

## EconLab Opportunity for 2024-25: RA for Aastha Rajan

**Title:** Research Assistant

**Openings:** One

**Project:** Economic Mobility Effect of Servicemen Dependents Allowance Disbursed during World War I

### Project Description:

This project aims to understand the impact of Servicemen Dependents Allowance (SDA), cash allowance to families of World War I servicemen, on the economic mobility of women. Unlike mothers' pensions which were narrowly targeted, this was one of the first welfare state policies in the US to provide economic security to a broad spectrum of the female population. This project seeks to understand the impact that these family support payments had on the financial and economic independence of women by analyzing outcomes such as women's entry into the labor force and changes in occupation.

### Position Description:

This project is currently in the data collection and preliminary analysis phase. The Research Assistant will help digitize data from allowance disbursement cards collected from the National Archives. They will assist in cleaning and analyzing historical Census data. Other tasks might include helping with literature review and gathering information from historical documents related to the SDA. This position is suited for students with interest in economic history, labor economics, or public policy. Prior experience in python, R, or STATA is preferred. This role is ideal for students looking to learn about research project development and data analysis.

### Application Requirements:

Interested applicants should send an email to Aastha Rajan at [aastharajan@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:aastharajan@u.northwestern.edu) with a copy of their unofficial transcript, resume, and a paragraph discussing their interest in this project and position. Please email with the subject line: "Application for EconLab: [INSERT NAME]". The position is expected to start at the beginning of the Fall quarter and will last at least for the duration of the quarter.