

Nathaniel Barlow

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Economics PhD candidate with 8+ years of experience structuring ambiguous research questions, analyzing large administrative and survey datasets, and turning quantitative results into clear written and visual deliverables. Strong background in econometrics, forecasting, data engineering, and communicating findings to senior researchers and policy audiences.

Education

University of California, Los Angeles

PhD Candidate, Economics

Expected June 2027

MA, Economics

March 2023

University of California, Berkeley

BA with Honors, Economics

May 2017

Professional Experience

University of California, Los Angeles

Graduate Student Researcher

July 2022 – March 2025

Los Angeles, CA

- Built flexible data workflows for large administrative sources using SAS, Python, and Stata.
- Scraped historical Social Security receipts to estimate the effect of old-age insurance adoption on childbearing.

MIT Sloan School of Management

Technical Associate

April 2019 – June 2021

Cambridge, MA

- Managed data cleaning and analysis for restricted Census RDC and linked earnings data using SAS, R, and Stata.
- Parallelized workflows and optimized code for memory-constrained systems, accelerating processing of 100M+ row datasets 10x.
- Synthesized analytical findings into clear writeups and edited research manuscripts for senior faculty.
- Implemented quantile spacings methodology to estimate a distribution of effects of mass layoffs on earnings for over 2 million workers.

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco

Research Associate

June 2017 – March 2019

San Francisco, CA

- Managed research support for multiple economists at once, coordinating across parallel projects in labor and macroeconomics with competing timelines and deliverables.
- Built and analyzed large datasets in Stata and R to support empirical research, forecasting, and policy work.
- Delivered forecast tables, charts, and other high-stakes materials on tight turnaround for every FOMC meeting and other sensitive internal briefings.
- Co-developed and maintained ggplot-based visualization tools for recurring division-wide policy presentations, and trained a dozen other research associates to apply them in their own policy briefings.
- Co-developed internship program and supervised two undergraduate summer interns.

Selected Research & Achievements

Dissertation

- Studied the long-run labor-market effects of wartime incarceration and forced migration of Japanese Americans using linked historical census microdata
- Constructed original datasets from historical and modern census records with digitized archival documents.
- Translated historical institutional knowledge and archival evidence into border-based empirical strategy that isolates the causal effects of displacement on long-run economic outcomes.

Awards and Presentations: Dr. Paul and Hisako Terasaki Research Fellowship (2026); PAA (2026); NICHD Traineeship at CCPR (2025); UCLA Center for Economic History funding (2024–2025); Economic History Association Early-Stage Dissertation Grant (2024); Lewis L. Clarke Data Collection Award (2024).

Technical Skills

Programming: Python, Stata, R, SAS, L^AT_EX

Analytical: Econometrics, causal inference, forecasting, statistical analysis, data cleaning, data visualization

Data: Large administrative and survey datasets, Census RDC environments, linked microdata