

*Note that you cannot return to the previous page.  
Please do not use your browser navigation button to go back.*

## **Overview & ID**

Graduate Student Mental Health: A Study of American Economics Departments
Researchers: Paul Barreira, MD; Matthew Basilico; Valentin Bolotnyy

## **Consent Form**

### **Participation is voluntary**

It is your choice whether or not to participate in this research. If you choose to participate, you may change your mind and leave the study at any time. Refusal to participate or stopping your participation will involve no penalty or loss of benefits to which you are otherwise entitled.

### **What is the purpose of this research?**

The purpose of this research is to understand the prevalence, severity, and correlates of common mental health problems among graduate students in economics departments across the United States. The faculty survey portion of the study will help supplement the graduate student study by shedding additional light on faculty-student relationships.

### **What can I expect if I take part in this research?**

This survey should take about 5 minutes to complete. It is intended for all tenured or tenure-track faculty in Economics.

Once you begin the survey you will not be able to leave it and return to it at another time, so please complete it in one sitting. There is also no "Back" button, so you cannot change responses once you proceed to the next page.

The researchers will produce an aggregated report across all participating economics programs, as well as an aggregated report specifically for your department. Data from your department will only be studied in an aggregated way and the researchers will share department-specific results only with your department Chair. The report aggregated across all participating programs will not identify department-specific results.

## **What are the risks and possible discomforts?**

Answering questions that require reflection on interactions with students and colleagues, as well as on the environment in the department, may cause discomfort. Your thoughtful and honest responses are important to us, but if you are uncomfortable answering a certain question, please feel free to skip that question.

## **Benefits**

We cannot promise any benefits to you or others from your taking part in this research. However, possible benefits include students' improved understanding of their own mental health and its connection to their life experiences; structural department-level and profession-level reforms that improve student and faculty quality of life; improved departmental culture around mental health; initiatives across graduate programs worldwide to improve mental health among students and faculty.

## **If I take part in this research, how will my privacy be protected? What happens to the information you collect?**

The data we collect will be stored on a secure server and analyzed in an anonymous way. No raw, individual response-level data will ever be made public. Such data will also not be handled or accessed by anyone other than a third-party data scientist hired by the researchers. The data scientist has no affiliation with any economics department and has signed a confidentiality agreement. No attempt will ever be made to identify whether or how specific individuals answered the questions in this study.

## **If I have any questions, concerns, or complaints about this research study, who can I talk to?**

The lead researcher for this study is *Paul Barreira, MD* who can be reached at 671-495-2010; 75 Mt. Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138; [gradsurvey@huhs.harvard.edu](mailto:gradsurvey@huhs.harvard.edu) .

Please contact him if you have questions, concerns, complaints, or:

- If you would like to talk to the research team,
- If you think the research has harmed you, or
- If you wish to withdraw from the study.

This research has been reviewed by the Committee on the Use of Human Subjects in Research at Harvard University. The Committee can be reached at 617-496-2847, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue, 9th Floor, Suite 935, Cambridge, MA 02138, or [cuhhs@harvard.edu](mailto:cuhhs@harvard.edu) for any of the following:

- If your questions, concerns, or complaints are not being answered by the research team,
- If you cannot reach the research team,
- If you want to talk to someone besides the research team, or

- If you have questions about your rights as a research participant.

## Statement of Consent

I have read the information in this consent form. All my questions about the research have been answered to my satisfaction.

[Consent Form PDF Download](#)

## Signature

**By selecting this box, I consent to taking part in this research.**

**Please note that refreshing the survey or using your browser navigation button to go back will invalidate the survey.**

## Faculty

Think of the PhD students with whom you've met in the last 2 months:

How honest do you think they would be with you if they faced difficulties with:

	Not honest at all	Somewhat honest	Moderately honest	Very honest	Not applicable/did not meet with students
Research progress	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Presentations	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Teaching	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Refereeing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Co-authoring with other students	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Co-authoring with you	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Their <u>other</u> advisers	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Preparing for the job market	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Their decision to get a PhD in economics	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Their decisions related to starting a family	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Their mental health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Their other personal life issues	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How easy do you think it would be for them to talk to you about non-academic career options?

Not easy at all

Somewhat easy

Moderately easy

Very easy

Not applicable or did not meet with students

In what year of the Economics PhD program do you think the average student experiences the highest level of strain on his or her mental health?

1st

2nd

3rd

4th

5th

6th

7th+

Have you ever received training on a mental health-related topic?

Yes

No

Don't know

Have you ever advised PhD student(s) who were experiencing an issue with mental health at the time?

Yes

No

Don't know

If yes, approximately how many of such students have you advised?

What advice would you give to other faculty members who might be advising a PhD student with a mental health issue?

## RAND American Working Conditions Survey

The following are standard questions based on the RAND American Working Conditions Survey:

In general, how often does your work provide you with the following:

	Always	Most of the time	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	Don't know
Opportunities to fully use your talents	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Opportunities to make positive impact on community/society	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Sense of personal accomplishment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Goals to aspire to	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Satisfaction of work well done	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Feeling of doing useful work	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

The following are standard questions based on the RAND American Working Conditions Survey:

Thinking about both your commitments at work and outside of work, please select the response which best describes your situation. How often, in the last 3 months, has it happened that you:

	Always	Most of the time	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Worried about work when not working	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Were too tired for activities in private life	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Were too tired to do household jobs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Had difficulty making ends meet financially	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Had work prevent time with family or significant others	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

I have very good friends at my Economics Department.

Strongly agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

What is your level of seniority in the department?

On tenure track

Tenured

Since receiving your PhD, for how many years have you held an academic position?

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