



Martha J. Bailey Receives of the 2022 Carolyn Shaw Bell Award

Martha J. Bailey, Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of California-Los Angeles and Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research, CEPR, CESifo, and IZA., is the recipient of the 2022 Carolyn Shaw Bell Award.

Named after the first chair of CSWEP, the Carolyn Shaw Bell Award was created as part of the 25th Anniversary celebration of the founding of CSWEP. The award has been given annually since 1998 to an individual who has furthered the status of women in the economics profession through example, achievements, increasing our understanding of how women can advance in the economics profession, or mentoring others. Professor Bailey has excelled on all of these criteria. We will present this award at the CSWEP business meeting and award ceremony during the 2023 AEA meeting.

Professor Bailey received her B.A. degree in Economics and German from Agnes Scott College and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in economics from Vanderbilt University. She began her career as a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Research scholar. She spent the subsequent twelve years at the University of Michigan – in the Department of Economics and the Population Studies Center. In 2013, she was the first woman to be internally promoted to tenure in the Michigan economics department. Since 2020, she has been a professor in the Department of Economics at the University of California-Los Angeles. Professor Bailey has received the John Dewey Teaching Award and Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching award from the University of Michigan, the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award, and the Rendigs Fels Award for Excellence in Teaching from Vanderbilt.

Professor Bailey's scholarship artfully uses historical data to shed light on important unanswered questions about how technological advancement in contraception and changes to the social safety net affect women's economic and social outcomes. She has pathbreaking work on the legacies of the U.S. War on Poverty and the minimum wage legislation and prominent gender-related work, including a set of papers establishing how access to contraception and family planning affects women's fertility and the gender earnings gap (e.g., Bailey 2010 AER; Bailey, Hershbein, and Miller AEJ: Applied 2012; Bailey, AEJ: Applied 2012; Bailey, Malkova and McLaren JHR 2018). More recently, she and coauthors have documented the impacts of the COVID pandemic on American women's fertility decisions. She has co-edited two books and spearheaded the creation of multiple demographic databases for the United States.

Her attention to detail, transparency, and thoroughness in this work has set the standard for combining economic history and the family's economics. She demonstrated by example how scholarship at the highest levels can be combined with creating and disseminating datasets for wider use. One letter writer shares, "Combined with her deep institutional understanding of historical policy variation, her scholarship has become a key contributor to our understanding of how technological innovation and social policy affect women's career choices, earnings, fertility, and children."

Professor Bailey's dedication to advancing women in economics includes a tremendous depth and breadth of service to her department and the profession. She was junior recruiting chair twice and a member of the executive committee thrice at Michigan. In those roles, she advocated for diverse candidate search strategies, educated faculty on common pitfalls that can allow implicit bias to sneak into hiring decisions, helped establish an anonymous reporting mechanism for harassment and misconduct, and spearheaded the department's adoption of a formal code of conduct. Less formally, when Michigan graduate students expressed a desire for more opportunities to present on health, history, demography, and development topics, she found funding, established, and advised a student-led seminar series and an annual conference to ensure students with diverse interests felt supported and included in the department. Several letters praise Martha's role as research team leader, securing large grants and leading a diverse team by example. "Before working with her, I could not have imagined a career in policy research or continuing on to graduate studies," writes a former team member.

She has performed similar service for the profession. In editorial positions at the Journal of Labor Economics, the American Economic Review, the Journal of Economic Literature, Demography, and the Journal of Economic History, as well as in her roles on the executive committee of both the AEA and the Society of Labor Economists, she has been an advocate for ensuring diverse perspectives are heard and supported. She has been vocal in advertising and encouraging the use of the AEA ombudsman to address sexual harassment and other bad behavior in the profession.

But perhaps nothing better demonstrates Professor Bailey's contributions to the advancement of women in the economics profession than her leadership of CSWEP's CeMENT program since 2016. She manages the logistics of the incredibly popular mentoring program and recruits dozens of overcommitted senior women as mentors each year. Several of her letters of support describe how transformative this workshop has been for junior women; both mentees and mentors were deeply inspired by the honesty, support, and a sense of purpose in the room full of female economists. It is perhaps the single most effective institutional mentoring event the profession offers, in no small part because of Professor Bailey's devotion to its continued success.

In addition to her support for formal mentoring opportunities, Professor Bailey devotes time, energy, and enthusiasm to mentoring a vast number of women. On her CV, she underlines the names of students and former student coauthors, and a quick count reveals more than twenty-five student or former student coauthors. Her success is their success. One letter writer summarizes:

Martha ... epitomizes the kind of mentorship that increases diversity; she helps you figure out how to achieve your own goals while coming up with new ways to spend her time pushing for your success. Having experienced this kind of mentorship, I am driven to identify opportunities to offer the same kind of time investment and support to help the next generation of scholars the way she helped me.

We can do no better than to conclude by quoting one of the letter writers, "Martha is a force for women in economics. She deserves to be recognized as such."

Professor Bailey adds to the list of other amazing women who have contributed immensely to the profession. In chronological order, from the most recent to the first awardee, the recipients have been: Joyce P. Jacobsen, Nancy L. Rose, Yan Chen, Rohini Pande, Rachel Croson, Cecilia Rouse, Janet Currie, Hilary Hoynes, Rachel McCulloch, Catherine C. Eckel, Sharon Oster, Elizabeth Hoffman, Elizabeth E. Bailey, Anne Carter, Olivia S. Mitchell, Barbara Fraumeni, Claudia Goldin, Barbara Bergmann, Robin L. Bartlett, Margaret Garritsen de Vries, Francine Blau, Marianne Ferber, Eva Mueller, Sandra Ohrn Moose, and Alice Rivlin.

CSWEP is a standing committee of the American Economic Association charged with promoting the careers and monitoring the progress of women economists. It sponsors mentoring and networking activities, conducts an annual survey of economics departments, and distributes professional development materials and career advice. CSWEP endeavors to raise awareness of the challenges unique to women's careers in economics and best practices for increasing diversity in the economics profession.

For further information, please contact:

Anusha Chari, CSWEP Chair (info@cswep.org), or visit: <http://www.cswep.org>.

