-based activity measures; support partner-school fieldwork, community-engaged research, and grant development.

Research Interests

Primary Education Policy; Policy Analysis; Program Evaluation; Causal Inference; Mental Health; Labor Economics (Human Capital)

Secondary Machine Learning for Causal Inference; Predictive Analytics

Research

Forthcoming

- **Universal Free School Meals and Medicaid Spending: Evidence from Linked Education and Claims Data in Arkansas.**

Forthcoming, Health Affairs Scholar (HAS).

Joe Sundell, Harneet Kaur, Gwendolyn Lawson, Bradley Martin, Mick Tilford, Joseph W. Thompson, and Michael R. Thomsen.

Revise and Resubmit

- **A Clinic-Based Approach to Food Insecurity and Cancer: The HOPE for Cancer Study.**

Revise and resubmit, Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (JAND).

Peter DelNero, Harneet Kaur, Amber Kaufman, Alyssa Frisby, Jeanette Shack, Tess Bentley, Ciara Jenkins, Harriet Farley, Anne Marie Morse, Gina Drobena, and Michael R. Thomsen.

Under Review

- **Behavioral and Mental Health Diagnoses and School Discipline: Evidence from Linked Administrative and Claims Data.**

Under review.

Harneet Kaur, Joe Sundell, Gwendolyn Lawson, Bradley Martin, Mick Tilford, Joseph W. Thompson, and Michael R. Thomsen.

- **Exploring the Move Away from Zero-Tolerance Policies: Evidence from Restorative Justice Practices in Texas and Michigan Schools.**

Under review.

Harneet Kaur.

- **Asymmetric Effects: SNAP Caseloads When Work Requirements Are Dropped and Reinstated.**

Under review.

Sarah Hamersma and Harneet Kaur.

- **The Associations of Objectively Measured Physical Activity via Accelerometry with Various Anthropometrics in Predominantly Minority Schoolchildren.**

Under review.

Matthew J. Barenie, Michael R. Thomsen, Harneet Kaur, Erin K. Howie, and Kari A. Weber.

Working Papers

- **The Impact of Access to Mental Health Resources on Students' Disability Diagnoses.**
- **Exploring the Relationship Between Mental Health Issues in Youth and Later-Life Economic Outcomes.**

Works in Progress

- Universal Free Meals, Mental Health, and School Discipline.
- Mental Health Access and School Discipline: Evidence from North Carolina.
- Peer Aggression Exposure and District Exit: Evidence from Student Victimization Reports and Administrative Records. *Joint with Ying Shi.*
- When Weather Keeps Children Inside: Outdoor Recess Disruptions and School Discipline. *Joint with Michael R. Thomsen.*
- Weather, Recess, and School-Day Physical Activity: Evidence from Accelerometer-Based Measures.

Conference Presentations

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference (APPAM)	2025, 2024, 2023, 2022
Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)	2026, 2024 (Poster)
The Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Annual Conference (SREE)	2025, 2024, 2023 (Poster)
Annual Meeting of the Southern Economic Association (SEA)	2025, 2024, 2023
Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon)	2025, 2024 (Poster), 2023
Atlanta Workshop on Public Policy and Child Well-Being (PPCW)	2025

Academic Service

Ad hoc Reviewer, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*

Conference Reviewer, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) 2025

Discussant, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Research Conference (APPAM) 2025

Discussant, Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) 2024

Professional Experience

Graduate Research Associate, Center for Policy Research, Syracuse University 2021–2025

- Research Assistant to Prof. Sarah Hamersma and Prof. Ying Shi.
- Conducted literature reviews, developed policy briefs, and assisted in the acquisition and pre-processing of large datasets.
- Employed quasi-experimental methods for analysis and created data visualizations to communicate findings.
- Developed proposals to acquire restricted student administrative data and helped prepare Institutional Review Board applications.

Senior Business Analyst, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd., Bengaluru, India 2016–2018

- Developed and validated statistical models using SAS for the Anti-Money Laundering domain of a global bank as part of the Global Risk Analytics team.

Awards and Honors

Doctoral Prize, Syracuse University	2025
Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Syracuse University	2025
Certificate in University Teaching, Syracuse University	2024
Dean's Office Summer Project Assistantship	2024
2023 APPAM Equity and Inclusion Student Fellowship	2023
Graduate Student Organization Travel Grant, Syracuse University	2022–24
Syracuse University Fellowship, PhD Social Science Program	2020–24
Full-tuition Scholarship, PhD Economics Program at Stony Brook University	2018
Seth Beni Parshad Memorial Scholarship for outstanding performance in the Graduate Program, Panjab University	2016
Certificate of Merit for securing 5th position at the University level and 2nd position at the College level for the Undergraduate Program	2015

Teaching Experience

Syracuse University

Econ, Stats & Math Refresher, Defense Comptrollership Program Bootcamp (Graduate Level, Instructor)	Sum 2025, 2024
Fundamentals of Policy Analysis (Graduate level, Tutor)	Sum 2024, 2023, 2022
Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences (Undergraduate level, TA)	Spr 2024, Fall 2023
Introduction to Statistics (Graduate level, TA)	Fall 2022

University of Michigan

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods	Sum 2023
Introduction to Computing for Data Analysis (TA)	
Introduction to the LaTeX text processing system (TA)	

Stony Brook University

Introduction to Economics (TA, Undergraduate level)	Spr 2019, Fall 2018
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Tools & Software

Statistical Software	STATA, SAS, SPSS
Programming Languages	Python, R
Software & Skills	ArcGIS Pro, $\text{\LaTeX}$

References

Sarah Hamersma (PhD Advisor)

Associate Professor; O'Hanley Family Faculty
Scholar
Department of Public Administration &
International Affairs
Syracuse University
sehamers@syr.edu

Ying Shi

Associate Professor; O'Hanley Family Faculty
Scholar
Department of Public Administration &
International Affairs
Syracuse University
yshi78@syr.edu

Michael R. Thomsen

Professor, Governor Sidney S. McMath Chair in
Obesity Prevention
Director, Center for the Study of Obesity
Department of Health Policy and Management
University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
mthomsen@uams.edu

Maria Zhu

Assistant Professor
Department of Economics
Syracuse University
mzhu33@syr.edu