

Chris M. Herbst

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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

Advisory Board Member, The Care Board, 2026-
Member, A Data Infrastructure for Measuring the Care Economy, National Academy of Sciences, 2025-
George Soros Visiting Chair, Department of Public Policy, Central European University, 2023-2024
Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2023-
ASU Foundation Professor, School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University, 2021-
Faculty Affiliate, Center on Technology, Data and Society, School of Public Affairs, ASU, 2020-
Co-Editor, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 2018-2022
Academic Director, Executive MPA Program, School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University, 2017-2022
Research Fellow, Global Labor Organization (GLO), 2017-
Visiting Professor, Department of Economics & Business Economics, Aarhus University, 2017
Visiting Scholar, School of Public Policy, Central European University, 2016
Associate Professor (with tenure), School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University, 2014-2021
Director, MPA and MPP Programs, School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University, 2013-2016
Research Fellow, Institute for Labor Economics (IZA), 2012-
Faculty Affiliate, School of Social Work, Arizona State University, 2010-
Faculty Affiliate, Center for Population Dynamics, Arizona State University, 2009-
Assistant Professor, School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University, 2008-2014
Research Fellow, Jacob France Institute, University of Baltimore, 2006-

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Public Policy, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 2007
M.P.P., Public Policy, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Maryland, 2002
M.S., Social Work/Policy, Columbia University, New York, New York, 2000
B.A., Psychology, Fairfield University, Fairfield, Connecticut, 1998

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Distinguished Faculty Research Award: School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University, 2016
Training Certificate: Institute of Education Sciences Summer Institute on Cluster Randomized Trials, 2014
Distinguished Faculty Research Award: School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University, 2012
Ph.D. Dissertation Award: Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, 2006-2007
Fulbright Fellow: Centre for Comparative Welfare Studies, Aalborg University, Denmark, 2007-2008

PROJECTS & MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Brown, J.H. & Herbst, C.M. The Impact of Private Equity Backed Child Care Services on the Early Education Market.

WORKING PAPERS

Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E. (2025). Reproductive Technology and the Child Care Sector: How Access to Oral Contraception and Abortion Shaped Workforce Composition and Quality. NBER Working Paper No. 33521. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.

Brown, J.H. & Herbst, C.M. (2023). Minimum Wage, Worker Quality, and Consumer Well-Being: Evidence from the Child Care Market. IZA Discussion Paper No. 16257. Bonn, Germany: Institute of Labor Economics. Third revision requested at *Journal of Human Resources*.

Borowsky, J., Brown, J.H., Davis, E.E. Gibbs, C., Herbst, C.M., Sojourner, A., Tekin, E. & Wiswall, M.J. (2022). An Equilibrium Model of the Impact of Increased Public Investment in Early Childhood Education. NBER Working Paper No. 30140. Cambridge, MA: National Bureau of Economic Research.

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

Aslim, E., Currie, J., Herbst, C.M., & Tekin, E. (2026). How Rising ICE Activity Influences the Childcare Workforce. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 123(21), e2602686123.

Herbst, C.M. (2026). Effects of Center-Based Child Care on Disadvantaged Children: Evidence from a Randomized Research Design. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 45(2).

Herbst, C.M. (2025). The Declining Relative Quality of the Child Care Workforce. *Economics of Education Review*, 109, 102726.

Ali, U., Brown, J.H., & Herbst, C.M. (2024). Secure Communities as Immigration Enforcement: How Secure is the Child Care Market? *Journal of Public Economics*, 233.

Ali, U., Herbst, C.M., & Makridis, C. (2024). Minimum Quality Regulations and the Demand for Child Care Labor. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 43(3), 660-695.

Herbst, C.M. & Kose, E. (2024). Head Start Funding Expansions and Program Inputs. *Public Finance Review*, 52(1), 42-77.

Herbst, C. M. Child Care in the United States: Markets, Policy, and Evidence. (2023). *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 42(1), 255-304.

Brown, J.H. & Herbst, C.M. (2022). Child Care over the Business Cycle. *Journal of Labor Economics*, 40(S1), S429-S468.

Ali, U., Herbst, C.M., & Makridis, C. (2021). The impact of COVID-19 on the U.S. child care market: Evidence from stay-at-home orders. *Economics of Education Review*, 82.

Gordon, J., Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E. (2021). Who's Minding the Kids? Experimental Evidence on the Demand for Child Care Quality. *Economics of Education Review*, 80.

Boyd-Swan, C. & Herbst, C.M. (2020). Influence of Quality Credentialing Programs on Teacher Characteristics in Center-Based Early Care and Education Settings. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 51(2), 352-365.

Herbst, C.M., Desouza, K., Alashri, A., Kandala, S., & Khullar, M., & Bajaj, V. (2020). What Do Parents Value in a Child Care Provider? Evidence from Yelp Consumer Reviews. *Early Childhood Research Quarterly*, 51(2), 288-306.

- Boyd-Swan, C. & Herbst, C.M. (2019). Racial and Ethnic Discrimination in the Labor Market for Child Care Teachers. *Educational Researcher*, 48(7), 394-406.
- Farber, H., Herbst, C.M., Silverman, D., & von Wachter, T. (2019). Whom Do Employers Want? The Role of Recent Employment and Unemployment Status and Age. *Journal of Labor Economics*, 37(2), 323-349.
- Herbst, C.M. (2018). The Impact of Quality Rating and Improvement Systems on Families' Child Care Choices and the Supply of Child Care Labor. *Labour Economics*, 54(October), 172-190.
- Boyd-Swan, C. & Herbst, C.M. (2018). The Demand for Teacher Characteristics in the Market for Child Care: Evidence from a Field Experiment. *Journal of Public Economics* (March), 159, 183-202.
- Herbst, C.M. (2018). The Rising Cost of Child Care in the United States. A Reassessment of the Evidence. *Economics of Education Review*, 64(June), 13-30.
- Herbst, C.M. (2017). Universal Child Care, Maternal Employment, and Children's Long-Run Outcomes: Evidence from the U.S. Lanham Act of 1940. *Journal of Labor Economics*, 35(2), 519-564.
- Herbst, C.M. (2017). Are Parental Welfare Work Requirements Good for Disadvantaged Children? Evidence from Age-of-Youngest-Child Exemptions. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 36(2), 327-357.
- Guldi, M. & Herbst, C.M. (2017). Offline Effects of Online Connecting: The Impact of Broadband Diffusion on Teenage Fertility Decisions. *Journal of Population Economics*, 30(1), 69-91.
- Herbst, C.M. & Lucio, J. (2016). Happy in the Hood? The Impact of Residential Segregation on Self-Reported Happiness. *Journal of Regional Science*, 56(3), 494-521.
- Herbst, C.M. & Ifcher, J. (2016). The Increasing Happiness of U.S. Parents. *Review of Economics of the Household*, 14(3), 529-551.
- Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E. (2016). The Impact of Child Care Subsidies on Child Development: Evidence from Geographic Variation in the Distance to Social Service Agencies. *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 35(1), 94-116.
- Boyd-Swan, C., Herbst C.M., Ifcher, J. & Zarghamee, H. (2016). The Earned Income Tax Credit, Mental Health, and Happiness. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 126(Part A), 18-38.
- Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E. (2014). Child Care Subsidies, Maternal Health, and Child-Parent Interactions: Evidence from Three Nationally Representative Datasets. *Health Economics*, 23(8), 894-916.
- Herbst, C.M. (2013). The Impact of Non-Parental Child Care on Child Development: Evidence from the Summer Participation "Dip". *Journal of Public Economics*, 105, 86-105.
- Johnson, A. & Herbst, C.M. (2013). Can We Trust Parental Reports of Child Care Subsidy Receipt? *Children and Youth Services Review*, 35(6), 984-993.

- Herbst, C.M. (2013). Welfare Reform and the Subjective Well-Being of Single Mothers. *Journal of Population Economics*, 26(1), 203-238.
- Boyd-Swan, C. & Herbst, C.M. (2012). Pain at the Pump: Gasoline Prices and Subjective Well-Being. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 72(2-3), 160-175.
- Herbst, C.M. (2012). Footloose and Fancy Free? Two Decades of Single Mothers' Subjective Well-Being. *Social Service Review*, 86(2), 189-222.
- Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E. (2012). The Geographic Accessibility of Child Care Subsidies and Evidence on the Impact of Subsidy Receipt on Childhood Obesity. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 71(1), 37-52.
- Herbst, C.M. (2011). The Earned Income Tax Credit and Abortion. *Social Science Research*, 40(6), 1638-1651.
- Herbst, C.M. (2011). 'Paradoxical' Decline? Another Look at the Relative Reduction in Female Happiness. *Journal of Economic Psychology*, 32(5), 773-788.
- Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E. (2011). Do Child Care Subsidies Influence Single Mothers' Decision to Invest in Human Capital? *Economics of Education Review*, 30(5), 901-912.
- Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E. (2011). Child Care Subsidies and Childhood Obesity. *Review of Economics of the Household*, 9(3), 349-378.
- Herbst, C.M. (2011). The Impact of the Earned Income Tax Credit on Marriage and Divorce: Evidence from Flow Data. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 30(1), 101-128.
- Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E. (2010). Child Care Subsidies and Child Development. *Economics of Education Review*, 29(4), 618-638.
- Herbst, C.M. (2010). The Labor Supply Effects of Child Care Costs and Wages in the Presence of Subsidies and the Earned Income Tax Credit. *Review of Economics of the Household*, 8(2), 199-230.
- Herbst, C.M. & Stevens, D. (2010). The Impact of Local Labor Market Conditions on Work and Welfare Decisions: Revisiting an Old Question Using New Data. *Population Research and Policy Review*, 29(4), 453-479.
- Herbst, C.M. (2008). Do Social Policy Reforms Have Different Impacts on Employment and Welfare Use as Economic Conditions Change? *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 27(4), 867-894.
- Herbst, C.M. (2008). Who are the Eligible Non-Recipients of Child Care Subsidies? *Children and Youth Services Review*, 30(9), 1037-1054.
- Herbst, C.M. & Barnow, B.S. (2008). Close to Home: A Simultaneous Equations Model of the Relationship Between Child Care Accessibility and Women's Labor Force Participation. *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 29(1), 128-151.

OTHER JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

Cesur, R., Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E. (2010). Child Care Choices and Childhood Obesity. *Contributions to Economic Analysis*, 290, 37-62.

Herbst, C.M. (2008). Public Policy and Residential Segregation: A Critique of Iris Young's Strategy of Differentiated Solidarity. *Philosophy and Public Policy Quarterly*, 28(1/2), 13-18.

GRANTS & FUNDED RESEARCH

"Big Daycare: The Growing Influence of Private Equity in the Market for Early Care and Education" supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, Co-Principal Investigator (with Jessica Brown), \$454,022, 2024-2027.

"What Do Parents Value in a Child Care Provider? Evidence from Yelp Consumer Reviews" supported by the College Public Service and Community Solutions, Arizona State University, Co-Principal Investigator (with Kevin Desouza and Sri Kandala), \$30,000, 2017-2018.

"The Demand for Teacher Characteristics in the Child Care Labor Market" supported by the Smith Richardson Foundation, Co-Principal Investigator (with Casey Boyd-Swan), \$16,369, 2016-2017.

"Family Migration and Early Life Outcomes" supported by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, Investigator, \$6,067,685, 2015-2019.

"Advancing Health Equity Through Multi-Level Cultural Determinants Research" supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services National Institutes of Health, Investigator, \$291,708, 2014-2015.

"RCT Evaluation of the Arizona Person First Social Safety Net Demonstration" supported by the Arizona Department of Economic Security, Principal Investigator, \$926,054, 2013-2016.

"Early Childhood Education and Care: A Quantitative Research Program" supported by the Norwegian Research Council for research collaboration and exchange among a group of international scholars studying early childhood care and education (Project Manager: Magne Mogstad), NOK 7,000,000 (USD 1,173,000), 2012-2015.

"The Impact of Child Care Subsidies on the Well-Being of School-Age Children" supported by the Knowledge Enterprise Development Seed Money Investment fund (OVPREA), Arizona State University, \$3,837, 2010.

"Child Care Subsidies and Child Development" supported by the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Mini-Grant Program, \$5,000, 2009.

"Are Child Care Subsidies Cost-Effective?" supported by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Child Care Bureau's Child Care Research Scholars Dissertation Grant, \$50,000, 2005-2007.

POLICY PAPERS (NON-TECHNICAL)

- Borowsky, J., Brown, J.H., Davis, E.E. Gibbs, C., Herbst, C.M., Sojourner, A., Tekin, E. & Wiswall, M.J. (2022). Fixing Child Care: What Expanded Public Subsidies Could Mean for Children, Families, and Teachers. Brown Center on Education Policy's Chalkboard Blog. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
- Herbst, C.M. (2019). Why Requiring Teacher Qualifications for Child Care Might Not Matter in Practice. Brown Center on Education Policy's Chalkboard Blog. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
- Herbst, C.M. (2013). Obama's Early Education Proposals Leave Federal Efforts Fragmented and Incoherent. Brown Center on Education Policy's Chalkboard Blog. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution.
- Herbst, C.M. & Tekin, E. (2010). Childcare subsidies and child wellbeing. London, United Kingdom: Centre for Economic Policy Research and VOX.
- Lopez, M.H., Kirby, E., Sagoff, J., & Herbst, CM. (2005). The Youth Vote 2004: With a Historical Look at Youth Voting Patterns 1972-2004. (2005). Working Paper No. 35. CIRCLE, University of Maryland School of Public Policy.
- Kirby, E. & Herbst, C.M. (2004). Youth Voting in the 2004 Battleground States. Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) Fact Sheet. University of Maryland School of Public Policy.

POPULAR WRITING & OP-EDS

- Herbst, C.M. (2012). "The Good and Bad of Welfare Policy and Women's Work." Opinion-Editorial piece. *East Valley Tribune*.
- Mitra, P. & Herbst, C.M. (2004). "Medicare's Poison Pill." Opinion-Editorial piece. *The Baltimore Sun*. Sunday, February 22, 2004.
- Herbst, C.M. (2002). "Stronger Marriages Should Be U.S. Policy." Opinion-Editorial piece. *The Baltimore Sun*. Monday, September 23, 2002.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Minimum Wage and the Child Care Market" with Jessica Brown (presenter). Paper presented at the Carolina Region Empirical Economics Day (CREED) Conference, October 21, 2022.
- "An Equilibrium Model of the Impact of Increased Public Investment in Early Childhood Education" with Borowsky, J., Brown, J.H., Davis, E.E. Gibbs, C., Herbst, C.M., Sojourner, A., Tekin, E. & Wiswall, M.J. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, November, 2022.
- "The Impact of COVID-19 on the U.S. Child Care Market: Early Evidence" with Ali, U. & Makridis, C. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, November, 2020.
- "Labor Market Impacts of Arizona Full-Day Kindergarten Experiment: Do Heterogeneous Effects Justify Public Spending?" with Ali, U. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management International Conference, July, 2020.

- “The Impact of Low-Skilled Immigration on the Market for Early Care and Education” with Ali, U. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management International Conference, July, 2020.
- “The Impact of Low-Skilled Immigration on the Market for Early Care and Education” with Ali, U. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, November 7-9, 2019.
- “What Do Parents Value in a Child Care Provider? Evidence from Yelp Consumer Reviews” with Desouza, K., Alashri, A., Kandala, S., & Khullar, M., & Bajaj, V. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, November 8-10, 2018.
- “Who’s Minding the Kids? Experimental Evidence on the Demand for Child Care Quality” with Gordon, J. (presenter) and Tekin, E. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, November 8-10, 2018.
- “The Demand for Teacher Characteristics in the Market for Child Care: Evidence from a Field Experiment” with Boyd-Swan C. (presenter). Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, November 8-10, 2018.
- “Racial and Ethnic Discrimination in the Labor Market for Child Care Teachers” with Boyd-Swan C. (presenter). Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, November 8-10, 2018.
- “Racial and Ethnic Discrimination in the Labor Market for Child Care Teachers” with Boyd-Swan C. (presenter). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Society of Labor Economists, Toronto, Canada, May 4-5, 2018.
- “Racial and Ethnic Discrimination in the Labor Market for Child Care Teachers” with Boyd-Swan C. (presenter). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Denver, CO, April 26-28, 2018.
- “The Demand for Teacher Characteristics in the Market for Child Care: Evidence from a Field Experiment” with Boyd-Swan C. (presenter). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, Chicago, IL, April 27-29, 2017.
- “Quality Rating and Improvement Systems, Families’ Child Care Choices, and the Supply of Child Care Labor.” Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, November 3-5, 2016.
- “Are Parental Welfare Work Requirements Good for Disadvantaged Children? Evidence from Age-of-Youngest-Child Exemptions.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Economic Association, Atlanta, GA, November 22-24, 2014.
- “Are Parental Welfare Work Requirements Good for Disadvantaged Children? Evidence from Age-of-Youngest-Child Exemptions.” Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Albuquerque, NM, November 6-8, 2014.

- “Universal Child Care, Maternal Employment, and Children’s Long-Run Outcomes: Evidence from the U.S. Lanham Act of 1940.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Economic Association, Tampa, FL, November 23-25, 2013.
- “Universal Child Care, Maternal Employment, and Children’s Long-Run Outcomes: Evidence from the U.S. Lanham Act of 1940.” Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, November 7-9, 2013.
- “Happy in the Hood? The Impact of Racial Segregation on Happiness” with Lucio, J. (presenter). Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC, November 7-9, 2013.
- “The Impact of Non-Parental Child Care on Child Development: Evidence from the Summer Participation “Dip”.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Population Association of America, New Orleans, LA, April 11-13, 2013.
- “Happy in the Hood? The Impact of Racial Segregation on Happiness” with Lucio, J. (presenter). Paper presented at the Annual Urban Affairs Research Conference, San Francisco, CA, April 3-6, 2013.
- “The Impact of Non-Parental Child Care on Child Development: Evidence from the Summer Participation “Dip”.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Economic Association, San Diego, CA, January 4-6, 2013.
- “The Earned Income Tax Credit, Health, and Happiness” with Casey Boyd-Swan, John Ifcher (presenter), and Homa Zarghamee. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Economic Association, San Diego, CA, January 4-6, 2013.
- “The Impact of Non-Parental Child Care on Child Development: Evidence from the Summer Participation “Dip”.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Economic Association, New Orleans, LA, November 16-18, 2012.
- “The Impact of Non-Parental Child Care on Child Development: Evidence from the Summer Participation “Dip”.” Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Baltimore, MD, November 8-10, 2012.
- “The Earned Income Tax Credit, Health, and Happiness” with Casey Boyd-Swan (presenter), John Ifcher, and Homa Zarghamee. Poster presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Baltimore, MD, November 8-10, 2012.
- “A Bundle of Joy: Does Parenting Really Make Us Miserable?” with John Ifcher . Paper presented at 2011 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, San Francisco, CA, May 3-5, 2012.
- “Child Care Subsidies, Maternal Well-Being and Child-Parent Interactions” with Erdal Tekin. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, D.C., November 3-5, 2011.

- “A Bundle of Joy: Does Parenting Really Make Us Miserable?” with John Ifcher (presenter). Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, D.C., November 3-5, 2011.
- “Gender and Party Preferences for Redistribution: Evidence from State Earned Income Tax Credits” with Andrea Mayo (presenter). Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, D.C., November 3-5, 2011.
- “The Impact of Child Care Subsidies on Child Well-Being: Evidence from Geographic Variation in the Distance to Social Service Agencies” with Erdal Tekin. Paper presented at 2011 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Washington, D.C., March 31-April 2, 2011.
- “I Guess that’s Why They Call It the Blues: Macro-Economic Conditions and Subjective Well-Being.” Paper presented at 2011 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Washington, D.C., March 31-April 2, 2011.
- “The Impact of Child Care Subsidies on Child Well-Being: Evidence from Geographic Variation in the Distance to Social Service Agencies” with Erdal Tekin. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Economics Association, Atlanta, GA, November 20-22, 2010.
- “Welfare Reform and the Subjective Well-Being of Single Mothers.” Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Boston, MA, November 5-7, 2010.
- “The Impact of Child Care Subsidies on Child Well-Being: Evidence from Geographic Variation in the Distance to Social Service Agencies” with Erdal Tekin. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Boston, MA, November 5-7, 2010.
- “The Impact of Child Care Subsidies on Child Well-Being: Evidence from Geographic Variation in the Distance to Social Service Agencies” with Erdal Tekin (presenter). Paper presented at the 24th Annual Conference of The European Society for Population Economics, Germany, June 9-12, 2010.
- “The Impact of Child Care Subsidies on Child Well-Being: Evidence from Geographic Variation in the Distance to Social Service Agencies” with Erdal Tekin. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, D.C., November 5-7, 2009.
- “TANF Entry Flow from Employment and Exit Flow to Employment in the Current Recession: What Performance Targets Should We Set?” with Jane Staveley (presenter). Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, D.C., November 5-7, 2009.
- “Child Care Subsidies, Child Care Arrangements, and Childhood Obesity” with Erdal Tekin (presenter). Paper presented at the 23rd Annual Conference of The European Society for Population Economics, Seville, Spain, June 11-13, 2009.

- “Child Care Subsidies, Child Care Arrangements, and Childhood Obesity” with Erdal Tekin. Paper presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America, Detroit, MI, April 30-May 2, 2009.
- “Child Care Subsidies and Child Development” with Erdal Tekin. Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Los Angeles, CA, November 6-8, 2008.
- “When Policy Tracks Cross: The Collision of Social Welfare and Immigration Policy in the U.S. and Denmark.” Paper presented at the 4th International Conference on Welfare State Change. Store Restrup Herregaard, Denmark, January 30-February 1, 2008.
- “Do Social Policy Reforms Have Different Impacts on Employment and Welfare Use as Economic Conditions Change?” Poster presentation at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Washington, D.C., November 8-10, 2007.
- “Who are the Eligible Non-Recipients of Child Care Subsidies?” Poster presentation at the 2007 Annual Meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium, Washington, D.C., July 30-August 2, 2007.
- “Did Welfare Reform Change Work Participation Dynamics? Evidence from Maryland” with David Stevens. Paper presented at the 10th Annual ACF/OPRE Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference, Washington, D.C., June 4-6, 2007.
- “Why is Take-up for Child Care Subsidies So Low?” Paper presented at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Madison, WI, November 2-4, 2006.
- “Published Five Year Caseload Composition Findings Revisited from 10- and 20-Year Perspectives Through 2005” with David Stevens. Paper presented at the 46th Annual Workshop of the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics, Jackson Hole, WY, August 20-23, 2006.
- “Why is Take-up for Child Care Subsidies So Low?” Paper presented at the 46th Annual Workshop of the National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics, Jackson Hole, WY, August 20-23, 2006.
- “Close to Home: A Simultaneous Equation Model of the Relationship Between Child Care Accessibility and Women’s Labor Force Participation.” Paper presented at Head Start’s National Research Conference, Washington, D.C., June 26-28, 2006.
- “Threading Multiple Needles: Using Published Data to Determine Household Eligibility and Take-up for Child Care Subsidies.” Poster presentation at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium, Washington, D.C., April 24-26, 2006.
- “Close to Home: A Simultaneous Equation Model of the Relationship between Child Care Accessibility and Women’s Employment.” Poster Presentation at the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Fall Research Conference, Dallas, TX, November 7-9, 2002.

“Close to Home: A Structural Model of the Relationship between Child Care Accessibility and Women’s Employment.” Paper presented at the One-day Interdisciplinary Workshop sponsored by the Program for the Study of Women, Gender, and Sexuality, The Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, April 2002.

INVITED PROFESSIONAL LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

“Understanding the Landscape: ASU Strengths and Community Needs,” Invited panelist at ASU’s Y1 (Year One) Summit, a cross-disciplinary effort at ASU to contribute to the field of birth-1, May 3, 2025.

“Roundtable on the Economics of Child Care,” Invited panelist hosted by Child Care Aware of America and Buffett Early Childhood Institute, October 28-30, 2024.

“Can We Make Quality Affordable Childcare a Reality?” Invited panelist at Arizona Talks event on the future of child care in Arizona, September 5, 2024.

“The De-Skilling of the Early Education Workforce: Evidence, Explanations, and Solutions.” Policy Talks presentation at Central European University’s Department of Public Policy, May 28, 2024.

“The Economics of Child Care,” Testimony given to the Arizona Appropriations Subcommittee on Budgetary Formulas and Financing, February 15, 2024.

“The State of Child Care in Arizona.” Panel moderator at Early Childhood Day at the Capital hosted by First Things First, January 22, 2024.

“Minimum Quality Regulations and the Demand for Child Care Labor.” Paper presented at University College London’s (UCL) Centre for Education policy and Equalising Opportunities (CEPEO), November 11, 2021.

“Child Care Over the Business Cycle.” Paper presented at the Census Bureau’s Local Employment Dynamics (LED) Partnership Seminar, September 21, 2021.

“Minimum Quality Regulations and the Demand for Child Care Labor.” Paper presented at University of Virginia’s School of Education and Human Development, May 13, 2021.

“Child Care Over the Business Cycle.” Paper presented at the Census Bureau/LED Annual Workshop, April 30, 2021.

“Minimum Quality Regulations and the Demand for Child Care Labor.” Paper presented at Indiana University’s School of Public and International Affairs, April 1, 2021.

“The Impact of Low-Skilled Immigration on the Child Care Labor Market in the U.S.” Paper presented at University of South Carolina’s Department of Economics, February 28, 2020.

“Who’s Minding the Kids? Experimental Evidence on the Demand for Child Care Quality.” Paper presented at San Diego State University’s Department of Economics and Center for Health Economics and Policy (CHEPS), October 18, 2018.

- “The Cost and Quality of Child Care in the U.S.: Problems and Policy Solutions.” Presentation at the Innovation in Early Childhood Development and K-12 Education Conference, Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN, October 23, 2018.
- “The Demand for Teacher Characteristics in the Market for Child Care: Evidence from a Field Experiment.” Paper presented at TrygFonden’s Centre for Child Research, Aarhus University, June 1, 2017.
- “The Demand for Teacher Characteristics in the Market for Child Care: Evidence from a Field Experiment.” Paper presented at University of Virginia’s Curry School of Education, March, 27, 2017.
- “Universal Child Care, Maternal Employment, and Children’s Long-Run Outcomes: Evidence from the U.S. Lanham Act of 1940.” Paper presented at Central European University’s School of Public Policy, Budapest, Hungary, October 12, 2016.
- “Are Parental Welfare Work Requirements Good for Disadvantaged Children? Evidence from Age-of-Youngest-Child Exemptions.” Paper presented at University Wisconsin-Madison’s La Follette School of Public Affairs, April 13, 2016.
- “The Cost and Quality of Child Care in the U.S.: Trends and (Potential) Solutions.” Invited Panelist for the 2016 Child Care Aware of America Symposium. Washington, DC, April 6, 2016.
- “Are Parental Welfare Work Requirements Good for Disadvantaged Children? Evidence from Age-of-Youngest-Child Exemptions.” Paper presented at Arizona State University’s Department of Economics, March 26, 2015.
- “Are Parental Welfare Work Requirements Good for Disadvantaged Children? Evidence from Age-of-Youngest-Child Exemptions.” Paper presented at American University’s School of Public Affairs, January 22, 2015.
- “Are Parental Welfare Work Requirements Good for Disadvantaged Children? Evidence from Age-of-Youngest-Child Exemptions.” Paper presented at University of Washington’s Evans School of Public Affairs, December 1, 2014.
- “Are Parental Welfare Work Requirements Good for Disadvantaged Children? Evidence from Age-of-Youngest-Child Exemptions.” Paper presented at the Workshop on Human Capital Development in Children and Youth. Montreal, Canada: University of Quebec in Montreal, October, 4, 2014.
- “The Long-Term Impact of Publicly Subsidized Child Care: Evidence from the U.S. Lanham Act of 1940.” Paper presented at the University of Arizona’s Department of Sociology. Tucson, AZ, October 4, 2013.
- “The Long-Term Impact of Publicly Subsidized Child Care: Evidence from the U.S. Lanham Act of 1940.” Paper presented at the University of Bergen-University College London Workshop on Child Care and Labor Market Policy. Bergen, Norway, August 16-17, 2013.

- “Happy in the Hood? The Impact of Racial Segregation on Happiness” with Lucio, J. (presenter). Paper presented at the School of Public Affairs Spring Research Colloquium, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ, March 22, 2013.
- “Happy in the Hood? The Impact of Racial Segregation on Happiness” with Lucio, J. (presenter). Paper presented at the Center for Population Dynamics Spring Research Colloquium, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, January 18, 2013.
- “Can We Trust Parental Reports of Child Care Subsidy Receipt?” with Anna Johnson. Paper presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium, Washington, D.C., November 16-17, 2011.
- “Child Care Subsidies, Maternal Well-Being and Child-Parent Interactions” with Erdal Tekin. Paper presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium, Washington, D.C., November 16-17, 2011.
- “Child Care Subsidies and Family Well-Being” (session title). Organizer and Presenter at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium, Washington, D.C., November 16-17, 2011.
- “Child Care Subsidy Policy Research: Where Are We, and Where Do We Need to Go?” (session title). Invited Panelist to the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium, Washington, D.C., October 21-22, 2010.
- “Child Care Subsidies and Family Well-Being” (session title). Organizer and Presenter at the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium, Washington, D.C., October 21-22, 2010.
- “Gender Preferences for Redistributive Policies: Evidence from State Earned Income Tax Credits” with Andrea Mayo (presenter). Paper presented at the School of Public Affairs Fall Research Colloquium, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ, August 27, 2010.
- “Measuring Poverty: An Introduction to the Supplemental Federal Measure.” (session title). Invited Panelist to the Morrison Institute for Public Policy’s Discussion of the Supplemental Poverty Measure. Morrison Institute, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ, May 5, 2010.
- “The Impact of Child Care Subsidies on Child Well-Being: Evidence from Geographic Variation in the Distance to Social Service Agencies” with Erdal Tekin (presenter). Department of Economics Colloquium, Deakin University, Australia, March 26, 2010.
- “The Impact of Child Care Subsidies on Child Well-Being: Evidence from Geographic Variation in the Distance to Social Service Agencies” with Erdal Tekin (presenter). Department of Economics Colloquium, Florida International University, Miami, FL, March 5, 2010.
- “The Impact of Child Care Subsidies on Child Well-Being: Evidence from Geographic Variation in the Distance to Social Service Agencies” with Erdal Tekin (presenter). Department of Public Policy Colloquium, University of Maryland - Baltimore County, Baltimore, MD, February 25, 2010.

“The Impact of Child Care Subsidies on Child Well-Being: Evidence from Geographic Variation in the Distance to Social Service Agencies” with Erdal Tekin (presenter). Department of Economics Colloquium, Georgia State University, Atlanta, GA, February 23, 2010.

“Child Care Subsidies and Child Development” with Erdal Tekin. Paper presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Child Care Policy Research Consortium, Washington, D.C., October 28-30, 2009.

“Welfare Reform and the Subjective Well-Being of Single Mothers.” Paper presented at the Center for Population Dynamics Fall Research Colloquium, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, September 25, 2009.

“Employment and Training Dynamics for Low-Wage Individuals” (session title). Invited Discussant to the 2009 ACF/OPRE Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference, Washington, D.C., May 27-29, 2009.

“Child Care Subsidies and Child Development” with Erdal Tekin (presenter). Department of Economics Colloquium, Hohenheim University, Stuttgart, Germany, November 17, 2009.

“Child Care Subsidies and Child Development” with Erdal Tekin. Paper presented at the School of Public Affairs Fall Research Colloquium, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ, October 24, 2008.

“Three Reasons Why We Should be More Like the Danes: A U.S. Social Policy Wish List.” Barrett Honors College Speaker Series and School of Public Affairs, Arizona State University, Phoenix, AZ, August 29, 2008.

“The Past and Future of the U.S. Welfare State.” School of Social Work, Aarhus University, Denmark. June 24, 2008.

“The U.S. Presidential Election and the Future of Social Policy: A New War on Poverty or a Poverty of Ideas.” Department of Economics, Politics, and Public Administration, Aalborg University, Denmark. May 28, 2008.

PRESS COVERAGE

“End-of-Year Research Roundup: Three Economic Studies for Building a Better Child Care Sector”, Early Learning Nation, December 2023.

“What the minimum wage can tell us about the future of the U.S. child care system”, Washington Center for Equitable Growth, November 2023.

“Families are paying an average of 30% more for child care than they did in 2019”, NPR’s Marketplace, October 2023.

“Pandemic Relief Funding for Child Care Is Ending. What Now?”, New York Times, October 2023.

“Why Everyone—Parents Or Not—Should Care That We Are Hurtling Towards a 'Childcare Cliff'”, Pure Wow, October 2023.

“Childcare: It’s a Complicated but Critical Market”, Meet Us in the Middle Podcast, August 2023.

“Minimum Wage Hikes Offer Mixed Effects on Child Care Market”, The Hechinger Report, July 2023.

“ASU Expert Sees Turning Point in Concern Over Affordable Child Care”, ASU News, June 2023.

“America funded nationwide child care during WWII. Here’s how Biden is trying to revive that effort”, CNN, April 2023.

“Jobs Aplenty, but a Shortage of Care Keeps Many Women From Benefiting”, New York Times, July 2022

“Lack of affordable child care is hurting parents and the economy”, Marketplace, July 2022

“Economists Find Investing in Child Care Will Dramatically Reduce Costs, Increase Mother’s Employment and Increase Quality Care”, Early Learning Nation, June 2022

“How to fix the U.S. labor shortage? Provide decent child care”, Washington Post, June 2022

“US Child-Care Aid Would Supercharge Moms’ Employment, Study Says”, Bloomberg, June 2022

“Child care subsidies would send 1.2 million women into the workforce, new paper finds”, Axios, June 2022

“The Child Care Crisis Needs A Lot More Attention Than It's Getting”, Huffington Post, June 2022

“Paying the price of regulating childcare”, The Regulatory Review, December 2021

“That time America paid for universal day care”, NPR’s The Indicator, June 2021

“School is (whisper it) a form of child care”, New York Times, October 2020

“Child care subsidies: Supporting work and child development for healthy families”, Health Affairs, April 2020

“Should the child care industry get a bailout?”, New York Times, May 2020

“Here’s where every Democratic candidate stands on child care and family leave”, The Nation, January 2020

“Why affordable childcare is out of reach for so many families”, Time, October 2019

“Stay-at-Home Parents Work Hard. Should They Be Paid?”, New York Times, October 2019

“America’s youngest kids need good teachers. Why is it so difficult to find them?”, Quartz, July 2019

“Elizabeth Warren Just Unveiled a Plan to Provide All Families With Child Care That’s Affordable — or Even Free”, Money, February 2019

“What we can learn from Canada’s universal child care model”, PRI’s The World, February 2019

“Why are young people having so little sex?”, The Atlantic, December 2018

“Can Yelp help you find reliable child care? ASU looks to find out”, ABC 15, October 2018

“Yelp reviews reveal disparities in how rich, poor parents approach child care”, KJZZ’s The Show, September 2018

“Turning to Yelp for child care help”, ASU Now, September 2018

“We have a child-care crisis in this county. We had the solution 78 years ago”, Washington Post, July 2018

“What the average American family spends on childcare”, Quartz, April 2018

“The costs of child care around the world”, CNN, April 2018

“The crazy economics of childcare costs in America”, Quartz, October 2017

“Progressive approach to child-care crisis could go even bigger”, Rewire, September 2017

“Child care centers often don’t hire the most qualified teachers, study shows”, NPR’s Morning Edition, June 2017

“Why 4-year colleges may want to rethink their early childhood programs”, Education Dive, May 2017

“Child-care centers aim for middle of the road in hiring, study finds”, Education Week, April 2017

“Child care subsidies, vital for many workers, are dwindling”, Stateline (Pew), December 2016

“A second look at childcare expenses”, Mother Jones, December 2016

“The child-care bidding war”, Wall Street Journal (Editorial Board), September 2016

“How to make child care affordable”, Bloomberg View (Editorial Board), August 2016

“Why is childcare getting even more expensive?”, Bloomberg, July 2016

“Why does America invest so little in its children?”, The Atlantic, July 2016

“Teen pregnancy rates are falling and experts don’t know why”, Global News, May 2016

“There is a new plan to help lower-income parents afford quality child care”, Huffington Post, February 2016

“Who took care of Rosie the Riveter’s kids?”, The Atlantic, November 2015

“Quality child care is rare and expensive, but a new proposal could help change that”, Huffington Post, September 2015

“Surging child care costs are hurting more and more Americans”, Bloomberg Business, August 2015

“The cost of child care might not be skyrocketing”, FiveThirtyEight, July 2015

“Is broadband responsible for falling teenage pregnancy rates?”, The Guardian, June 2015

“How much are you paying for child care?”, Education Week, May 2015

“U.S. once had universal child care, but rebuilding it won't be easy”, NPR, January 2015

“This is the childcare program Obama was talking about”, Time, January 2015

“Here’s what happened the one time when the US had universal childcare”, ThinkProgress, September 2014

“That one time America almost got universal child care”, Washington Post’s Wonkblog, June 2014

“Does having kids make parents happy after all?”, The Atlantic, May 8, 2014

“The history of the United States’ nearly-universal child care program”, New America EdCentral, January 2015

“1940s-era universal child care program had positive effects on children”, Education Week, January 2014

“The coolest child care program you’ve never heard of”, Freakonomics, January 2014

“Work and happiness”, SSA Magazine, Winter 2013

“Do kids make us happy? Yes (we think)”, Globe and Mail, November 2012

“Note to parents: believe it or not, you’re happy”, Bloomberg View, May 2012

“Having children makes you (relatively) happier”, New York Times, May 2012

“Why so many studies about parents and happiness are wrong”, Huffington Post, May 2012

“Parents today are happier than non-parents, studies suggest”, USA Today, May 2012

“More money, fewer abortions”, Boston Globe, October 2011

“Men are unhappy: good news for women?”, Huffington Post, July 2011

“New research suggests everybody’s less satisfied”, Pacific Standard, July 2011

“Does child care make kids fat?”, Globe and Mail, July 2011

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Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and

Management, Demography, Social Service Review, Journal of Family and Economic Issues, Children and Youth Services Review, Economics of Education Review, Review of Economics of the Household, American Journal of Evaluation, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Marriage and Family, Economics and Human Biology, Child Development, Early Childhood Research Quarterly