Brian Arinaitwe
Department of Economics, Kansas State University
+1 (785) 317-6414 | barinaitwe@ksu.edu | arinaitwebriankaiser@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Kansas State University — Expected 2028
Advisor: Amanda Gaulke

M.A. in Economics, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda — 2022
Thesis: Health Expenditure and Economic Growth in East Africa: Does Institutional Quality Matter?

B.A. in Economics, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda — 2017

DOCTORAL COURSEWORK

Econometrics I & II, Macroeconomic Theory I & II, Advanced Microeconomic Theory I & II, Advanced Labor Economics I &II, Public Sector Analysis, Microeconometrics, Quantitative Topics in Agricultural Economics, Research Methods in Economics.

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Health Economics, Economics of Aging, Labor Economics, Public Economics.

WORKING PAPERS & WORKS IN PROGRESS:

"Unequal Burdens? Partner Health Shocks and Labor Supply Among Immigrant and Native Couples in the United States"

"The Effect of Social Security Income on Hospital Admissions: Evidence from the Social Security Notch"

"Health Expenditure and Economic Growth in East Africa: Does Institutional Quality Matter?"
Unpublished master's thesis, Makerere University (2022)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2026: Kansas Health Economics Conference, Lawrence**.**

HONORS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

Wayne Nafziger Graduate Research Award, Kansas State Department of Economics (2026-2027 recipient)

Graduate Student Research Workshop on Poverty and Economic Mobility, organized by the Center on Race and Wealth at Howard University and the Institute for Research on Poverty of the University of Wisconsin–Madison (May 2026)

UNU-WIDER Scholarship, Intensive Winter School on Tax Policy Research at *Stellenbosch University, South Africa*, 2022.

AERC Scholarship, Joint Facility for Electives, Kenyan School for Monetary Studies African Economic Research Consortium, 2019 ($15,000).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Kansas State University

Instructor of Record

Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 110) Spring 2026

Teaching Assistant

Principles of Macroeconomics (ECON 110) Fall 2023 – Present

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Uganda Revenue Authority, Kampala, Uganda Mar. 2022 – Jul. 2023

Research Assistant & Graduate Fellow, Makerere University, Kampala, Uganda Aug. 2018 – Feb. 2022

Research Assistant, Premium Consulting Ltd, Kampala, Uganda Nov. 2020 – Mar. 2021

Graduate Trainee, Economic Policy Research Centre, Kampala, Uganda Mar. 2020 – Oct. 2020

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical & Econometric Software: Stata (Proficient), Python (Intermediate), EViews

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Economic Association

African Economic Research Consortium (AERC) Alumni Network

Explanation of my interest in the NBER Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics Research.

I just completed my third year in the PhD program in economics at Kansas State University. The two existing chapters of my dissertation stand at the intersection of aging, health, and labor economics. The first examines whether the labor supply response to a spousal health shock depends on the immigrant status of the affected partner. The second asks whether exogenous variation in Social Security income affects hospital admissions. The argument for my participation in this program is straightforward: the gaps between what my department can provide and what this research requires are specific, consequential, and directly addressed by what the mentoring workshop offers.

The most significant constraint is exposure to health economics as a field. My advisor studies health economics, but since she was hired in the public field (there is no health field), her PhD level course contains health economics, but also public finance topics more broadly. There is no second field course in public currently being offered in the department due to limited faculty. This has constrained my formal exposure to many topics within health and aging, and results in less structured exposure to active researchers in my area. My research would benefit from feedback and mentoring from more faculty in my field, as there are limits to what one faculty member can provide.

Methodological constraints also exist in my department due to limited faculty. The applied Microeconometrics course was taught by a faculty member working in structural industrial organization, not an applied econometrician or faculty member routinely using these methods. This has resulted in limited grounding in the practical judgment that applied work in health and aging economics requires. This is the kind of training gap that is difficult to close independently and that direct engagement with active practitioners is uniquely positioned to address.

A further constraint concerns data. My advisor's health research has been largely conducted with Danish administrative data, which differs from what is available to me. Learning which data sources are accessible, how to access them, and how researchers navigate their practical constraints typically requires mentorship from scholars who have built research programs around these sources.

The mentoring program addresses each of these gaps in a way that my current environment cannot. Access to senior researchers who have navigated exactly these empirical and substantive challenges, and to a cohort of peers doing the same would provide the kind of feedback that accelerates dissertation development in ways that are difficult to replicate otherwise. I am at the stage where the marginal return to this kind of exposure is highest: the research questions are in hand, the motivation is established, and what remains is the expert guidance needed to make them tractable.