

JOHANNA BERNARD
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EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA 2020 - 2026
Ph.D., Education Policy, Graduate School of Education
A.M. Statistics, The Wharton School, *completed 2024*

Dissertation: Understanding the conditions and contexts that shape skill development in childhood
Committee: A. Brooks Bowden (chair), Sharon Wolf, Jere Behrman

Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN 2020
M.Ed. Child Studies, Peabody College, Specialization in Poverty & Intervention

Bowdoin College, Brunswick, ME 2013
B.A. Psychology; Minor: Gender & Women's Studies

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Early childhood intervention effectiveness & equity • Causal inference & quasi-experimental methods •
Economic evaluation & cost-effectiveness analysis • Skill development, fadeout, and long-term intervention
impacts • Family & parental involvement • Evidence translation & policy implementation • Child & family
wellbeing across the lifespan

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

American Educational Research Association-National Science Foundation Dissertation Grant 2024-2025
Emerging Education Policy Scholar 2023-2024
Fellowship through the Thomas B. Fordham Institute and the American Enterprise Institute
Institute of Education Sciences Predoctoral Fellow, University of Pennsylvania 2021-Present
Penn Development Research Initiative Fellow, University of Pennsylvania 2021-Present
M.E.A. Stinner Fellow, University of Pennsylvania 2020-Present
Scholastic Achievement Scholarship, Vanderbilt University 2018-2020

PUBLICATIONS

Bowden, A. B., Bernard, J., & Davis, R. (2026). Leveraging home reading to strengthen literacy development: Applying principal stratification to explore heterogeneous effects from a randomized trial. *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 19(1), 74-102. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19345747.2024.2430583>

Wolf, S., Bernard, J., Ezeugwu, C.R., Ahmad, L., Gurin, K.B. (2025). Impacts of the Preschool Safe Space program on disadvantaged girls in northern Nigeria. *Child Development*, 96(3), 1128-1147. <http://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.14225>

EVALUATION REPORTS

Pullom, K., Lee, S., Bowden, A.B., Bernard, J. North Carolina Early Childhood Services: Participation and Access (2025). Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education at University of Pennsylvania. <https://www.rescue.org/report/reach-and-learn-cost-effectiveness-report>

Wolf, S., Bernard, J., Ezeugwu, C.R., Ahmad, L., Gurin, K.B. (2025). Evaluation of Ci Gaba: A Montessori Pre-School Program in Nigeria. Internal report for Oasis Sahel.

Bowden, A. B., Lee, S., Behrman, J. R., Yoshikawa, H., Bernard, J., Hoyer, K., & Zahra, F. (2022). *Phone-based Reach Up and Learn cost-effectiveness report*. Center for Benefit-Cost Studies in Education at University of Pennsylvania. <https://www.rescue.org/report/reach-and-learn-cost-effectiveness-report>

Boice, K., Harris, V.A., Clemens, J.D., Martin, N.C., Bernard, J. (2021). *Finding the right tools for the job: Using utilization-focused evaluation to collect meaningful student data in graduate education.*

WORKING PAPERS

Bernard, J. & Wolf, S. (in progress). Long-term Effects of Early Childhood Interventions on Student Wellbeing. In Mammadov, S. (Ed.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Student Well-Being*, Cambridge University Press.

Bernard, J. (2024). *Examining pre-k effectiveness by alternative childcare options: Evidence from the Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K study.* Education Policy Department, University of Pennsylvania.

Bernard, J. (2024). *Skill building and sustaining environments: Exploring fadeout in the Zoology One trial.* Education Policy Department, University of Pennsylvania.

Bernard, J., Bowden, A.B., Lee, S., & Behrman, J. (2024). *Reach Up and Learn over time: Variations in cost-effectiveness of a classic parenting intervention.* Education Policy Department, University of Pennsylvania.

Gray, A., Fink, R., Diaz, K., & Bernard, J., Bowden, A.B (2024). *Reimagining achievement: A longitudinal examination of blended social-emotional and academic outcomes in early elementary school.* Consortium for Policy Research in Education, University of Pennsylvania.

Bowden, A.B., Diaz, K., Bernard, J., Gray, A., & Sirinides, P. (2024). *Examining the heterogeneous and longitudinal effects of a comprehensive kindergarten literacy curriculum.* Consortium for Policy Research in Education, University of Pennsylvania.

RESEARCH POSITIONS

University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education 2020-Present
Research Assistant; Advisor: A. Brooks Bowden, Ph.D.

Early Childhood NCLDS Data Use Case. PI: Brooks Bowden, PhD. Conducted early-stage data analysis on pilot datasets sourced independently from state databases; preregistered the project on OSF.

Efficacy Evaluation of Zoology One: Kindergarten Research Labs. PI: Brooks Bowden, PhD. Led experimental and quasi-experimental analyses of a kindergarten literacy RCT to examine medium-term outcomes through third grade; authored papers on longitudinal skill persistence and heterogeneous treatment effects. Methods include principal stratification, school fixed-effects, and inverse-probability treatment weighting. Conducted qualitative interviews with teachers on implementation fidelity.

Impacts of Montessori-Based Preschool Spaces in Rural Northern Nigeria on Girls Schooling and Learning Outcomes. PI: Sharon Wolf, Ph.D. Led impact analysis of a matched-pair randomized trial.

Cost-Effectiveness of Early Childhood Interventions Serving Refugee Children. PIs: A. Brooks Bowden, Ph.D. and Jere Behrman, Ph.D. Created parent time use survey; conducted literature review on previous program versions.

North Carolina Office of Early Learning 2022-2023
Policy Research Apprentice; Advisor: Kelley Bendheim

Developed a teacher survey instrument for an implementation evaluation of the Language Essentials for Teachers in Reading and Spelling program.

MDRC 2022
Research Apprentice; Advisor: Shira Mattera, Ph.D.

Getting Ready Guilford Initiative. Contributed to measurement selection for a large-scale early childhood initiative. Authored literature reviews on Kindergarten Transition interventions and Pre-K social-emotional learning programs. Co-developed a cost evaluation plan with Dr. Brooks Bowden.

Variations in Quality Impact (VIQI): Conducted classroom observations using the Global Indicators of Quality tool.

Vanderbilt University, Peabody College

2019-2020

Research Assessor, Assessing the Quality and Alignment of Pre-K to 2nd Grade Classrooms in Tennessee; PI: Caroline Christopher, Ph.D.

Graduate Assistant, Program Evaluation in Higher Education; PIs: Vicki Harris, Ph.D. and Nina Martin, Ed.D.

Research Field Collector, Tennessee Pre-school Development Grant Evaluation; PI: Dale Farran, Ph.D.

Research Assistant, Enhancing Adult-child Interactions in the Children's Hospital Clinic; PI: David Dickinson, Ed.D.

MEASUREMENT SCALES

Farran, D.C., Kasul, R.A., Bernard, J., & Meador, D.M. (2019). *Narrative Revised Manual* (2019 ed.). Peabody Research Office, Vanderbilt University. [Early childhood observation measure].

INVITED SEMINARS (Bold text indicates presenting author)

Bernard, J., Lipsey, M., Durkin, K. (2025, January). *Examining pre-k effectiveness by alternative childcare options: Evidence from the Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K study* [Seminar presentation]. UC Irvine School of Education, Irvine, CA, United States.

Bernard, J. & Lee, S. (2021, December). *Economic evaluation in practice: Examining the cost-effectiveness of early childhood programs for Syrian refugee children in Jordan* [Seminar presentation]. Penn Development Research Initiative Seminar Series, Philadelphia, PA.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (Bold text indicates presenting author)

Bernard, J., Lipsey, M., Durkin, K. (2026, April 8-12). *Examining pre-k effectiveness by alternative childcare options: Evidence from the Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K study* [Poster presentation]. AERA 2026 Biennial Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, United States.

Bernard, J., Lipsey, M., Durkin, K. (2025, May 1-3). *Examining pre-k effectiveness by alternative childcare options: Evidence from the Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K study* [Paper presentation]. SRCD 2025 Biennial Meeting, Minneapolis, MN, United States.

Bowden, B., Lee, S., Bernard, J., Alam, A., Pullom, K., Lee, H. (2024, November 21-23). *Using state longitudinal data systems to improve cross-sector policy in early childhood* [Paper presentation]. APPAM 2024 Conference, National Harbor, MD.

Bowden, B., Diaz, K., Bernard, J., Gray, A., Sirinides, P. (2024, September 18-21). *Sustaining early literacy skills through fourth grade: Medium-term effects from a randomized trial of Zoology One, a kindergarten literacy curriculum* [Paper presentation]. SREE 2024 Conference, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Bernard, J., Lipsey, M., Durkin, K. (2024, September 18-21). *Examining pre-k effectiveness by alternative childcare options: Evidence from the Tennessee Voluntary Pre-K study* [Paper presentation]. SREE 2024 Conference, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Wolf, S., Bernard, J., Ezeugwu, C., Ahmad, L., & Bello Gurin, K. (2024, June 10-11). *Impacts of the Ci Gaba preschool program on disadvantaged girls in Northern Nigeria* [Paper presentation]. West African Research Association (WARA) West Coast Regional Virtual Conference.

Bernard, J., Lipsey, M., Durkin, K. (2024, March 14-16). *Exploring variation in impact of the Tennessee Pre-K study: Decomposing treatment effects by alternative childcare options* [Paper presentation]. AEFPP 2024 Conference, Baltimore, MD, United States.

Bernard, J., Bowden, A.B., Lee, S., & Behrman, J. (2023, November 9-11). Reach Up and Learn *over time: Variations in cost-effectiveness of a classic parenting intervention* [Paper presentation]. APPAM 2023 Conference, Atlanta, GA, United States.

Bowden, A.B., **Bernard, J.**, Lee, S., & Behrman, J. (2023, September 27-30). *Examining the costs of a parenting intervention for refugee families in Jordan: A case study of Reach Up and Learn* [Poster presentation]. SREE 2023 Conference, Arlington, VA, United States.

Bernard, J., Pullom, K., & Bowden, A.B. (2023, September 27-30). *Piloting an integrated data system to examine patterns of access and participation in early childhood services among kindergarteners in North Carolina* [Poster presentation]. SREE 2023 Conference, Arlington, VA, United States.

Bowden, A.B., Davis, R., & Bernard, J. (2022, March 27-29). *Leveraging home reading to strengthen literacy development* [Paper presentation]. APPAM 2021 Conference, Austin, TX, United States.

Bowden, A.B., Davis, R., & Bernard, J. (2021, September 26-29). *Leveraging home reading to strengthen literacy development* [Paper presentation]. SREE 2021 Conference, Virtual.

SOFTWARE

Stata (primary), R, Qualtrics, REDCap

TEACHING POSITIONS

Methods of Economic Evaluation in Education, University of Pennsylvania <i>Teaching Assistant</i> for Professor A. Brooks Bowden	2023, 2024
Introduction to Policy Analysis in Education, University of Pennsylvania <i>Instructor</i> with Dr. Sangyoo Lee	2023
Education Policy Practicum <i>Teaching Assistant</i> for Professor Stefanie Levin, Katie Barghaus, and Haisheng Yang, University of Pennsylvania	2021
Developmental Psychology, Vanderbilt University <i>Teaching Assistant</i> for Professor Meg Saylor	2018

FIELD SERVICE

Conference Reviewer for SREE (2023, 2024, 2026), NRCEC (2022, 2023); APPAM Session chair (March 2022, November 2023)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Student Representative, Education Policy Department at University of Pennsylvania	2023-2024
Student Letter Writer, (2x) Tenure Review Committee at University of Pennsylvania	2022-2023
Student Liaison, Tenure Review Committee at University of Pennsylvania	2023

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Education Finance and Policy; American Educational Research Association; Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management; Society for Research on Child Development; Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Nashville, TN <i>Graduate Assistant</i>	2018-2019
Girls on the Run of the Bay Area, San Francisco, CA <i>Program Coordinator</i>	2016-2017
Reading Partners, Oakland, CA <i>Recruiting Coordinator</i>	2015-2016
The Representation Project, San Francisco, CA <i>Education Intern</i>	2015