Olivia Lattus

anna_lattus@brown.edu | linkedin.com/olivia | github.com/olivia | Citizenship: United States

Primary research fields: macro-finance, monetary policy, and macro-environment

EDUCATION

Brown University   Providence, Rhode Island
PhD in Economics   *2021 – 2027*
- Concurrent MA in Economics, 2023
- Research Areas: Macroeconomics, Macro Finance, Monetary Policy
- Research Assistant for Prof. Amy Handlan (June 2023-Present)
- Research Assistant for Prof. Pascal Michaillat (May 2022-Aug 2022)

Arizona State University   Tempe, Arizona
BS in Economics, summa cum laude   *2017 – 2021*
- Double Minor in Mathematics and French
- Barrett, the Honors College
- Thesis topic: "Unauthorized Immigrant Net Economic Contribution in State-Wide Sanctuary Jurisdictions"
- Thesis Committee: Berthold Herrendorf, Bart Hobijn
- Research Assistant for Bart Hobijn (Mar 2020-May 2021)

The American Business School of Paris   Paris, France
Study Abroad   *Fall 2019*
- Exchange program through International Studies Abroad (ISA)
- Focused on Economics and French language

WORKING PAPERS

"Decomposing Crop Loss: The Role of Subsidies and Market Price Uncertainty"   2024
- *Abstract*: Farmers choose to leave between 10% and 60% of harvestable crops on the field in the United States. This paper studies two of the economic drivers of this crop loss: price uncertainty and subsidies. I develop a dynamic stochastic structural framework of crop loss in agricultural production, incorporating subsidy distortions and farmer price expectations. Estimated with wheat data, the baseline model indicates that the presence of subsides targeting downside price risk cause crop loss to be higher relative to a no-subsidy world. However, as the signals over prices received by farmers become noisier, the subsidy distortion decreases in importance relative to price uncertainty. The model provides two possible channels of crop loss that I test in an empirical exercise using wheat and wheat futures data. I find that given a high price expectation at planting, a one standard deviation increase in the price expectation at harvest decreases crop loss by around 8-10%. An additional environmental analysis shows that mean greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions due to crop loss increased after the introduction of the PLC/ARC programs by about 1.48% and that eliminating price uncertainty would reduce GHG from crop loss by about 3.78%.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"The Effects of Interest Rate Risk Hedging by Non-financial Firms on Monetary Policy Transmission"   2025
"Labor Market Demand and Monetary Information Shocks" | *with Amy Handlan and Ross Batzer*   2024

REFERENCES

- Prof. Amy Handlan, Yang Family Assistant Professor of Economics, Brown University
  Email: amy_handlan@brown.edu

- Prof. Gauti Eggertsson, Professor, Brown University
  Email: gauti_eggertsson@brown.edu

CONFERENCES

Nov 2024	Southern Economic Association (SEA) 94th Annual Meeting, *Washingon, DC*
Aug 2024	Macro Finance Research Program (MFR) 2024 Summer Session for Young Scholars, *Chicago, IL*

Teaching Assistant Roles

Spring 2025	*Principles in Economics*, undergraduate, Prof. Rachel Friedberg, Brown University
Spring 2024	*Intermediate Macroeconomics*, undergraduate, Prof. Amy Handlan, Brown University
Fall 2023	*International Finance*, undergraduate, Prof. Fernando Duarte, Brown University
Spring 2023	*Principles in Economics*, undergraduate, Profs. Sylvia Kuo and Manuel Lancastre, Brown University
Fall 2022	*Intermediate Microeconomics*, undergraduate, Prof. Jack Fanning, Brown University

Service Positions

Referee | *The Brown Journal of Philosophy, Politics, and Economics*   Oct 2023
- Reviewed undergraduate and graduate projects, wrote feedback, and provided publishing recommendations

President | *Graduate Student Association, Economics Department, Brown University*   May 2024 – Present
- Formerly Community Chair (2023-2024)
- Organized social events throughout the year in a collaborative environment with fellow graduate students
- Implemented new processes such as desk assignment and teaching assistant requirements in the department
- Advocated for more transparency and diversity initiatives to benefit graduate students

Honors and Awards

2024	Teaching Award, Department of Economics, Brown University
2023	Vartan Gregorian Fellowship, Brown University
2021	Moeur Award, Arizona State University

Technical Skills

Programming Languages: Python (NumPy, pandas, tensorflow), R, Julia (Dataframes, StateSpaceModels)
Other: Latex, French (fluent)