BAS SANDERS

bas_sanders@g.harvard.edu Cell 857-928-8478 SandersBas@github.io



Littauer Center 1805 Cambridge St Cambridge MA 02138 Placement Director: Myrto Kalouptsidi Placement Director: Oleg Itskhoki Administrative Director: Brenda Piquet myrto@fas.harvard.edu itskhoki@fas.harvard.edu bpiquet@harvard.edu 617-495-2144 617-495-2144 617-495-8927

Education Harvard University

Ph.D. Economics, 2021 to 2025 M.A. Economics, 2024 London School of Economics

M.Sc. Econometrics and Mathematical Economics, Distinction, 2020

University of Groningen

B.Sc. Econometrics and Operations Research, Cum Laude, 2017

Fields Econometrics

International Trade

References Professor Isaiah Andrews

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

iandrews@mit.edu

Professor Jesse Shapiro Harvard University

iesse.m.shapiro@gmail.com

Professor Pol Antràs Professor Anna Mikusheva

Harvard University Massachusetts Institute of Technology

pantras@fas.harvard.edu amikushe@mit.edu

Fellowships & Awards

Harvard Griffin GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, 2025-2026 Best Third Year Research Paper Prize, Harvard University, 2024

Teaching

Econometric Methods, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Dmitry Arkhangelsky, 2025 Principles of Econometrics, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Elie Tamer, 2024 Econometric Methods, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Dmitry Arkhangelsky, 2024 Principles of Econometrics, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Phillip Heiler, 2023 Probability Theory, University of Groningen, teaching fellow for Professor Paul Bekker, 2017

Research

Research Assistant, Harvard University, Professors Isaiah Andrews and Jesse Shapiro, 2021-2023 Research Assistant, London School of Economics, Professor Xavier Jaravel, 2020-2021

Job Market Paper

A New Bayesian Bootstrap for Quantitative Trade and Spatial Models

Economists use quantitative trade and spatial models to make counterfactual predictions. Because such predictions aim to inform policy decisions, it is important to communicate the uncertainty surrounding them. Three key challenges arise in this setting: the data are dyadic and exhibit complex dependence; the number of interacting units is typically small; and counterfactual predictions depend on the data in two distinct ways—through the estimation of structural parameters and through the description of the status quo. I propose a new Bayesian bootstrap procedure that is tailored to this setting and that addresses these challenges. The procedure is simple to implement and provides both finite-sample Bayesian and asymptotic frequentist guarantees. I illustrate the practical advantages of this approach by revisiting the applications in Waugh (2010), Caliendo and Parro (2015), and Artuç, Chaudhuri, and McLaren (2010).

Working Papers

Measurement Error and Counterfactuals in Quantitative Trade and Spatial Models R&R at Review of Economics and Statistics

Counterfactuals in quantitative trade and spatial models are functions of the current state of the world and the model parameters. Common practice treats the current state of the world as perfectly observed, but there is good reason to believe that it is measured with error. This paper provides tools for quantifying uncertainty about counterfactuals when the current state of the world is measured with error. I recommend an empirical Bayes approach to uncertainty quantification, and show that it is both practical and theoretically justified. I apply the proposed method to the settings in Adao, Costinot, and Donaldson (2017) and Allen and Arkolakis (2022) and find non-trivial uncertainty about counterfactuals.

Weighing Experimental vs. Observational Evidence: Decision-Relevant Summaries of Treatment Effect

Joint with Isaiah Andrews and Raj Chetty

We characterize when and how experimental evidence should be combined with observational information to guide treatment adoption at a new site. We show that the optimal linear predictor for the site-specific treatment effect is a weighted average of the cross-site experimental ATE and the local observational estimate, with weights determined by the covariance matrix of site effects and observational estimands. We provide unbiased estimators for this covariance in settings with both large and small sites, quantify the effect of mismatch between experimental and target sites, and derive easy-to-interpret breakdown points. Empirical illustrations using the Year Up RCT and Project STAR show substantial gains, with up to 40 percent reductions in out-of-sample MSE over naive ATE extrapolation.

Seminars & Conferences

2025: North American Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, University of Amsterdam, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Tilburg University, Free University Amsterdam, Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics, Radboud University Nijmegen, CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis, 2025 Econometrics of Equilibrium Effects Conference

2024: Urban Economics Association Summer School, (EC)^2 Conference on Unravelling Misspecification and Identification in Econometrics

Languages

Dutch (native), English (fluent)

Software skills

MATLAB, R, STATA, Python