Mehrdad Baratian

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Tulane University, New Orleans

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Education

•**Tulane University** — New Orleans, LA.
Ph.D., **Economics** — *Expected 2027*
Committee: Kevin Callison (Chair), Katy Bergstrom, Jonathan Holmes
M.S., **Economics**

•**Tehran Polytechnic** — Master of Science in **Business Administration** — Tehran
Graduated Top 3 in Class

•**University of Isfahan** — Bachelor of Science in **Mechanical Engineering** — Isfahan
Achieved a Top 1% Ranking in the National University Entrance Exam

Fields

Public Economics, Health Economics, Labor Economics, Innovation

Working Papers

•**The Effects of Early Childhood Exposure to Welfare Reform on Adult Health and Employment** — *Job Market Paper*

– **Abstract:** In models of child development, a child's later outcomes depend partly on family income and parental time. Welfare rules that require work trade one for the other, so theory does not say whether children gain or lose. I study the 1990s welfare reforms that imposed such rules, following young children into adulthood in the Panel Study of Income Dynamics. I compare children born in the same year across states whose rules differed in strictness, by their families' likelihood of receiving welfare. Among children the rules likely reached, those with more exposure to stricter rules before age five had better general and mental health as adults. But their adult employment did not change, and the estimates for their hours and earnings are imprecise. On net, my findings suggest that these children gained as adults from the trade-off between family income and parental time that the rules imposed.

•**Shocks, Reallocation, and the Direction of Innovation: The Case of COVID-19** — *Working Paper*

•**SNAP Generosity and Mental Health** — *Submitted*

Teaching Experience

•**Research & Teaching Assistant, Tulane University** — *2021-present*

– Courses: Econometrics II (Ph.D. Level); Machine Learning and Econometrics; Intermediate Microeconomics; Health Economics; Introduction to Macroeconomics; Introduction to Microeconomics.

•**Teaching Assistant — Strategic Management, Tehran Polytechnic** — *Spring 2018*

– Course: Strategic Management.

Awards

- Institute for Humane Studies Graduate Workshop Award — *November 2026*
- APPAM Excellence, Equity and Inclusion Student Fellowship — *2026–2027*
- Cato University Summer Term II (Full Scholarship), Cato Institute — *August 2026*
- J.E. Land Fund for School of Liberal Arts Graduate Student Travel — *July 2026*
- Graduate Student Summer Research Award, Tulane University — *June 2024, May 2025*
- Graduate Studies Student Association Travel Award, Tulane University — *May 2024*
- Joachim-Herz Foundation Award — *June 2024*
- Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science Research Grant Award — *June 2024, April 2025*

Conferences and Presentations

- Southern Economic Association (SEA) | Houston, TX. *November 2026*
- Institute for Humane Studies (IHS), Graduate Workshop at SEA (invited) | Houston, TX. *November 2026*
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) | Boston, MA. *November 2026*
- American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) | Minneapolis, MN. *June 2026*
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) | Seattle, WA. *Fall 2025*
- Southern Economic Association (SEA) | Tampa, FL. *Fall 2025*
- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) | Washington, D.C. *Fall 2024*
- Essen Economics of Mental Health, CINCH - Health Economics Research Center | Universität Duisburg-Essen. Held at the University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. *August 2024*
- American Society of Health Economists (ASHEcon) | San Diego, CA. *June 2024*

Peer Review Service

- **Discussant**
  - Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) | Seattle, WA. *November 2025*
  - Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) | Boston, MA. *November 2026*

Work Experience

Graduate Assistant Data Intern, AEO, Tulane University: *August 2026-present*
- Work with the Office of Academic Excellence and Opportunity on data collection, distribution, and assessment projects.

Statistical Research Consultant, CAIDS, Tulane University: *August 2026-present*
- Consult with Tulane faculty, staff, and student researchers at the Connolly Alexander Institute for Data Science on statistical methodology, research design, and analysis, with support in Python and Stata.

Vice President, Graduate Student Association, Tulane University: *2022-2024*
- Led cross-council initiatives; managed budgets; served as university liaison.

Product Marketing Manager and Market Researcher, Negin Bazr Co.: *2018-2021*
- Managed product marketing and conducted market research for the company.

Technical Skills

- **Causal Inference:** Difference-in-Differences, including Continuous-Treatment (Dose–Response) Designs; Event Studies; Interrupted Time Series; Panel Fixed-Effects Regression
- **Machine Learning / NLP:** BERT Text Classification (BioBERT); Sentence Embeddings (SBERT) and TF–IDF; Clustering; XGBoost for Data Imputation
- **Programming:** Python; Stata
- **Computing:** Amazon Web Services (AWS); Tulane University High-Performance Computing (Cypress)
- **Languages:** English; Farsi

References

Kevin Callison
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Jonathan Holmes
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