

Sam Absher, Ph.D.

EDUCATION

University of Oklahoma
Doctor of Philosophy in Economics, 2018

University of Oklahoma
Bachelor of Arts in Economics, 2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH & PLANNING CONSULTANTS, LP (RPC)
Austin, Texas

Senior Consultant (2025–Present)

- Provide expert testimony, analysis, affidavits, and reports addressing:
 - Loss of earning capacity
 - Loss of support in wrongful death cases
 - Loss of household services
 - Present value calculations of life care plans
 - Reasonableness of charges and payments for healthcare services



RAND

Santa Monica, California

Associate Economist (July 2019–September 2025)

- Performed statistical analysis using a range of publicly available, proprietary, and classified data
- Managed research projects/personnel from inception to report delivery
- Interpreted and presented analysis to key stakeholders in the government and military

RAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

Santa Monica, California

Faculty (January 2022–December 2024)

- Taught courses in microeconomic theory, economic systems, and cost benefit analysis

FREE MARKET INSTITUTE, TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY

Lubbock, Texas

Postdoctoral Researcher (August 2018–May 2019)

- Conducted independent economic research

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

RAND SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

Santa Monica, California

Primary Instructor (January 2022–December 2024)

- Microeconomic Theory I: Policy and Economic Systems
- Understanding Economic Systems I
- Cost Benefit and Cost Effectiveness Analysis

UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

Norman, Oklahoma

Primary Instructor (2017–2018)

- Elements of Statistics

PUBLICATIONS

- “A Review of the Military Basic Pay Table” (2025). RRA-2400-1 (with Beth J. Asch et al.)
- “Reassessing the Basic Allowance for Housing for Army Personnel in a Rapidly Changing Housing Market” (2025). RR-A2412-1. (with Beth J. Asch and Jason M. Ward)
- “Recruiter Management in the Department of the Air Force” (2024). RR-A2181-1. (with Avery Calkins et al.)
- “A Revised Recruiting Resource Model for Achieving the Army Personnel Strategy: Accounting for Digital Advertising” (2023). RR-A2108-1. (with Jason M. Ward et al.)
- “Assessing the Value of Overseas Military Campaigning in Strategic Competition” (2023). RR-A1798-1. (with Stephen Watts et al.)
- “The Consequences of CIA-Sponsored Regime Change in Latin America” (2023). *European Journal of Political Economy* 80. (with Kevin Grier and Robin Grier)
- “The Impact of State Voting Processes in the 2020 Election: Estimating the Effects on Voter Turnout, Voting Method, and the Spread of COVID-19” (2023). RR-A112-25. (with Jennifer Kavanaugh)
- “The Role of Standards in Fostering Capability Evolution: Does Design Matter? Insights from Interoperability Standards” (2022). RR-A1576-1. (with Jon Schmid et al.)
- “Building Military Coalitions: Lessons from U.S. Experience” (2021). RR-A859-1. (with Jennifer Kavanaugh et al.)
- “America’s 5G Era: Gaining Competitive Advantages While Securing the Country and Its People” (2021). PE-A435-1. (with Timothy M. Bonds et al.)
- “The Economic Consequences of Durable Left-Populist Regimes in Latin America” (2020). *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 177(1). (with Kevin Grier and Robin Grier)
- “You Say You Want a (Rose) Revolution? The Effects of Georgia’s 2004 Market Reforms” (2018). *Economics of Transition and Institutional Change* 27(1). (with Kevin Grier and Bob Lawson)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- RAND Gold Medal Award
- RAND Spotlight Award
- Chong Liew Summer Research Award

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Free Market Institute at Texas Tech University, 2023
- Northeastern Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference, 2019
- 56th Annual Meeting of the Public Choice Society, 2019
- Southern Economic Association (SEA) 88th Annual Meeting, 2018
- Southern Economic Association (SEA) 86th Annual Meeting, 2016