# Alexis Smith

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**University of Wisconsin – Madison**
Department of Economics
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Citizenship: USA, Canada

## Education

**University of Wisconsin – Madison** — Expected 2027
Ph.D. Candidate, Economics
M.S. Economics

**Michigan State University** — 2019
B.A. in Economics with High Honors, The Honors College
B.A. in World Politics with High Honors

## Research Interests

Labor economics, economics of aging, health economics, risk and insurance

## Papers

**Works in Progress**

"Intergenerational Mobility and Long-Term Care" (JMP)

"Evaluating Medicaid's Asset Limits for Long-Term Care"

"Bundling Deductibles" – with Corina Mommaerts and Long Hong

"How Insurable are Shocks to Childcare Needs?" – with Serena Xu

## External Presentations

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|---|---|
| Midwest Economic Association Conference | 2026 |
| Southern Economic Association Conference | 2025 |
| Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Research Workshop | 2025 |
| Population Association of America Conference | 2025 |
| Eastern Economic Association Conference | 2025 |
| Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Research Conference | 2024 |

## Professional Experience

**School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin - Madison** — 2024 – 2026
Research Assistant for Rebecca Myerson

**Department of Economics, University of Wisconsin - Madison** — 2023 – 2024
Research Assistant for Corina Mommaerts

**Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System** — 2019 – 2021
Research Assistant in the Prices & Wages Section

**Department of Political Science, Michigan State University** — 2018 – 2019
Research Assistant for Ryan Black

## Teaching Experience

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|---|---|
| Teaching Assistant for Principles of Microeconomics, UW - Madison | 2022 - 2023 |
| Learning Assistant for Intro to Methods, Michigan State | Spring 2018 |

## Awards and Honors

**Research Awards**

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|---|---|
| Dorothy Rice Dissertation Fellowship | 2026 |
| Institute for Research on Poverty Summer Fellowship | 2026 |
| Susan B. Kocin Scholarship in Labor Economics | 2026 |
| Walker Family Dissertation Fellowship | 2025 |
| Christensen Scholarship in Empirical Economics | 2025 |
| Juli Plant Grainger Summer Research Fellowship | 2025 |
| The Graduate School's Student Research Grant | 2024 |
| Social Security Administration RDRC Dissertation Grant | 2024 |

**Academic Awards**

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|---|---|
| Michigan State University Board of Trustees Scholarship Award | 2019 |
| Edward A. and Eleanor B. Carlin Award for Outstanding Scholarship | 2019 |
| Burton L. and Rosalie P. Gerber Scholarship for Academic Excellence | 2019 |
| Forest Akers Endowed Scholarship | 2018 |
| Dean's List | 2015 – 2019 |

## Activities

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| Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School Stone Program | 2026 |
| Fellow, Institute for Research on Poverty at University of Wisconsin - Madison | 2024 - 2026 |
| CSWEP Health Mentoring Workshop | 2023 |

## Service

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|---|---|
| Social Chair, Wisconsinites for Inclusion and Diversity in Economics | 2023 - 2026 |
| Speaker, Federal Reserve Education Outreach Program | 2019 - 2021 |
| Co-founder and Vice President, Women and Minorities in Economics at MSU | 2018 - 2019 |
| Co-founder and President, Social Science Discussion Forum at MSU | 2017 - 2019 |

## References

John Kennan (*Chair*)
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Corina Mommaerts
Department of Economics
University of Wisconsin – Madison
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## Completed Courses

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|---|---|
| Mathematical Economics I | 2021 |
| Economic Stats & Econometrics I & II | 2021 - 2022 |
| Theory: Microeconomics Sequence I & II | 2021 - 2022 |
| Theory: Macroeconomics Sequence I & II | 2021 - 2022 |
| Computational Economics | 2022 |
| Public Finance & Fiscal Policy I & II | 2022 - 2023 |
| Labor Economics I & II | 2022 - 2023 |
| Advanced Macroeconomic Theory | 2023 |

May 27, 2026
Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at the University of Wisconsin – Madison. My research focuses on how long-term care and health risk impacts household choices and how policies that insure against these risks impact welfare. Attending the Mentoring Program on Aging and Health Economics would afford me the opportunity to have in-depth discussions with scholars who work on similar topics.

In my job market paper, *Long-Term Care and Intergenerational Mobility*, I ask how long-term care risk facing grandparents impacts not only parents, who often provide informal care, but grandchildren as well. To do so, I estimate an overlapping generations model in which parents and grandparents interact with limited commitment to make both long-term care and childcare choices, as well as investments in children. I will use the model to evaluate the impact of changes to Medicaid's asset limit for long-term care eligibility and subsidies for informal elder caregivers on intergenerational mobility.

My other research also relates to aging and health. In another project, I evaluate the impact of relaxing Medicaid's asset test for long-term care on the living arrangements, long-term care choices, and welfare of adult children and their aging parents. In joint work with Corina Mommaerts and Long Hong, we first document the prevalence of family health insurance plans, which bundle multiple household members into a single-family contract. Given that the family deductibles in these plans rarely scale with household size, we study the welfare consequences of this design.

I would like to attend the workshop to connect with peers and mentors working on similar topics, receive feedback on my research, and learn about emerging research in health and aging. While my own research tends to be structural, I am interested in engaging with those who work on health and aging topics using a wider variety of methods. I am also interested in discussing my work with these scholars and learning about how to most effectively communicate my research to others.

The kinds of support I would find most helpful center around developing a research agenda in aging and health economics. First, I would value opportunities to discuss my current research ideas and receive feedback that can help refine these projects. Second, I would benefit from learning about new and expanding areas of research in health and aging economics. While at my own institution there are a few professors working on these topics, connecting with peers working in these areas is of particular interest to me, both to engage with other research ideas and to foster potential collaboration. I am excited about the possibility of a smaller group setting and the potential for more in-depth conversations and connections that this opportunity would afford me.

Sincerely,

**Alexis Smith**
Ph.D. Candidate
Economics Department
University of Wisconsin – Madison