



Caitlin Kearns

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Education

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D. in Economics, Expected May 2020

Dissertation advisor: Jesse Rothstein

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

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

Wellesley College

B.A. in Economics with Honors, May 2010

Dissertation research

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

I quantify the effect of school finance reforms on home prices and mortgage applicant income using an event study design and synthetic controls.

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

I use unsupervised natural language processing methods to identify topics in reviews posted on a large website and estimate differences between public and private schools.

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

We use quasi-random and lottery variation in student assignments to quantify school choice impacts.

Publications and Working Papers

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

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

Media: “Here’s How Lack of Competition Can Hurt Consumers.” *The New York Times*. ([link](#))

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

Professional Experience

Uber, San Francisco, CA

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

- Performed independent quasi-experimental estimation of the effect of instant payment option on driver labor supply and produced descriptive report on driver debit card transactions

American Institutes for Research, San Mateo, CA

Researcher (Principal researcher: Jesse Levin, *Aug 2018 - Aug 2019*)

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

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

- Collaborated on analysis of effects of healthcare market concentration on insurance premiums
- Efficiently analyzed 1 billion+ inpatient and outpatient private insurer claims
- Coordinated publication of market concentration and hospital price findings in *New York Times* ([link](#))

Institute for Human Development, UC BerkeleyGraduate 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 BerkeleyGraduate 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 ChicagoSenior 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 BerkeleyMentor, *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

<u>Languages:</u>	English (native), Spanish (professional written and spoken)
<u>Data analysis:</u>	R, pandas, MATLAB, Stata, SAS
<u>Databases:</u>	SQL (Presto, Hive)
<u>GIS:</u>	ArcGIS, GeoPandas
<u>Other:</u>	L ^A T _E X, TikZ

Professional Memberships

American Economic Association

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management