

# MAYRA PINEDA-TORRES

(979) · 402 · 5714 ◊ mayrabpinedat16@tamu.edu ◊ www.mayrapinedatorres.com

Texas A&M University ◊ Department of Economics

Liberal Arts & Social Science Building ◊ College Station, Texas 77843

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, Texas A&M University, Committee Chair - Jason Lindo, expected May 2022

B.A. Economics (with honors), Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, May 2015

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## RESEARCH FIELDS

Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, Labor Economics, Gender Economics, Development Economics

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## JOB MARKET PAPER

**TRAP'd Teens: Impacts of abortion provider regulations on fertility & education** (Joint with Kelly M. Jones)

Targeted regulations of abortion providers (TRAP laws) are the fastest-growing abortion restriction in the U.S. These often result in clinic closures, limiting abortion access. We study how women's exposure to these laws in adolescence affects their fertility and educational attainment. For this study, we codify the legal history of all TRAP laws ever implemented. We explore the impacts of TRAP laws on teen births using an event-study analysis and stacked difference-in-differences methodology to avoid issues of negative weighting inherent in two-way fixed effects approaches. Consistent with other evidence on abortion access, we find that impacts on births are large and robust for Black women. Black teen births in states that implemented TRAP laws increased by 3 percent relative to changes in states without these restrictions. We offer evidence that these impacts are driven by reductions in abortion access, abortion use, and contraception use among Black teens. We further document that adolescent exposure to TRAP laws has downstream impacts on education. We find that Black women first exposed to TRAP laws before age 18 are 1 to 3 percentage points less likely to initiate and complete college. This study documents the important role that abortion access plays in reducing the harmful economic impacts of unintended teen motherhood. The findings suggest that modern abortion restrictions are harming women's efforts at economic advancement and are perpetuating racial inequality. This work is particularly relevant given the current consideration by the U.S. Supreme Court of the state of Mississippi's plea to overturn *Roe*. A central argument in an amicus brief for Mississippi is that "there is no adequate credible evidence that women have enjoyed greater economic and social opportunities because of the availability of abortion" – this study provides direct evidence to the contrary.

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## PUBLICATIONS

**New Evidence on the Effects of Mandatory Waiting Periods for Abortion** (Joint with Jason M. Lindo) *Journal of Health Economics*, forthcoming

Beyond a handful of studies examining early-adopting states in the early 1990s, little is known about the causal effects of mandatory waiting periods for abortion. In this study, we evaluate the effects of a Tennessee law enacted in 2015 that requires women to make an additional trip to abortion providers for state-directed counseling at least 48 hours before they can obtain an abortion. Our difference-in-differences and synthetic-control estimates indicate that the introduction of the mandatory waiting period caused a 53–69 percent increase in the share of abortions obtained during the second trimester. Our analysis examining overall abortion rates is less conclusive but suggests a reduction caused by the waiting period. To put these estimates into context, we provide back-of-the-envelope calculations on the additional monetary costs that Tennessee's MWP imposes on women seeking abortions.

**Legal Access to Reproductive Control Technology, Women's Education, and Earnings Approaching Retirement Outcomes** (Joint with Jason M. Lindo, David Pritchard, and Hedieh Tajali), *AEA Papers and Proceedings 2020*

We investigate how historical changes in contraception and abortion access impact women's long-run outcomes. We use data from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and an identification strategy that leverages variation in exposure to legal changes in access across cohorts born in the same states during the 1960s and 1970s. Our results for educational attainment align with prior work but are not statistically significant. The results for earnings indicate increases in the probability of working in a Social Security (SS) covered job in women's 20s and 30s associated with early access to contraception and abortion, but we find no evidence of positive effects on women's earnings in their 50s.

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## WORK IN PROGRESS

Improvements in Schooling Opportunities and Teen Fertility (with Maria Padilla-Romo and Cecilia Peluffo)

Abortion Access and Interpartner Violence (with Sofia Amaral and Aixa Garcia-Ramos)

Abortion Access and Educational Attainment (with Sofia Amaral and Aixa Garcia-Ramos)

Residency Programs and Access to Health Care

Medicaid Reimbursements and Maternity Ward Closures

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## HONORS AND AWARDS

Texas A&M University, S. Charles Maurice Fellowship in Economics, 2020

Texas A&M University, Department of Economics Research Fellowship, 2020

ASHEcon Diversity Scholarship, 2019 and 2020

**IWPR Doctoral Fellow in Economics & Reproductive Health**, 2020

Texas A&M University, Private Enterprise Research Center, Summer Fellowship, 2018 and 2019

Texas A&M University, Department of Economics Graduate Assistantship, 2016-2021

Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, La Flecha al Aire Award, Best Undergraduate Thesis, 2016

Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México, Academic Scholarship, 2008-2011

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## PRESENTATIONS (\*SCHEDULED)

**2021:** Economic Demography Workshop, ASHEcon Annual Conference, Sam Houston State University, Electronic Health Economics Colloquium (EHEC), WELAC (LACEA) Workshop on Gender Inequality, SEA Southern Economic Association Conference\*

**2020:** SEA Southern Economic Association Conference, APPAM Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Conference, Stanford GSB Rising Scholars Conference, ASSA Allied Social Sciences Association

**2019:** APPAM Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Fall Conference, SEA Southern Economic Association Conference, ASHE Annual Conference (Texas A&M University), ASHEcon Annual Conference, WEAI Western Economic Association International Conference, Applied Economics Research Symposium (Texas A&M University), EEA Eastern Economic Association Conference.

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## WORKSHOPS AND OTHER CONFERENCES

**2020:** NBER Health Economics Meetings, Working Group on the Economics of Reproductive Health (American University), Health Economics Bootcamp Alumni Online Workshop

**2019:** NBER Health Economics Research Boot Camp

**2018:** ASHE Annual Conference (Texas A&M University), MEER Methods of Experimental Economics Research Conference (Texas A&M University), Stata Empirical Microeconomics Conference (Baylor

University), Annual Health Economics Conference (Texas A&M University), Graduate Student Summit for Diversity in Economics–Women in Economics (University of California, Berkeley)  
**2017:** ASHE Annual Conference (Texas A&M University)

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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Texas A&M University, Prof. Ben Klopach, Fall 2021  
Texas A&M University, Prof. Ragan Petrie, Summer 2018  
Texas A&M University, Prof. Jason Lindo, Fall 2017  
Bank for International Settlements, Monetary and Economic Department, Dr. Juan Contreras, Summer 2017  
Bank of Mexico, Directorate of Economic Research, 2013-2016

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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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*Instructor of Record*  
Health Economics, Summer 2020  
Class size: 60 students  
Overall instructor rating: mean 4.5/5.0

*Teaching Assistant*  
Program Evaluation, Fall 2020, Spring 2021  
Ph.D-level Applied Microeconometrics (with recitations. Score 5.0/5.0), Spring 2019  
Public Finance, Spring 2017 and Fall 2018  
Introduction to Econometrics (with recitations. Score 4.46/5.0), Spring 2018  
Introduction to Economic Data Analysis, Fall 2016

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## ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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**Referee:** Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Caribbean Policy Research Institute  
**Texas A&M Graduate Instruction Committee Representative**

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## MEDIA APPEARANCES AND COVERAGE OF RESEARCH

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“Tennessee’s abortion wait period law faces court arguments,” 9/20/19, Associated Press (reprinted worldwide)  
“Mandatory waiting periods can make abortions nearly \$1,000 more expensive,” 9/10/19, MarketWatch

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## LANGUAGES

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English (fluent), Spanish (native)

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## REFERENCES

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Jason Lindo Texas A&M University Department of Economics Professor of Economics jlindo@tamu.edu	Kelly Jones American University Department of Economics Assistant Professor kmjones@american.edu	Steve Puller Texas A&M University Department of Economics Department Head spuller@tamu.edu	Joanna Lahey Texas A&M University The Bush School Associate Professor jlahey@tamu.edu
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