HANNAH K RUEBECK

MIT Department of Economics 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-301 Cambridge, MA 02139 hruebeck@mit.edu

DOCTORAL Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) **STUDIES** PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2024

DISSERTATION: "The role of personal, social, and political identities in key

decision-making and behavior"

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

Frank Schilbach Esther Duflo

MIT Department of Economics MIT Department of Economics 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-560 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-544

Cambridge, MA 02139 Cambridge, MA 02139

617-253-9299 617-253-7013 fschilb@mit.edu eduflo@mit.edu

Parag Pathak

MIT Department of Economics 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-426

Cambridge, MA 02139

617-253-7458 ppathak@mit.edu

PRIOR Wellesley College 2016

BA in Economics with Honors **EDUCATION**

Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa Society

CITIZENSHIP USA GENDER Female

FIELDS Primary Fields: Behavioral and Labor

Secondary Fields: Education

TEACHING Psychology and Economics (undergraduate, MIT course 14.13) 2023 **EXPERIENCE**

Head Teaching Assistant to Professor Frank Schilbach

Public Finance and Public Policy (undergraduate, MIT course 14.41) 2022

Teaching Assistant to Professor Jonathan Gruber

Political Economy and Economic Development (undergraduate and 2021

masters, MIT course 14.75/0)

Teaching Assistant to Professor Benjamin Olken

Research and Communications in Economics (undergraduate, MIT 2020

course 14.33)

HANNAH RUEBECK OCTOBER 2023—PAGE 2

Teaching Assistant to Ro'ee Levy (post-doc)

The Challenge of World Poverty (undergraduate, MIT course 14.73) 2020

Teaching Assistant to Professor Frank Schilbach

Research Assistant to Professor Amy Finkelstein 2019 RELEVANT Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow with Professor Roland Fryer 2016-18 **POSITIONS**

FELLOWSHIPS. HONORS, AND AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

Schiff Fellowship for undergraduate thesis in economics, Wellesley College

Research Grants:

J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative (36K, co-primary PI) J-PAL Social Policy Research Initiative (43K, primary PI)

US HHS, ACF Behavioral Intervention Scholars Grant (25K, primary PI) NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (25K, primary PI) George and Obie Shultz Fund Grant (23K, primary and co-primary PI) Strengthening American Democracy Program at Beyond Conflict (10K, coprimary PI)

ACTIVITIES

PROFESSIONAL Referee: American Economic Review, American Economic Review-Insights Service: MIT Economics Application Assistance and Mentoring Program, MIT Economics Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee

PUBLICATIONS

"Childhood Confidence, Schooling, and the Labor Market: Evidence from the PSID" (with Lucy Page) Journal of Human Resources, Forthcoming (Accepted Jul 2022).

We link over- and under-confidence in math at ages 8-11 to education and employment outcomes 22 years later among the children of PSID households. About twenty percent of children have markedly biased beliefs about their math ability, and beliefs are strongly gendered. Conditional on measured ability. childhood over- and under-confidence predict adolescent test scores, high school and college graduation, majoring or working in STEM, earnings, and unemployment. Across all metrics, higher confidence predicts better outcomes. These biased beliefs persist into adulthood and could continue to affect outcomes as respondents age, since intermediate outcomes do not fully explain these long-run correlations.

"Crowd-out in School-based Health Interventions: Evidence from India's Midday Meals Program" (with Jim Berry, Saurabh Mehta, Priya Mukherjee, and Gauri Kartini Shastry) Journal of Public Economics, 2021

"Implementation and Effects of India's National School-based Iron Supplementation Program" (with Jim Berry, Saurabh Mehta, Priya Mukherjee, and Gauri Kartini Shastry) Journal of Development Economics, 2020

HANNAH RUEBECK OCTOBER 2023—PAGE 3

RESEARCH PAPERS

"Perceived Discrimination at Work" (Job Market Paper)

Beliefs about experiencing discrimination are widespread but understudied. In an online experiment (N=5000), I randomly assign workers to be evaluated by promotion procedures with varied potential to discriminate and provide information about the procedure. Learning that managers knew workers' race and gender and previously promoted mostly white men increases perceived discrimination rates from 3-34%, lowers retention by 3-6%, and increases reservation wages by 9%. Reducing perceived discrimination is therefore important for equity and efficiency. However, increasingly-common anti-bias procedures—blinding managers to demographics or using unbiased algorithms—are unlikely to alone eliminate perceived discrimination when minority groups remain under-represented.

"The Narrative of Policy Change: Fiction Builds Political Efficacy and Climate Action," (with Lucy Page and James Walsh) (Submitted)

Can fictional narratives contribute to building political momentum? In an online experiment ($N\approx6,000$), learning about the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) strengthens beliefs about government responsiveness to citizen action by only 0.07sd. Watching a short, fictional story about political climate advocacy as a loose backstory to the IRA yields much larger effects on beliefs (0.5sd). While IRA information alone does not affect climate advocacy, the story increases information-gathering about climate marches by 54 percent and donations to lobbying organizations by 19 percent. We show evidence that beliefs and emotions may drive this effect.

"Reaching Across the Aisle: Does Affective Polarization Hinder Grassroots Climate Mobilization?" (with Lucy Page)

Political action spreads through social networks, so citizens may have power to shape policy both through their own advocacy and by recruiting others to act. Do citizens try to spread grassroots action? If so, do they work to build broad, bipartisan coalitions or to recruit others like them? We focus on the climate movement, where most citizen advocates are Democrats. Mobilizing bipartisan action could more effectively promote climate policy in Congress, but recordhigh affective polarization—animosity towards counter-partisans—may impede cross-party grassroots cooperation. In online experiments with 25,000 participants, we connect Democrats with other Americans across the political spectrum (all of whom believe climate change is human-caused) to understand whether and how they try to recruit others to push for climate policy. Democrats are motivated to recruit others—they are 10% more likely to email Congress when doing so allows them to invite others to act. Even while Democrats say that a bipartisan climate movement would be more effective, however, they are 27% more likely to invite other liberals than conservatives to email Congress. This gap does not arise from Democrats' own distaste for engaging with counter-partisans, but rather can be explained by their correct beliefs that their invitation will have

HANNAH RUEBECK OCTOBER 2023—PAGE 4

about half as much impact on conservatives' action. Anticipated affective polarization drives these beliefs: Democrats estimate that conservatives would respond three times more to invitations that did not identify them as liberals.