

Robert Fletcher

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Education

Stanford University

2022 Expected

Ph.D., M.A. in Economics (Fields: Labor and Development)

University of Southern California

2014

B.A. in Economics and B.S. in Applied Mathematics (summa cum laude)

Research Experience

Stanford University and Stripe

2018 - Present

Graduate Researcher

- Managed the Stanford + Stripe Study of Internet Entrepreneurship, a joint research effort between Stanford and financial tech company Stripe to study trends in online entrepreneurship.
- Co-Designed and implemented a quarterly panel focused on management practices and business founder sales forecasting that included 7000+ entrepreneurs over 3 years.
- Established data pipelines using SQL to augment survey data with large-scale financial data.
- Co-created and implemented financial, informational, and educational randomized interventions.
- Applied Difference-in-Differences, Regression Discontinuity Design, and other methods to identify low familiarity with business data as a leading cause of entrepreneur forecasting underperformance.
- Recommended product improvements for increasing customer engagement with Stripe.
- Completed time-series analyses showing massive and ongoing sales losses due to COVID-19, with significantly larger impacts on smaller, offline, Black-owned, and women-owned businesses.
- Published results of studies with the National Bureau of Economic Research for broader policy use.

Stanford University

2015 - Present

Graduate Researcher

- Implemented propensity-score matching to estimate the returns of doctor skill on patient outcomes.
- Applied panel data methods to causally demonstrate that U.S. internal migration significantly affects individual political preferences and reduces polarization overall.
- Developed a dynamic model of business formation and ran Monte Carlo simulations of the model to match observed levels of selective information sharing in the Colombian mining industry.

Research & Teaching Assistant

- Estimated structural models to address labor issues ranging from firm exit to migration patterns.
- Co-designed a survey and co-managed 60+ surveyors in a randomized controlled trial assessing allocation mechanisms for maximizing technology adoption.
- Earned Centennial Teaching Assistant and (3x) Outstanding Teaching Assistant Awards in recognition of commitment to students and ability to clearly and simply present complex topics.

Machine Learning Experience

- Built machine learning models to forecast major league baseball player performance.
- Used Scikit-learn, XGBoost, and Keras to fit regression, random forest, and neural network models.
- Achieved precision-at-k with k equal to 2 of 79.0% when forecasting and selecting best players.

Skills

Programming - Python (Pandas, Scikit-Learn), SQL, Stata, MATLAB, Shell Script, LaTeX, Qualtrics

Methods - Regression Analysis (Linear, Logistic, IV, DD, RDD, Matching, Synthetic Control), Machine Learning, Causal Inference, Experimental Design, A/B Testing

Foreign Languages - English (Native), French (Advanced), Spanish (Basic)