

# CURRICULUM VITAE

Laurin E. Bixby

June 2024

Philadelphia, PA

lbixby@sas.upenn.edu

---

## EDUCATION

---

**University of Pennsylvania School of Arts and Sciences, Philadelphia PA**

PhD, Sociology

2024

Dissertation: “Deconstructing Disability-Based  
Socioeconomic Inequality: Intersectional Injustice, Structural  
Ableism, and State Policy Contexts”

**The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA**

MA, Statistics and Data Science

2023

Thesis: “Inverse Probability of Treatment Weighting to  
Address Confounding in the Longitudinal Analysis of How  
Maternal Health varies by Children’s Disability &  
Household Socioeconomic Status”

**Furman University, Greenville, SC**

2019

BA, Sociology (Summa Cum Laude)

Concentration: Medicine, Health, & Culture

---

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Disability, Social and Health Policy, Home- and Community-Based Services, Health Equity,  
Social Determinants of Health, Intersectionality, Criminal Legal System, Quantitative Methods.

---

## FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

---

**Summer Fellow**, Mathematica Policy Research

2023

Conducted research on how interstate inequalities in employment  
between people with and without disabilities vary across state policy  
contexts, including Medicaid and LTSS policies.

<b>Graduate Paper Award</b> , Disability Health Equity Research Network	2022
Awarded for best graduate student publication in the DHERN paper award competition for <i>Health Affairs</i> paper titled “The Links Between Disability, Incarceration, and Social Exclusion.”	
<b>Associate Fellow</b> , The Leonard Davis Institute of Health Economics	2022 – Present
Selected as a research Fellow to represent the LDI mission: “to improve health and health care by catalyzing collaborative, multidisciplinary research that influences policy and practice.”	
<b>Health Policy Research Scholars</b> , Robert Wood Johnson Foundation	2020 – Present
Selected as scholar in RWJF leadership development program, which supports doctoral students whose research helps build healthier and more equitable communities.	
<b>Benjamin Franklin Fellowship</b> , University of Pennsylvania	2019 – Present
Awarded by the Department of Sociology at the School of Arts and Sciences to support doctoral training.	

---

## PUBLICATIONS & FORTHCOMING WORK

---

**Bixby, Laurin.** 2024. “Intersectional Inequalities: How Socioeconomic Well-being Varies at the Intersection of Disability, Gender, Race-Ethnicity, and Age.” *Research in Social Stratification and Mobility* 91. DOI: 10.1016/j.rssm.2024.100938

McCarty, Kathleen, **Laurin Bixby**, and Winston Kennedy. 2024. “Access and Inclusion: Addressing Barriers and Reimagining Opportunities.” *Introduction to Para Sport and Recreation*, edited by R. Hardin, and J. R. Pate. Champaign, IL: Human Kinetics.

**Bixby, Laurin.** 2023. “Disability is Not a Burden: The Relationship between Early Childhood Disability and Maternal Health Depends on Family Socioeconomic Status.” *Journal of Health and Social Behavior* 64(3):354-369. DOI: 10.1177/00221465231167560.

**Bixby, Laurin**, Stacey Bevan, and Courtney Boen. 2022. “The Links Between Disability, Incarceration, and Social Exclusion.” *Health Affairs* 41(10):1460-1469. DOI: 10.1377/hlthaff.2022.00495

Boen, Courtney, Nick Graetz, Hannah Olson, Zohra Ansari-Thomas, **Laurin Bixby**, Rebecca Anna Schut, and Hedwig Lee. 2022. “Early Life Patterns of Criminal Justice Involvement: Inequalities by Race-Ethnicity, Gender, and Parental Education.” *Demographic Research* 46(5):131-146. DOI: 10.4054/DemRes.2022.46.5

Bevan, Stacey, and **Laurin Bixby**. 2022. “Maternal-Child Separation in the Carceral State.” *Nursing CLIO*. December 1, 2022.

<https://nursingclio.org/2022/12/01/maternal-child-separation-in-the-carceral-state/>

**Bixby, Laurin**. 2022. “What Can Be Done to Break the Link Between Disability and Incarceration?” *Leonard Davis Institute for Health Economics*. November 23, 2022.

<https://ldi.upenn.edu/our-work/research-updates/breaking-the-link-between-disability-and-incarceration/>

**Bixby, Laurin**. 2024. Review of *Hacking the Underground: Disability, Infrastructure, and London's Public Transport System* by Raquel Velho. Forthcoming in *H-Sci-Med-Tech*.

**Bixby, Laurin**. “State Policy Drivers of Disability-Based Unemployment Inequalities: Medicaid and Long-Term Services and Supports Policies.” [Under Review].

---

## PRESENTATIONS

---

**Bixby, Laurin** (invited). “Sociology is Better with Disability.” American Sociological Association’s Disability in Society Section, Virtual. June 2024.

**Bixby, Laurin**. “Using Schools to Improve Child Health, Why Black Families Choose to Homeschool Their Kids, and What Drives Inequity for People with Disabilities.” Invited guest on Mathematica’s podcast *On the Evidence*. January 2024.

**Bixby, Laurin**. “Understanding Interstate Variation in Socioeconomic Inequalities between Disabled and Nondisabled People: The Role of Medicaid LTSS Policies.” *Mathematica Policy Research*, Virtual. August 2023.

**Bixby, Laurin**. “Intersectional Inequalities: How Poverty and Unemployment Vary at the Intersection of Disability, Gender, Race-Ethnicity, and Age.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia. August 2023.

**Bixby, Laurin**, Ariel Hart, Elliot Marrow, and Chloe Sariego. “Reimagining Care: Disability Justice and Thriving for All.” *Health Policy Research Scholars Summer Institute*, Baltimore. July 2023.

**Bixby, Laurin** (invited). “The Links Between Disability, Incarceration, and Social Exclusion.” Disability Health Equity Research Network Meeting, Virtual. January 2023.

**Bixby, Laurin** (invited). “The Links Between Disability, Incarceration, and Social Exclusion.” *Health Affairs Disability & Health Virtual Symposium*. October 2022.

**Bixby, Laurin**, Stacey Bevan, and Courtney Boen. “Disability in the Carceral State.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, August 2022.

**Bixby, Laurin.** “Disabled Children are Not a Burden: Exploring Childhood Disability, Family Socioeconomic Status, and Maternal Well-Being.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Virtual. August 2021.

**Bixby, Laurin** (invited). “The Role of Family Socioeconomic Status for Understanding the Relationship between Childhood Disability and Maternal Well-Being.” Disability & Society ASA Section Research Talk Series. July 2021.

Boen, Courtney E., Nick Graetz, Hannah Olson, Zohra Ansari-Thomas, **Laurin Bixby**; Rebecca Anna Schut, and Hedwig Lee. 2021. “Early Life Patterns of Criminal Justice Involvement: Inequalities by Race-Ethnicity, Gender, and Socioeconomic Status.” Annual Meeting of the American Sociological Association, Virtual. August 2021.

Boen, Courtney E., Hannah Olson, Hedwig Lee, **Laurin Bixby**, Nick Graetz, Rebecca Schut, and Zohra Ansari-Thomas. “Early-Life Patterns of Criminal Justice Involvement: Inequalities by Race-Ethnicity, Gender, and Socioeconomic Status.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Virtual, May 2021.

Feng, Kai, and **Laurin Bixby**. “Childhood Disability, Parental Marital Dissolution, and Absent Father’s Involvement After Marriage Breakup.” Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Virtual, May 2021.

**Bixby, Laurin**, and Ken Kolb. “Food Deserts and Retail Interventions.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, New Orleans, LA. April 2018.

**Bixby, Laurin**, and Lorraine DeJong. “How Children Learn about Race.” Annual USC Upstate Diversity Conference, Spartanburg, SC. March 2018.

**Bixby, Laurin**, and Nicole Hyman. “#POTUS: How a College Student’s Socioeconomic Status Influences their Perspective on Barack Obama’s Legacy.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Sociological Society, Greenville, SC. March 2017.

---

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

<b>Poverty, Race, and Health</b> , Teaching Assistant <i>University of Pennsylvania</i> Responsibilities include: leading lecture about disability and inequalities in health and socioeconomic well-being, mentoring undergraduate students, hosting office hours, facilitating discussions, and grading assignments.	2023
<b>Sociological Research Methods</b> , Guest Lecturer & Grader <i>University of Pennsylvania</i>	2023

Responsibilities included: leading lecture about how to identify and rule out alternative hypotheses, facilitating group discussion, and grading assignments.

**Introduction to Health Studies**, Guest Lecturer 2022, 2023  
*Bryn Mawr College*

Responsibilities included: leading lecture about disability studies and the criminal legal system, and facilitating group discussion.

**Arts, Entertainment, and Media Sector**, Teaching Assistant 2021  
*University of Pennsylvania, Wharton Industry Exploration Program*

Responsibilities included: hosting office hours, facilitating small group activities and discussions, coordinating guest speakers, and grading assignments.

**Medical Sociology**, Teaching Assistant 2020  
*University of Pennsylvania, School of Arts and Science*

Responsibilities included: hosting office hours, facilitating discussions, and designing and grading assessments.

**Social Determinants of Health**, Advanced Teaching Fellowship 2018  
*Furman University*

Responsibilities included: facilitating discussions, leading lectures, developing curriculum, coordinating out-of-class observational activities, grading presentations, and providing one-on-one assistance.

**Science and Culture of Happiness**, Co-instructor 2018 – 2019  
*Furman University and DIS Copenhagen*

Responsibilities included: designing curriculum, leading lectures, mentoring and advising undergraduate students, and coordinating travel.

**Introduction to Sociology & Introduction to Statistics**, Tutor 2016 – 2019  
*Furman University*

Responsibilities included: meeting one-on-one or in small groups to review and clarify course material, and providing homework and study assistance.

---

## RESEARCH & WORK EXPERIENCE

---

**Research Assistant**, *University of Pennsylvania* 2023

- Analyzed how racial disparities in disability prevalence varies across states using American Community Survey data
- Created maps to assess whether analysis at the state-level masks salient variation at the local-level

**Lex Frieden Inclusive Policy & Advocacy Intern, *Elevance Health***

2022

- Conducted policy and demographic research to reduce healthcare inequities and improve access to care and services for disabled people and older adults
- Developed a survey and conducted focus groups to examine how assistive technology can improve health care access
- Tracked relevant legislation and news impacting disability and healthcare related policy
- Planned and participated in stakeholder meetings and conferences
- Reviewed and responded to state Medicaid Requests for Proposals
- Collaborated with internal stakeholders in areas such as Inclusion & Diversity, Commercial and Medicaid business divisions, Public Policy, Business Development, as well as with individuals in the external advocacy, provider, and legislative communities

**Research Assistant, *Furman University***

2019

Project: “Development of a Community-Based Obesity Prevention Initiative in Early Childcare and Education Centers in Greenville County.”

- Trained in community-based participatory research
- Conducted Environment and Policy Assessment and Observation Tool in early childhood centers throughout Greenville, SC
- Interviewed child care center directors about nutrition and physical activity policies in the centers
- Collaborated with early childhood educators and preschool-aged children to assess barriers to healthy eating and physical activity
- Performed content analysis of all books in each child care center to assess the representation of food and movement messaging as well as the racial diversity of characters in the books

**Furman Advantage Research Assistant, *Furman University***

2018

Project: “Political Assassination and Social Movement Outcomes.”

- Trained in comparative-historical research methodology to identify assassinated social movement leaders around the globe

- Conducted content analysis of history textbooks, encyclopedias, and online resources to identify characteristics of social movements
- Used Qualitative Comparative Analysis software to compare how social movement characteristics contributed to the growth or dissolution of a movement following the assassination of the social movement or political leader

**Townes Scholar Research Assistant, *Furman University***

2017 – 2018

Project: “Food Deserts and Retail Interventions.”

- Analyzed solutions for food system inequities beyond providing access to healthy food options to ameliorate food desert crisis
- Created database to conduct content analysis of 750 articles relating to conventional and academic wisdom on food deserts
- Transcribed interviews about food insecurity in West Greenville, SC
- Collected survey data at local grocery store and used ArcGIS to map out people’s proximity to store
- Conducted Nutrition Environment Measures Survey to assess the food access environment among grocery stores, convenience stores, corner stores, and produce markets in Greenville, SC and shared information with local policymakers regarding food access and cost

## **PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

Software: Stata, R, Qualitative Comparative Analysis, Qualitative Data Analysis, ArcGIS, Qualtrics.

Skills: Secondary data analysis, In-person and online survey administration, Policy memo writing, Policy analysis, In-depth interviewing, Comparative-historical research methodology, Interview transcriptions, Content analysis, Environment and Policy Assessment and Observation Tool, Nutrition Environment Measures Survey.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

AcademyHealth Joined 2022

Population Association of America Joined 2020

American Sociological Society	Joined 2019
Southern Sociological Society	Joined 2016

---

## UNIVERSITY & COMMUNITY SERVICE

---

Disability Health Equity Research Network, Awards Committee (2023)	2022 – Present
Medical Sociology Cluster, Graduate Student Representative	2022 – 2024
Disability Advocacy at Penn	2020 – 2024
Graduate Sociological Society, Professionalization Chair (2020)	2019 – 2024
Demography Club	2019 – 2024
Community Change Leadership Network, CreatEquity Initiative	2021
United Nations Millennium Fellowship for Social Impact Leadership	2018 – 2019
Save the Children Action Network, Student Ambassador	2015 – 2019
Institute for the Advancement of Community Health Fellowship	2017

---

## REFERENCES

---

**Courtney E. Boen**, PhD, MPH  
Assistant Professor of Sociology  
University of Pennsylvania  
cboen@sas.upenn.edu

**Lisa I. Iezzoni**, MD, MSc  
Professor of Medicine  
Harvard Medical School  
liezzoni@mgh.harvard.edu

**Scott Landes**, PhD  
Associate Professor of Sociology  
Syracuse University  
sdlandes@syr.edu

**Michelle Putnam**, PhD, MGS  
Professor and Chair, School of Social Work  
Simmons University  
michelle.putnam@simmons.edu

**Merrill Friedman**  
RVP, Inclusive Policy & Advocacy  
Elevance Health  
merrill.friedman@elevancehealth.com

**Amal Harrati**, PhD  
Senior Researcher  
Mathematica Policy Research  
aharrati@mathematica-mpr.com