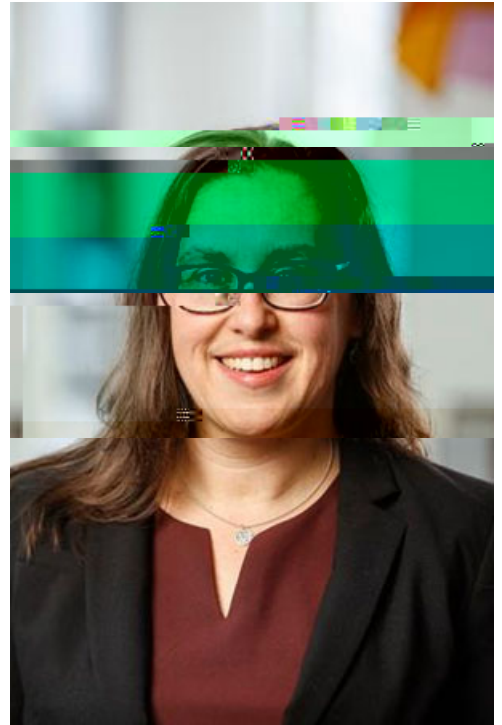# Faculty Focus:
Elaine Hill, Ph.D.

What does your research focus on?

I am a health economist and Principal Investigator of the Causal Inference for Health Policy Laboratory. My re search focuses on the intersections among human health, population dynamics, health policy, environmental expo sures, and human capital formation. Within these broad areas, the overarching theme of my work is the use of eco nomic based quasi experimental designs to identify modi fiable factors that are policy relevant. Most of my research has focused on maternal child health and rural popula tions. In particular, I study the health consequences of shale gas development, drug shortages in cancer care, and health system and policy responses to the opioid crisis.

Why did you choose to do research in public and community health?

Prior to senior year of high school, I planned to become a physician. However, senior year, I was exposed to economics and found my calling. It was only natural for my inter est in health, inequality, and especially modifiable factors that improve long term out comes for children to come together in health economics. As I've grown to understand that environments matter for health, I have focused my research on environmental ex posures, health systems and built environments.

What do you enjoy most about University of Rochester?

My students and colleagues. I love the collaborative environment and opportunity to work with diverse disciplinary backgrounds. I especially love mentoring the next generation of scientists.

What opportunities are there for students to engage in your projects, both current and future?

Currently, my lab is made up of undergraduate and graduate students from a wide variety of disciplines including health services research, epidemiology, economics, data science, and environmental health. We are always looking for new members who bring diverse perspectives. We also have a robust mentoring program to support students in gaining programming and research skills. Interested students should definitely reach out to me via email!