

# Melissa K. Spencer

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Richmond (2021 - )

## EDUCATION

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### University of Virginia, Charlottesville

Ph.D. in Economics May 2021

Committee: Amalia Miller, Eric Chyn, Sebastian Tello-Trillo, John Pepper

M.A. in Economics December 2016

### Clemson University, Clemson

B.A. in Economics, *summa cum laude* May 2015

B.A. in Women's Leadership, *summa cum laude* May 2015

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

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"Abortion Ballot Measures affect Election Outcomes," with Graham Gardner and Kayleigh McCrary. February 2025. *Economics Letters*, 112182.

"Safer Sex? The Effect of AIDS Risk on Birth Rates." May 2024. *Journal of Health Economics*, 95:102867.

"Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Domestic Violence in Los Angeles" with Amalia Miller and Carmit Segal. January 2024. *Economica*, 91(361), 163-187.

"Effects of COVID-19 Shutdowns on Domestic Violence in US Cities" with Amalia Miller and Carmit Segal. September 2022. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 131:103476.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

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"Effects of COVID-19 Shutdowns on Domestic Violence in the U.S." with Yutong Chen, Amalia Miller, and Carmit Segal. Invited chapter in the *Handbook of Inequality and COVID-19*, ed. Kenneth L. Couch, March 2025, Edward Elgar Publishing Ltd.

## WORKING PAPERS

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"Crime, Inequality and Dating: Cohesive Themes in Principles of Microeconomics," with Maia Linask and Erik Craft

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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Robins School of Business Outstanding Research Paper Award 2023, 2024

Robins School of Business Summer Research Grant 2022, 2023, 2024

Robins School of Business Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Grant 2022

NBER Gender in the Economy Study Group Research Grant on Women,

Victimization, and COVID-19 (with Amalia Miller and Carmit Segal)	2020
Bankard Pre-doctoral Fellowship	2020
Marshall Jevons Fund Award	2020
The Jefferson Fellowship (UVA's premier graduate fellowship)	2018
Snively Prize for Outstanding Economics Dissertation Proposal	2018
Huskey Graduate Research Exhibition, Best Social Sciences Poster	2018
Snively Prize for Outstanding Economics Summer Paper	2017

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED SEMINARS

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2024: American Economic Association Annual Meeting	
2023: Brock University seminar, Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education, Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, University of North Carolina Greensboro seminar	
2022: NBER Summer Institute, GeFam Study Group, Joint Virginia Military Institute / Washington and Lee seminar, Virginia Commonwealth University seminar	
2021: NBER Health and COVID-19 Fall Meeting, UVA Law and Economics Colloquium, Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economists, LAC Labor and Public Conference, Virtual Seminar on the Economics of Risky Health Behaviors	
2020: Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting, University of Toledo seminar, St. Olaf College seminar, SITE Economic Perspectives on Domestic Violence	

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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ECON 235: Gender Economics (UR)	2022-2024
ECON 101: Principles of Microeconomics (UR)	2021-2025
ECON 3010: Intermediate Microeconomics (UVA)	Summer 2018
TA for ECON 4160: Economics of Health (UVA)	Spring 2018
TA for ECON 3010: Intermediate Microeconomics (UVA)	Summer 2017, Fall 2017
TA for ECON 2020: Principles of Macroeconomics (UVA)	Spring 2017
TA for ECON 2010: Principles of Microeconomics (UVA)	Fall 2016

## SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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Referee: <i>Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Health Economics, European Economic Review, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Economica, Economic Inquiry, Economic Letters, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of Sports Economics, Applied Economics, Review of Economics of the Household, Crime Science</i>	
Co-Organizer, Gender Economics Teaching Network	2022-Current
Health Program Committee, APPAM Fall Research Conference	2022
CSWEP Mentoring Workshop for PhD Students, Mentor	2023
Robins School of Business DEI Task Force	2022-2023
Program Committee, Liberal Arts College Public and Labor Conference	2022
President and founder of Women in Economics at UVA	2019-2020
Co-organizer of the Academics and Social Media Forum (UVA)	2019
Graduate School Student Council Vice President & Committee Chair (UVA)	2017-2019

### *Grants for Service Initiatives*

UVA Diversity and Inclusion Grant for Women in Economics	2019
Jefferson Foundation Grant for Interdisciplinary Forums	2019
CSWEP Joan Haworth Mentoring Grant for Women in Economics at UVA	2018

## **MEDIA**

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“Behind Closed Doors.” Asterisk Magazine. October 2023. Covering “Effects of COVID-19 Shutdowns on Domestic Violence in US Cities” with Amalia Miller and Carmit Segal.

“Did Domestic Violence Really Spike During the Pandemic?” Freakonomics Radio. Episode 505. June 1, 2022. Covering “Effects of COVID-19 Shutdowns on Domestic Violence in US Cities” with Amalia Miller and Carmit Segal.

“Measuring the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Domestic Violence.”

IZA World of Labor opinion article. January 11, 2021. with Amalia Miller and Carmit Segal.

## **ADVISING**

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Isabelle Huggard, Undergraduate Honors Thesis	2024
Olivia Falck, Undergraduate Honors Thesis	2023

## **INVITED WORKSHOPS**

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EDUCATE Workshop: Expanding Diversity in Undergraduate Classes with Advancements in the Teaching of Economics	2023
CSWEP CeMENT Workshop for Junior Faculty	2023
Becker-Friedman Institute Price Theory Summer Camp	2019
Summit for Diversity in Economics	2018