

LUWEN MAI

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Work Authorization: U.S. Permanent Resident (No sponsorship required)



EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2026

Dissertation Title: *Intrahousehold Labor Dynamics in the U.S. Labor Market: Late 20th and Early 21st Centuries.*

Main advisor: Daniele Paserman

Dissertation Committee: Daniele Paserman, Johannes Schmieder, and Keren Horn

M.A., Economic Policy, Boston University, Boston, MA, May 2019

Master Thesis Title: *The Motherhood Penalty: From the Homosexual Perspective*

Main advisor: Robert Margo

B.A., Economics (*Summa Cum Laude*), Boston University, Boston, MA, May 2017

Senior Honors Thesis Title: *Marriage Effect on Wage Income for Homosexuals and Within-Household Specializations: Evidence from 2013-14 American Community Survey*

Main advisor: Daniele Paserman

B.S., Mass Communication Studies (*Summa Cum Laude*), Boston University, Boston, MA, May 2017

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics (Family Economics), Environmental Economics, Urban Economics

WORKING PAPERS

"For Better or For Worse: The Added Worker Effect in the 21st Century U.S.," 2025.

- *Job Market Paper. Restricted U.S. administrative microdata*
- Submitted, under review at Journal of Labor Economics.

"Recovery from Displacement: Gender, Family and Self-Employment," (joint with Keren Horn), 2026.

- *Restricted U.S. administrative microdata*
- Submitted, under review at Review of Economics of the Household

"Childhood Exposure to State Child Support Guidelines and Long-Run Labor Market Outcomes," 2023.

"The Motherhood Penalty: From the Homosexual Perspective," 2019.

"Marriage Effect on Wage Income for Homosexuals and Within-Household Specializations: Evidence from 2013-14 American Community Survey," (joint with Kevin Lang, Daniele Paserman, and Steve Rogers), 2017.

PRESENTATION

WERISE Conference, Boston, MA, 2025 [poster presentation]

Economics of the Household Conference, San Diego, CA, 2017 [presentation by coauthor]

FELLOWSHIP

Lu Lingzi Scholarship, Boston University, 2017 – 2019

SPECIAL SWORN STATUS (SSS)

Obtained security clearance to perform statistical research in a Federal Statistical Research Data Center (FSRDC) using restricted microdata

- *U.S. Census Bureau, Cambridge, MA (2022 – present)*

RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Harvard Business School, 2026 – present

- *Special Sworn Status Researcher. Restricted U.S. administrative microdata*

Research Assistant, Dept of Economics, University of Massachusetts-Boston, 2025 – present

- *Special Sworn Status Researcher. Restricted U.S. administrative microdata*

Research Assistant, Dept of Economics, Tufts University, 2021 – 2024

- *Special Sworn Status Researcher. Restricted U.S. administrative microdata*

Research Assistant, Dept of Economics, Boston University, 2018

Research Assistant, Dept of Small & Micro-Businesses, YuanHu Sub-branch, GuangXi Zhuang Autonomous Region Branch, China Construction Bank, 2015

PEER-REVIEW SERVICE

Review of Economics of the Household, 2024 & 2025

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Empirical Economics 2, Dept of Economics, Boston University, 2024

Teaching Fellow, Introductory Macroeconomic Analysis, Dept of Economics, Boston University, 2021 – 2022

Teaching Fellow, Introductory Microeconomic Analysis, Dept of Economics, Boston University, 2020

Academic Tutor, Athletic Department, Boston University, 2016 – 2018

Academic Mentor, College of Arts and Sciences, Boston University, 2015 – 2016

LANGUAGES: Fluent in Chinese (Mandarin) and English

COMPUTER SKILLS: Stata, LaTeX, SAS (basic), Python (basic)

REFERENCES

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Professor Johannes Schmieder

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Professor Keren Horn

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For Better or For Worse: The Added Worker Effect in the 21st Century U.S. (Job Market Paper)

The added worker effect (AWE) – where one spouse increases labor supply in response to the other’s job loss – serves as a key mechanism of intra-household insurance among married or long-term partnered couples. This paper provides a life-cycle perspective on the muted AWE observed in developed countries, with evidence drawing on restricted U.S. administrative microdata. Using an event study framework combined with a *matched* difference-in-difference approach, I show that the aggregate muted AWE masks substantial heterogeneity: younger couples exhibit positive labor supply responses, while older couples display retirement-like labor market exits. The presence of children strengthens the AWE response, particularly among mothers. In contrast, in childless households, female spouses are more likely to reduce their own labor force participation, often accommodating their displaced husbands’ need to relocate or pursue new employment opportunities.

Displacement and Domestic Constraints: Life Cycle, Family Roles, and Self-Employment Transitions (*with Keren Horn, disclosure review pending*)

This project focuses on the post-displacement gender gap in recovery. Drawing on restricted U.S. administrative microdata, we use event studies and matched difference-in-difference regression models to examine how parental status, gender and broader socio-economic contexts interact to influence unemployment risks and post-displacement earnings trajectories. The paper also investigates self-employment as a potential recovery strategy and evaluates how its effectiveness varies across demographic and household profiles.

Childhood Exposure to State Child Support Guidelines and Long-Run Labor Market Outcomes

Federal legislation on child support payment calculations may result in differential labor market impacts by gender. This study focuses on the implementation of statewide child support payment guidelines in the mid- to late-1980s and estimates the long-run effects on employment and labor income from childhood exposure to such guidelines. One contribution of this paper is summarizing the year of guideline adoption for each state. I use longitudinal micro-data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, as well as quantile and ordinary least squares regressions in this study. Results show that, longer exposure to state child support guidelines is associated with a sizeable increase in male labor income and no significant impact on female employment and earnings, even after controlling for state and birth cohort fixed effects. Further analyses suggest that the implementation of state child support guidelines has a weak impact on child support payments in the sample. However, it has unexpectedly reduces length of single-parenthood experiences for boys, which potentially contributes to the differential long-run labor market outcomes for men and women.