

# Jhacova A. Williams

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Applied Microeconomics, Culture and Economics, Economic History, Political Economy, Labor

## EDUCATION

Louisiana State University, Ph.D. in Economics, 2018

Louisiana State University, M.S. in Economics, 2016

University of Maryland at College Park, M.S. in Applied Mathematics, 2008

Xavier University of Louisiana, B.S. in Mathematics, 2006

## EMPLOYMENT

American University, Assistant Professor, 2022 – Present

RAND Corporation, Associate Economist, 2020 – 2022

Economic Policy Institute, Economist, 2019 – 2020

Clemson University, Assistant Professor of Economics, 2018 – 2020

Xavier University of Louisiana, Mathematics Instructor, 2008 – 2013

Xavier University of Louisiana, Mathematics Lab Director, 2010 – 2012

## PUBLICATIONS

### [“Historical Lynchings and the Contemporary Voting Behavior of Blacks”](#)

Cultural beliefs of a group, shaped by historical events, can impact a variety of behaviors of future generations with economic implications. This paper examines whether historical lynchings influence the voting behavior of blacks. The results show that counties that were exposed to a relatively higher number of lynchings have lower voter participation of blacks today.

[*AEJ: Applied Economics*, 2022]

### [“Confederate Streets and Labor Market Differentials between Blacks and Whites”](#)

Using individual-level survey data combined with county-level data on street names, this paper investigates whether streets named after prominent Confederate Generals predict black-white labor market differentials. The results show that blacks who reside in localities with a higher number of Confederate streets are less likely to be employed, have lower occupational status, and have lower incomes compared to whites.

[*AEA: Papers & Proceedings*, 2021]

### [“The Persistence of Historical Racial Violence and Political Suppression: Implications for Contemporary Regional Inequality”](#) Coauthors: Trevon D. Logan and Bradley L. Hardy

We provide evidence on the link between lynchings and a range of political and economic outcomes for Black Americans. We document regional inequality in economic well-being and the social safety net, linking the legacy of racialized violence and diminished political capital to persistently higher poverty and lowered investments in social and labor market policies, showing that a key goal of Southern Redemption policies and violence continues to play a role in Black American life in the twenty-first century.

[*The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 2021]

## PUBLICATIONS (continued)

### *“Americans’ View of the Impact of COVID-19: Perspectives on Racial Impacts and Equity”*

Coauthors: Katherine Carman, Anita Chandra, Carolyn Miller, and Christopher Nelson

We use panel data from nationally representative surveys fielded to the same respondents in 2018 and 2020 to assess views and changes in views over time. We find that awareness of inequity is highest among Non-Hispanic Black respondents and higher-income and higher-educated groups, and there have been only small changes in perceptions of inequality over time. However, there have been significant changes in views of the government’s obligation to ensure access to health care.

[*Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 2021]

### *“Black workers endure persistent racial disparities in employment outcomes”*

Coauthor: Valerie Wilson

Black workers are twice as likely to be unemployed as white workers overall. Even black workers with a college degree are more likely to be unemployed than similarly educated white workers. When they are employed, black workers with a college or advanced degree are more likely than their white counterparts to be underemployed when it comes to their skill level. This relatively high black unemployment and skills-based underemployment suggests that racial discrimination remains a failure of an otherwise tight labor market.

[*Economic Policy Institute Report*, 2019]

## WORK IN PROGRESS

### *“County Racial Composition Predicts Polling Station Density”*

This paper investigates whether there are fewer polling locations in areas where blacks reside in southern states using polling location data from the Secretary of State Offices. The preliminary results show that the share of blacks is negatively associated with polling locations, holding constant other plausible determinants of polling station density.

### *“The Unintended Consequence of Public Attention to Police Brutality”*

In this paper, I explore whether public attention to killings by police officers leads to a reduction in police presence on the streets, thereby reducing the deterrence effect of policing, generating a jump in crime. Using the names of victims in police killings from the *Washington Post* database, the preliminary results show that the relative frequency with which victims’ names are searched in *Google* is positively associated with an increase in crime.

### *“Confederate Streets and Educational Outcomes among Black Students”* Coauthors: Maggie Jones and Carycruz Bueno

The constant reminder that an individual belongs to a group that has been historically persecuted could have important implications regarding the trust they place in institutions. This may be particularly salient for African American students who attend schools named after prominent Confederate generals. Our project attempts to address this question by exploiting variation in the re-naming of Confederate schools in the U.S. South to understand whether the name of the school affects student outcomes like educational attainment, test scores, and disciplinary measures.

## PRESENTATIONS

Yale University, New Haven, CT, 2022

University of Maryland, College Park, MD, 2021

## PRESENTATIONS (continued)

Federal Reserve Board, Washington, DC, 2021  
UC Berkeley, Berkeley, CA, 2020  
University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, 2020  
University of California San Diego, San Diego, CA, 2020  
University of Pittsburg, Pittsburg, PA, 2020  
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Chicago, IL, 2020  
APPAM Research Conference, Washington. DC, 2020  
Duke University, Durham, NC 2020  
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, 2019  
Cliometric Society, Columbus, OH, 2019  
SOLE Conference, Arlington, VA, 2019  
ASSA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA, 2019  
NBER Summer Institute, Cambridge, MA, 2018  
Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, 2018  
The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, 2018  
Amherst College, Amherst, MA, 2018  
Williams College, Williamstown, MA 2018  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL, 2018  
Clemson University, Clemson, SC, 2018  
Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, 2018  
Occidental College, Los Angeles, CA, 2018  
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA, 2018  
RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, CA, 2018  
University of Richmond, Richmond, VA, 2018  
ASSA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, 2018  
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Boston, MA, 2017  
SEA Conference, Washington, D.C., 2016  
United States International Trade Commission, Washington, D.C., 2016  
SEA Conference, New Orleans, LA, 2015

## SELECTED BLOG POSTS/MEDIA COVERAGE

“Charting a Path Forward for College Athletes to Receive Pay”, ProMarket, 2021  
<https://promarket.org/2021/07/07/college-athletes-pay-salary-phd-ncaa/>

“Promoting Social Equity in Infrastructure Planning and Delivery”, Inside Sources, 2021  
<https://insidesources.com/promoting-social-equity-in-infrastructure-planning-and-delivery/>

“Laid Off More, Hired Less: Black Workers in the COVID-19 Recession”, The RAND Blog, 2020  
<https://www.rand.org/blog/2020/09/laid-off-more-hired-less-black-workers-in-the-covid.html>

“Black Deaths at the hands of law enforcement are linked to historical lynchings”, EPI Blog, 2020  
<https://www.epi.org/blog/black-deaths-at-the-hands-of-law-enforcement-are-linked-to-historical-lynchings-u-s-counties-where-lynchings-were-more-prevalent-from-1877-to-1950-have-more-officer-involved-killings/>

“Our calls to remove racist symbols are finally being heard”, Brookings Institute, 2020  
<https://www.brookings.edu/blog/how-we-rise/2020/06/18/our-calls-to-remove-racist-symbols-are-finally-being-heard/>

## SELECTED BLOG POSTS/MEDIA COVERAGE (continued)

“How lynching still affects American politics”, The Economist, 2019  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mYYDgYWc3IE>

## HONORS AND AWARDS

AEA Summer Fellow, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, 2017  
AEA Summer Fellow, United States International Trade Commission, 2016  
Graduate Certificate in Econometrics, Louisiana State University, 2016  
Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society, Louisiana State University, 2015  
Huel D. Perkins Doctorate Fellowship, Louisiana State University, 2014  
Outstanding Teacher Award, Xavier University of Louisiana, 2012  
Outstanding Teacher Award, Xavier University of Louisiana, 2011  
NSF LSAMP Bridge to Doctorate Fellowship, University of Maryland at College Park, 2006  
Honors in Mathematics, Xavier University of Louisiana, 2006  
MARC Fellowship, Xavier University of Louisiana, 2004  
Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, Xavier University of Louisiana, 2003  
GAELA Fellowship, Xavier University of Louisiana, 2003  
TOPS Honor Award, Xavier University of Louisiana, 2002

## SOFTWARE

STATA, MATLAB, C++, R, LATEX, ArcGIS