



# Caitlin Kearns

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## Education

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**University of California, Berkeley**

Ph.D. in Economics, Expected May 2020

Dissertation advisor: Jesse Rothstein

Research areas: Public Policy, Education, Consumer Finance, Real Estate, Healthcare

Courses: Econometrics, Time Series, Statistical Learning Theory, Natural Language Processing

**Wellesley College**

B.A. in Economics with Honors, May 2010

## Dissertation research

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**“School finance reforms, home prices, and neighborhood change.”**

Presentation, OSU Real Estate and Housing PhD Conference, May 2019.

Poster presentation, All-California Labor Economics Conference, October 2018.

**“What’s in a review? Using text analysis to understand how parents value schools.”**

Presentation, UC Berkeley Computational Text Analysis Working Group, October 2018.

(with Chris Campos) **“Options and Opportunity in LAUSD: Evaluating Zones of Choice.”**

## Publications and Working Papers

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(with Doug Lauen and Bruce Fuller) **“Competing with Charter Schools - Student Selection, Retention, and Achievement in Los Angeles Pilot Schools.”** 2018.

(with Gene Amromin) **“Access to Refinancing and Mortgage Interest Rates: HARPing on the Importance of Competition.”** FRB of Chicago Working Paper No. 2014-25.

Media coverage: “Here’s How Lack of Competition Can Hurt Consumers.” By Binyamin Appelbaum, *The New York Times*, January 5, 2015. ([link](#))

(with Kristin Butcher and Patrick McEwan) (2013). **“Giving Till it Helps? Alumnae Giving and Children’s College Options.”** *Research in Higher Education*, 54(5), 499-513.

## Professional Experience

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**American Institutes for Research, San Mateo, CA**

Researcher (Principal researcher: Jesse Levin, *Aug 2018 - Present*)

- Collaborated on analysis of survey and school budget data for evaluation of weighted student funding

**Uber, San Francisco, CA**

Data Science Intern (Supervisor: Elizabeth Mishkin, *May 2019 - Aug 2019*)

- Performed independent quasi-experimental estimation of the effect of Instant Pay on driver hours
- Produced descriptive report on driver debit card spending

**Petris Center for Health Care Markets and Consumer Welfare, UC Berkeley**Graduate Student Researcher (Principal researcher: Richard Scheffler, *Jan 2018 - May 2019*)

- Collaborated on analysis of effects of healthcare market concentration on insurance premiums
- Coordinated publication of market concentration and hospital price findings in *New York Times* ([link](#))

**Institute for Human Development, UC Berkeley**Graduate Student Researcher (Principal researcher: Bruce Fuller, *Jan 2016 - Aug 2017*)

- Performed data analysis and co-authored evaluation of Los Angeles pilot high schools
- Coordinated integration of preschool student records into state education database (CALPADS)

**Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley**Graduate Student Researcher (Principal researcher: Amir Kermani, *Jun 2016 - Aug 2017*)

- Analyzed large housing and stock trading datasets (McDash, DataQuick, TAQ, ANcerno)
- Assisted evaluation of Home Affordable Refinance Program's effects on household consumption

**Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago**Senior Associate Economist (Supervisor: Anna Paulson, *Jun 2010 - Jun 2014*)

- Analyzed large mortgage, consumer credit, and survey datasets using quasi-experimental methods (2SLS, regression discontinuity, matching, parametric survival models)
- Managed 10+ long-term projects from analysis to submission, coordinated with outside academics

## Awards and Fellowships

**NSF Graduate Research Fellowship**, *Fall 2014 - Spring 2019***Fisher Center for Real Estate Research Grant Program**, *Fall 2017 - Spring 2018*

## Teaching and Mentoring

**Department of Economics, UC Berkeley**Mentoring Program, *Fall 2018*

- Provided one-on-one guidance and feedback on undergraduate data analysis and programming

Graduate Student Instructor: Introduction to Economics (Professor Martha Olney), *Fall 2017*

- Reinforced concepts for 60 undergraduate students in interactive class sections and one-on-one
- Created original course materials to aid students in exam preparation

## Skills

Languages: English (native), Spanish (professional written and spoken)Data analysis: R, pandas, MATLAB, Stata, SASDatabases: SQL (Presto, Hive)GIS: ArcGIS, GeoPandasOther: L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, TikZ

## Professional Memberships

American Economic Association

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management