

## CONTACT INFORMATION

University of Notre Dame  
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## RESEARCH FIELDS

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Public Economics, Economic History, Economic Demography

## EDUCATION

**University of Notre Dame** – Notre Dame, IN

Ph.D. in Economics

Exp. May 2025

M.A. in Economics

2020

**University of Alabama** – Tuscaloosa, AL

B.A. in Economics, Political Science, and History, *summa cum laude*

2015

Visiting Student at Universität Mannheim

2013

## PUBLICATIONS

Downes, H., Phillips, D. C. and Sullivan, J. X. (2022), ‘The Effect of Emergency Financial Assistance on Healthcare Use’, *Journal of Public Economics* **208**, 104626. [[Published Version](#)]

## WORKING PAPERS

‘Did Organized Labor Induce Labor? Unionization and the American Baby Boom’  
(Job Market Paper) [[PDF](#)]

Labor unions have many well-documented effects on economic outcomes that are plausibly related to family formation. I study the impact of unionization on fertility using evidence from the largest expansion of unionism in American history: the enactment of the 1935 National Labor Relations Act (NLRA). I introduce new estimates of local union membership and exploit variation in exposure to the NLRA shock to estimate the place level effect of union growth on fertility outcomes. Unionization has positive effects on birth rates and completed fertility, and can account for approximately 20% of overall fertility increases during the Baby Boom. Effects are driven primarily by wage growth, protection against adverse labor market shocks, and impacts on female labor force participation.

‘Can Moves to Opportunity be Constructed? Evidence from the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit’ (with John Soriano and George Zuo) [[PDF](#)]

## WORK IN PROGRESS

‘Jim Crow in Federal Labor Law? The Davis-Bacon Act and Black Economic Mobility’

‘Growth Dynamics of the American Labor Movement’ (with Rob Gillezeau)

‘The Effects of Moving to LIHTC-Subsidized Housing on Labor Market Outcomes’ (with Stephanie Karol, John Soriano, and George Zuo)

## TEACHING

### Moreau College Initiative

Instructor      Research Internship Program      2023

### University of Notre Dame

Instructor      Principles of Microeconomics (UG)      2023  
TA      Statistics for Economists (UG) (x2)      2022-2023  
Tutor      Econometrics (UG)      2022  
Tutor      Statistics for Economists (UG)      2021

## RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

### University of Notre Dame

Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities      2019-2022

### University of Alabama

Alabama Center for Insurance Information and Research      2015-2016

## EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS

**2025:** University of Georgia; University of California, Davis; Florida State University; University of Florida; Ohio State University; Texas A&M University; College of William & Mary

**2024:** Mountain West Economic History Conference; Northwestern University; NBER Summer Institute; Economic History Association; Miami University; Southern Economic Association

**2023:** Midwest Economic Association (session organizer, chair, and presenter); World Congress of Cliometrics; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

**2022:** Young Economist Symposium; Social Science History Association

## GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

### External

Economic History Association, Graduate Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,000)      2024-2025  
Smith Richardson Foundation, Domestic Public Policy Program (\$268,091)      2023-2025

### University of Notre Dame

Graduate School, Three Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition Winner      2024  
Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Award      2024  
Graduate Student Government, Conference Presentation Grant      2024  
Institute for Ethics and the Common Good, Graduate Fellowship      2023-2024  
Center for Social Concerns, Graduate Fellowship      2022-2023  
Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Graduate Research Grant      2022  
Graduate School, Professional Development Grant      2021

### University of Alabama

College of Arts & Sciences, Most Outstanding Junior      2014  
Department of Economics, Special Achievement Award      2014

## **SERVICE**

### **University of Notre Dame**

Organizer, Graduate Student Research Workshop

2021-2022

Co-Chair, Economics Department Graduate Student Council

2021-2022

Ambassador, Economics Department

2019-present

## **COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS**

Stata, MATLAB, R, Python, ArcGIS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## **PERSONAL**

Citizenship: U.S.A.

Special Sworn Status, U.S. Census Bureau

## **REFERENCES**

Kasey Buckles (Co-Chair)

Professor of Economics

University of Notre Dame

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William Evans (Co-Chair)

Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Economics

University of Notre Dame

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Daniel Hungerman

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James Sullivan

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