

MAXWELL BULLARD

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EDUCATION

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY, College Station, TX Expected: Spring 2026

PhD in Economics | College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Primary Field: Public, Labor | Secondary Field: Experimental and Behavioral

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, Milwaukee, WI

December 2019

MS in Applied Economics | Graduate School of Management

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY, Milwaukee, WI

May 2017

BS in Business Administration | College of Business Administration | Cum Laude

RESEARCH TOPICS

Fields of Interest: Applied Microeconomics, Behavioral Economics, Public/Health Economics

Research Subjects: Adoption, Behavioral Biases, Child Welfare and Well-Being, Foster Care

RESEARCH PAPERS

Working Papers

“The Economic Effects of Place: Evidence from Child Migration during the Orphan Train Movement” with Jacob Van Leeuwen [\[PDF\]](#)

Abstract: This project evaluates the lifetime and intergenerational impact of place on socioeconomic outcomes stemming from the Orphan Train Movement, the relocation of approximately 300,000 orphaned and surrendered children in New York City to families across the U.S. from 1853 to 1929. Utilizing a “first-in-first-out” mechanism that generated quasi-random assignment of children across the U.S., we estimate the effect of place, defined as a set of institutional characteristics, on a broad set of measures for Orphan Train riders and their descendants. To do this, we develop a novel dataset by digitizing information from historical ledgers, research documents, and state-level censuses during this period to identify children in participating orphanages. We link these data to a panel of complete-count decennial U.S. Censuses from 1850 to 1940. We find that riders who were placed in more residentially developed, wealthy, and populous counties have higher lifetime occupational income scores, have fewer children, and are less likely to farm. These effects persist into the subsequent generation.

“Birth Mother Search for Adoptive Parents” with Marco Castillo and Ragan Petrie

Abstract: Mothers considering placing a child for adoption face information and time constraints. We use a unique dataset from one of the largest private adoption agencies in the U.S. that records mothers' search and adoption decisions to characterize their decision-making. We establish several stylized patterns of mothers' behavior and show that these patterns conform to a model of search with deadlines. Evidence of decision inattention in the choice of adoptive families is present, implying the design of search platforms may be consequential for the welfare of the child. Building on the evidence of search behavior in the data, we use time remaining in pregnancy at the start of the search to measure search intensity. We estimate the welfare effect of the U.S. Supreme Court Dobbs decision to repeal national access to abortion using a sufficient statistics approach. Our preferred interpretation shows that the policy decreased the welfare of mothers considering adoption by at least nine percentage points. The deleterious effects of the Dobbs decision concentrate on minority mothers.

Works in Progress

“The Efficacy of Advocacy in Foster Care”

“Measuring the Impact of Male Unemployment on Intrafamilial Outcomes” with Matthew Eaton and Miranda I. Lambert

“Southern Lynchings and Children's Educational Attainment” with Mary Kate Batistich, Kalena E. Cortes, and Kendall J. Kennedy

“Contextualizing Preferences in Family Formation” with Marco Castillo and Ragan Petrie

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Graduate Assistant

August 2020– Present

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

- **Instructor of Record:**

- ECON 412: Public Finance | Undergraduate | Summer 2025, Spring 2025, Fall 2023
 - Student evaluations (instructor-weighted average): 4.84/5.00 (Fall 2023), 4.50/5.00 (Spring 2025), 4.76/5.00 (Summer 2025)

- **Research Assistant:**

- Dr. Kalena E. Cortes | Fall 2024, Summer 2024, Spring 2024, Summer 2023
- Dr. Ragan Petrie | Summer 2023, Fall 2022, Summer 2022

- **Teaching Assistant:**

- ECON 440: Experimental Economics | Undergraduate | Spring 2023
- ECON 656: Field Experiments in Economics | Graduate | Spring 2023
- ECMT 461: Introduction to Economic Data Analysis | Undergraduate | Spring 2021, Spring 2022
- ECON/WGST 318: The Economics of Gender and Race | Fall 2021
- Economics Tutoring Lab | Graduate and Undergraduate | Fall 2020

Graduate Assistant

August 2018– December 2019

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Graduate Student Lecturer

August 2018– December 2019

MARQUETTE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

- Student course evaluation instructor average rating for of 5.61/6

RESEARCH GRANTS

2024

- Institute for Humane Studies | Humane Studies Fellowship | \$2,500
- Center of Digital Humanities Research at Texas A&M University | Technical Assistance Award | \$515
- College of Arts and Sciences at Texas A&M University | Doctoral Student Research, Travel, and Professional Development Award | \$2,000

PRESENTATIONS

2025

- Midwest Economics Association (MEA's), Atlanta Workshop on Public Policy and Child Well-being (PPCW)

2024

- Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM), Southern Economic Association (SEA's), STATA Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Atlanta Workshop on Public Policy and Child Well-being (PPCW)

2023

- Texas Applied Microeconomics Student (TEAMS) Workshop

AWARDS AND ORGANIZATIONS

- Economics Departmental Assistantship | Texas A&M University | 2019-2026
- Association for Mentoring & Inclusion in Economics Mentee | 2022-2023
- Walter Froehlich Memorial Award for the Outstanding MSAE Professional Project | 2021
- Economics Departmental Assistantship | Marquette University | 2018-2019
- Dean's List, Big East all-academic team, Chi Alpha Sigma Leadership Board | 2015-2017

SKILLS AND PERSONAL INFORMATION

- Programs: Excel, LaTeX, Python, SQL, Stata
- Citizenship: USA

REFERENCES

Ragan Petrie

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Texas A&M University
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Marco Castillo

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Last updated: 07/21/2025