

## EconLab Opportunity for 2024-25: RA for Giacomo Marcolin

**Title:** Research Assistant

**Openings:** One

**Project:** The Effects of Pregnancy-Discrimination Laws: The Case of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978

### Project Description:

Department of Economics PhD student Giacomo Marcolin is seeking an undergraduate research assistant for a project focused on gender discrimination in the U.S. labor market, specifically pregnancy discrimination. Before the Pregnancy Discrimination Act (PDA) of 1978, federal laws did not prohibit firing women for pregnancy, while male employees with job-protected sick leave were often retained. This study aims to analyze the employment protection component of the PDA, which, despite its intentions, may have led to unintended consequences that potentially harmed the very group it sought to protect.

### Position Description:

This project is currently in the data analysis phase, while novel data on employment in the 1970s and 1980s is being prepared for analysis and will soon be incorporated. The Research Assistant will assist with improving current analyses, preparing and analyzing new data. This position offers a great opportunity for students interested in labor economics, gender studies, or public policy to gain hands-on experience with real-world data and econometric methods. Prior experience in Stata or R is preferred, but not required. This role is also ideal for students looking to improve their coding skills and learn to apply both standard and more advanced econometric tools.

### Application Requirements:

Interested applicants should email [marcolin.giacomo@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:marcolin.giacomo@u.northwestern.edu) a copy of their (unofficial) transcript, resume, and a paragraph describing their interest in this project and position. The position is expected to start at the beginning of the Fall quarter and will last at least for the duration of the quarter.