

# EMILY ELIZABETH DOBSON

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## EDUCATION

- University of Maryland** Expected December 2025  
School of Public Policy  
Ph.D. in Public Policy  
Dean's Fellow, 2021 – 2023  
Institute of Public Leadership Summer Doctoral Research Fellow, Summer 2024  
School of Public Policy Doctoral Research Fellow, AY 2024 - 2025
- University of Chicago** June 2021  
Harris School of Public Policy  
Master of Public Policy with Honors  
Harris Community Action Fellow  
Chicago Policy Review Director of Operations, May 2020 – January 2021  
Chicago Policy Review Staff Writer, Finance and Economics, January – June 2020
- University of Arkansas at Little Rock** May 2015  
Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology, *summa cum laude*  
Minor in Gender Studies  
Donaghey Scholars Fellowship  
Chancellor's List, 2011 – 2015  
Marcia P. Smith Award for best senior capstone presentation  
Katherine J. Hardy Award for distinguished Anthropology graduate  
Senior capstone: "Study Abroad, Anthropologically: An Auto-Ethnographic Examination of the Student Experience of Study Abroad"

## EXPERIENCE

### Lecturer

- University of Maryland School of Public Policy, College Park, MD  
Course: Public Economics: Raising and Spending the People's Money (PLCY 303) Fall 2024
- Engaged undergraduate students in a dynamic classroom setting on topics in public economics and budgeting
  - Updated curriculum with current events and data
  - Managed a Graduate Teaching Assistant

### Graduate Teaching Assistant

- University of Maryland School of Public Policy, College Park, MD
- Course: Public Budgeting & Financial Management (PLCY 670) Spring & Summer 2024  
Lead instructor: Juan Pablo Martinez Guzman
- Led practical tutorials on budgeting in Excel
  - Assisted with in-class activities
  - Graded student problem sets and policy memos, providing detailed, constructive feedback
- Course: Public Budgeting & Financial Management (PLCY 670) Fall 2023  
Lead instructor: Thomas Luke Spreen

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- Graded student problem sets and policy memos, providing detailed, constructive feedback

Course: Quantitative Analysis of Policy Issues (PLCY 611)

Summer 1 2023

Lead instructor: Seth Weissman

- Led twice-weekly two-hour discussion sessions covering quantitative analysis from probability theory through instrumental variables (IV)
- Taught introductory coding in Stata
- Assisted students with the development and execution of an empirical research project
- Graded student problem sets and research papers

## Graduate Research Assistant

August 2021 - present

University of Maryland School of Public Policy, College Park, MD

Advisor: Carol Graham

- Investigated trends in deaths of despair during the COVID-19 pandemic using national Emergency Medical Services activation records
- Conducted a comparative analysis of behavioral health outcomes measured by nationally-representative surveys fielded during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Developed a comprehensive research plan for investigating the causal chain from macro-level economic shocks to deaths of despair at an individual level

*This work resulted in presentations for the International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies and the Association of Public Policy Analysis and Management.*

## Research Assistant

June 2020 – August 2021

Heartland Alliance Social IMPACT Research Center, Chicago, IL

- Conducted comprehensive literature review on Temporary Assistance for Needy Families
- Analyzed Current Population Survey microdata using R to identify TANF-eligible families
- Compared eligible pool against Illinois caseloads to identify underrepresented demographics and employed regression discontinuity design (RDD) to investigate the impact of state and federal policy on caseload shifts

*This work resulted in a publication in Health Affairs.*

## Well-Being Economics Research Intern

June 2020 – August 2020

The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C.

- Incorporated emergent county-level COVID-19 mortality data into an interactive vulnerability indicator
- Developed and ran over 20 regression models exploring socioeconomic and public health predictors of high county-level COVID-19 mortality

*This work resulted in one publication in The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science.*

## Research Assistant

January 2020 – June 2020

University of Chicago Survey Lab, Chicago, IL

- Conducted surveys, interviews, and behavioral coding for criminal justice and public health research projects

## Family Stability AmeriCorps VISTA

August 2018 – August 2019

Our House Shelter, Little Rock, AR

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- Directed 42-participant survey and 8-person focus group in first-ever program evaluation
- Aligned initiatives of Family Stability Institute with homelessness prevention best practices
- Partnered with community food rescue to develop an alternative food pantry

### Account Manager

January 2017 – June 2018

### Program Administrator

January 2016 – December 2016

Perks Worldwide, Little Rock, AR

- Managed custom software accounts for clients representing \$3M in annual revenue
- Generated 127% of forecast revenue; averaged 10% over forecast each quarter

### Native Speaking Teacher

July 2015 – December 2015

Hess International Educational Group, Tainan, Taiwan

- Planned and taught immersive English language curriculum for students age 3 to 15
- Managed classrooms of up to 24 students while encouraging growth and learning through positive classroom management and creative teaching methods

## PUBLICATIONS

- Dobson, Emily, Carol Graham, and Ethan Dodd. “When Public Health Crises Become Entwined: How Trends in COVID-19, Deaths of Despair, and Well-Being Track across the United States.” *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 698, no. 1 (2021): 88–110.
- Kaplan, Kathryn, Suniya Farooqui, Jamela Clark, Emily Dobson, Rita Jefferson, Niya Kelly, Katherine Buitrago, et al. “Temporary Assistance For Needy Families: Sanctioning And Child Support Compliance Among Black Families In Illinois.” *Health Affairs* 41, no. 12 (December 2022): 1735–43. <https://doi.org/10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00746>.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “Despair and Resilience in the U.S.: Did the COVID Pandemic Lead to Worse Mental Health Outcomes?” International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies 2022 Annual Conference. Quality-of-Life for Resilient Futures: Sustainability, Equity, & Wellbeing. University of Vermont, Burlington, VT. August 2022.
- “When Public Health Crises Become Entwined: How Trends in COVID-19, Deaths of Despair, and Well-Being Track across the U.S.A.” APPAM Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management 2022 Fall Conference. Advancing Research with Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives. Washington, DC. November 2022
- “Cultural Encounters in Study Abroad: Understanding the Relevance of Students’ Experiences and Perceptions in Developing Intercultural Competence.” Great Plains Honors Conference. University of Texas Pan American, South Padre Island, TX. April 2015.

## SCHOLARLY MEMBERSHIPS

International Society for Quality-of-Life Studies  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

## STUDY ABROAD

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**National Taiwan Normal University**, Taipei, Taiwan February 2014 – July 2014  
Huayu Enrichment Scholarship from the Ministry of Education of The Republic of China (Taiwan)

**Stenhus Gymnasium**, Holbæk, Denmark August 2010 – July 2011  
Rotary International Youth Exchange Program

### **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

Proficient in R, Stata, LaTeX, and GitHub.