# ALINA KHINDANOVA

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## EDUCATION

**The University of Texas at San Antonio** — San Antonio, TX
MS in Business Research — Expected May 2026

**The University of Rochester** — Rochester, NY
MA in Economics — August 2025

**The University of Texas at Austin** — Austin, TX
MA in Economics — May 2024

**Moscow State University** — Moscow, Russia
BS in Economics — May 2022

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Rethink Priorities** — May 2025 - Present
Intern / Research Assistant — *Remote*

- Developed Stata code to transform raw data into a structured format that was further used by colleagues to extract synthetic responses from large language models (LLMs).
- Analyzing the comparability of synthetically generated data to real respondent data; creating visualizations and running logit regressions to compare willingness-to-pay estimates.
- Conducting a literature review on the applications of LLMs in economic research.

**Department of Economics, The University of Texas at Austin** — May 2023 - September 2023
Research Assistant — *Austin, TX*

- Conducted a comprehensive literature review on Medigap, analyzing studies from the past 20 years to extract key findings, research methodologies, data sources, and identify potential research gaps
- Performed background research on Medigap policies (eligibility criteria, pricing rules, etc.)

**Department of Economics, The University of Texas at Austin** — January 2023 - May 2024
Research Assistant — *Austin, TX*

- Scraped data from the Factiva website and compiled information on 500+ companies using Python
- Led quality control for over 200 Excel data files, providing constructive feedback and ensuring data accuracy
- Contributed to the creation of a novel dataset by appending finalized files using Stata

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**Alvarez College of Business, The University of Texas at San Antonio** — September 2025 - Present
Teaching Assistant — *San Antonio, TX*

- Graded assignments for Labor Economics; supported exam proctoring for Introduction to Microeconomics.
- Graded Introductory Mathematics and Mathematics for Economics courses; provided tutoring support to students.

**Economics and Mathematics School, Moscow State University** — September 2020 - May 2021
Instructor — *Moscow, Russia*

- Designed course materials including lectures, problem sets and exams tailored to high school students
- Delivered economics lectures and graded problem sets and exams, providing detailed feedback to support student improvement and academic growth

## RESEARCH PROJECTS

**Food Quality, Organic Certification, and Consumer Purchases: An Empirical Analysis.** Course project for MKT 7093 Applied Econometrics in Marketing and Business Research at the University of Texas at San Antonio, Fall 2025. In this project, I am trying to understand how organic labeling (as a proxy for advertised quality) moderates the relationship between the objective quality and sales.

**Estimating Willingness-to-Pay with LLMs: Bridging the Data Availability Gap with Synthetic Contingent Valuation.** In this project, we analyze how large language models can be leveraged to estimate consumers' willingness to pay in contingent valuation settings. We designed and executed synthetic data simulations for 11 models, and conducted comparative analysis against real respondent data to assess similarity and model performance.

**Did the Affordable Care Act Encourage Low-Income Migration to Medicaid Expansion States? Evidence from 2014–2021.** Course project for ECO 395M Causal Inference class at the University of Texas at Austin, coauthored with classmate Jorge Gutierrez. We use a Regression Discontinuity Design to examine whether Medicaid expansion affects interstate migration.

**Normative Gender Roles and the Health Detrimental Behavior of Russian Adolescents.** Undergraduate thesis at Moscow State University. I analyzed how parental attitudes toward gender equality affect the likelihood of smoking for adolescents. I cleaned and organized data from a publicly available longitudinal survey and estimated logit models in R.

## RELEVANT COURSEWORK

### Mathematics

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|---|---|
| Linear Algebra (master's-level) | Henry Chimal-Dzul |
| Real Analysis (master's-level) | Kirk Blazek |
| Mathematics for Economists (master's-level) | Jim Wiseman |
| Differential Equations | |
| Mathematical Analysis I-III | |
| Linear Algebra I-II | |

### Statistics/Econometrics

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|---|---|
| Statistical Methods in Research II (Spring 2026, master's-level) | Bazoumana Kone |
| Applied Econometrics in Marketing and Business Research (PhD-level) | Richard Gretz |
| Econometrics (PhD-level) | Stephen Donald |
| Statistical Methods in Research (master's-level) | Saidat Abidemi Sanni |
| Data Mining and Statistical Learning (master's-level) | James G. Scott |
| Probability and Statistics (master's-level) | James G. Scott |
| Probability Theory | |
| Mathematical Statistics | |

## SKILLS

**Software**: Stata, Python, R, SPSS, Latex
**Languages**: English (fluent), Russian (native), Spanish (intermediate)