

# Andre Gray

Economics Department  
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## Education

Ph.D., UC San Diego Economics, (expected) June 2026  
M.A. Economics, UC San Diego 2023  
B.S. Economics/Mathematics (*summa cum laude*), University of Southern California, 2017

## Fields

Development, Migration, Urban Economics

## References

**Sam Bazzi**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Economics  
UC San Diego  
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**Sara Lowes**  
Associate Professor  
Department of Economics  
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**Anya Samek**  
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Rady School of Management  
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## Job Market Paper

### “Density and Diversity in African Cities”

The impact of migration is not just a function of how many people migrate, but where they come from. Migrants carry region-specific identities, traits and skills that shape outcomes in receiving areas. In rapidly urbanizing African cities, the composition of migrants may play a negative role, as ethnic and linguistic divisions drive conflict and counteract classic agglomeration forces. This paper disentangles the effects of migrant flows and migrant composition on productivity in destinations. I build a subnational panel of internal migrant flows across Africa and develop a nonlinear shift-share instrument that identifies shocks to both levels and the birthplace composition of migrants. Using exogenous variation from climate, commodity and conflict shocks, I identify changes to the size and composition of migrants. I find that cities that receive migrants from more diverse birthplaces have lower short-run growth, but experience long-run urbanization benefits. The effects of migrant composition are heterogeneous, with more diverse cities experiencing higher ethnic conflict, but also higher rates of structural transformation. The methods proposed have broad applications to identifying nonlinear effects of migration, when relative group sizes matter for outcomes.

## **Publications**

- Samek, Anya, Arie Kapteyn, and Andre Gray. "Using vignettes to improve understanding of Social Security and annuities." *Journal of Pension Economics & Finance* (2019): 1-18.
- Samek, Anya, Andre Gray, Ashlesha Datar, and Nancy Nicosia. "Adolescent time and risk preferences: Measurement, determinants and field consequences." *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 184 (2021): 460-488.

## **Work in Progress**

- Integrating Traditional and Conventional Medicine for Efficient Public Service Delivery [with Sara Lowes and Fulvia Budillon]
- Historical Immigration and the Market for Schooling in American Cities
- Tiebout Sorting and Labor Misallocation [with Jacob Brown and Kurtis Gilliat]

## **Teaching Experience**

### **Teaching Assistant at UC San Diego:**

- MGTA 458: Experiments in Firms [MBA Course], Anya Samek and Erik Johnson, 1 quarter
- MGT 160: Experiments in Firms, Anya Samek and Erik Johnson, 4 quarters
- ECON 151: Public Economics, Katherine Meckel, 3 quarters
- ECON 116: Development Economics, Sara Lowes, 1 quarter
- GPCO 404: Market Failures [MPP Course], Julie Cullen, 2 quarters
- GPCO 407: Policy Analysis / Decision Theory [MPP Course], Jennifer Burney, 1 quarter

## **Honors and Awards**

- Ben Horne Memorial Prize, UCSD Economics 2023
- USC Mork Scholar, Full Tuition Academic Scholarship, 2013-2017

## **Grants**

- Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, 2025
- Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) Grant, 2025
- International Growth Center (IGC) Full Research Grant, 2024
- Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) Expense Support, George Mason University 2024
- Travel and Research Grant, UCSD Economics, Winter 2023; Spring 2024; Summer 2024,2025; Fall 2025
- International Travel Grant, UCSD International Institute 2023
- Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics 2023
- School of Social Science Research Grant 2023

## **Conference Presentations**

- 2025 North American Urban Econ Association (UEA) Meeting Montreal, October 2025
- Empirical Microeconomics Workshop 2025 U Calgary, September 2025
- Institute for Humane Studies Winter Graduate Conference, GMU, Jan 2025
- 2024 Historical Political Economy Conference, USC, Oct 2024
- 2024 Development and Political Economics Conference (DevPEC), April 2024
- 2024 Pacific Conference for Development Economics, Stanford University, March 2024
- 8th Urbanization and Poverty Reduction Research Conference, World Bank, March 2024
- Graduate Workshop on Field Research, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, August 2022
- North American Economic Science Association (ESA) Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, Oct 2019.

## **Academic Work Experience**

### **Research Assistant**

Dr. Katherine Meckel and Dr. Jessie Handbury, UC San Diego

**March 2022-June 2022**

### **Field Project Manager**

Dr. Sara Lowes and Dr. James Robinson, Nigeria

**June 2022 – Aug 2022**

### **Research Assistant**

Dr. Sara Lowes, UC San Diego

**May 2021-Jan 2022**

### **Research Specialist**

Dr. Anya Samek, University of Southern California (USC) Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR)

## **Skills**

Stata, R, Python, ODK, LaTeX, QGIS

## **Other Information**

**Citizenship:** USA

**Languages:** English (Native), Spanish (fluent)