

CONTACT
INFORMATION

271 Ridley Hall
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Charlottesville, VA 22903

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RESEARCH
AREAS

Quantitative methods, causal inference, natural language processing, K–12 education policy and leadership, teacher labor markets, education in low- and middle-income countries

EDUCATION

University of Virginia, School of Education and Human Development
Ph.D., Education Policy, 2027 (Expected)

University of Virginia, Frank Batten School of Public Policy
Master of Public Policy, 2024

The George Washington University
B.S., Economics, 2015

AWARDS & GRANTS

Virginia Education Science Training (VEST) Fellow (2022 – Present), Institute for Education Sciences

Global Graduate Research Grant (Fall 2023), University of Virginia — \$1,500, *Evaluating a Comprehensive School Health Program in Zambia* [\[link\]](#)

Heish Prize for Best Undergraduate Thesis in Economics (2015), The George Washington University Department of Economics

REFEREED
JOURNAL
PUBLICATIONS

1. Bartanen, B., Kwok, A., **Avitabile, A.**, and Kim, B.H. (2024). Why Do You Want to Be a Teacher? A Natural Language Processing Approach. *Educational Researcher*. [\[link\]](#) JIF: 4.9, 5-yr JIF: 7.5, Citations: 10. Media Coverage: [EdSurge](#).

WORKING PAPERS

2. **Avitabile, A.**, Bartanen, B., and Kwok, A (2025). Using Large Language Models to Analyze Preservice Teacher Feedback and Reflections During Clinical Teaching. *R&R at Journal of Teacher Education*. [\[link\]](#). Citations: 1.
1. Bartanen, B., **Avitabile, A.**, and Kwok, A. (2025). Who Wants to Be a Teacher in America? *R&R at American Educational Research Journal*. [\[link\]](#). Media Coverage: [The74Million](#).

WORKS IN
PROGRESS

2. **Avitabile, A.** Evaluation of the Teacher Retention Allotment.
1. Lagarde, M., Imbiti, I., Grabowska, M., **Avitabile, A.**, & Beimba, G. Evaluating the Impact of a Comprehensive School Health Program in Zambia. [\[AEA RCT Registry\]](#)

OTHER
WRITING

3. **Avitabile, A.** and Cruz, L. What Student Teachers Value in Internships: Evidence from the PAAP Program in Salvador, Bahia. *Memo forthcoming*.
2. **Avitabile, A.**, Bartanen, B., and Kwok, A. Identifying Effective K–12 Teachers Using Clinical Teaching Data. *Memo Available Upon Request*.
1. **Avitabile, A.**, and Konkel, A. Employer Demand for Interns Falls to Pre-Pandemic Levels but Remains Strong. *Indeed Hiring Lab*. [\[link\]](#)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Avitabile, A. (2026). Evaluation of the Teacher Retention Allotment. Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of Association for Education Finance and Policy. Chicago, IL. 4. Avitabile, A., Bartanen, B., and Kwok, A. (2025). Using Large Language Models to Analyze Pre-service Teacher Feedback and Reflections. Paper presented at the Education Reform Then and Now: 20th Anniversary Policy Conference, Department of Education Reform, University of Arkansas. Fayetteville, AR. 3. Avitabile, A., Bartanen, B., and Kwok, A. (2025). Using Large Language Models to Analyze Pre-service Teacher Feedback and Reflections. Paper presented at the annual meeting of Association for Education Finance and Policy. Washington, DC. 2. Bartanen, B., Kwok, A., Avitabile, A., and Kim, B.H. (2023). Why Do You Want to Be a Teacher? A Natural Language Processing Approach. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy and Management. Atlanta, GA. 1. Bartanen, B., Kwok, A., Avitabile, A., and Kim, B.H. (2023). Why Do You Want to Be a Teacher? A Natural Language Processing Approach. Paper presented at the annual meeting of Association for Education Finance and Policy. Denver, CO.
WORK EXPERIENCE	<p>Indeed Hiring Lab, Associate Economist, Remote June 2021 – August 2022</p> <p>Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, Research Assistant, Cambridge, MA October 2019 – May 2021</p> <p>Mais Caminhos, English Teacher, Rio De Janeiro, Brazil November 2018 – October 2019</p> <p>MDRC, Technical Research Assistant II, New York, NY May 2017 – October 2018</p> <p>NERA Economic Consulting, Associate Analyst, New York, NY May 2015 – April 2017</p>
COURSES TAUGHT	University of Virginia EDLF 5330: Quantitative Methods and Data Analysis I (Fall 2025)
SKILLS	<p><i>Programming:</i> Advanced: R, Stata, L^AT_EX, Excel Intermediate: Python, SAS Basic: SQL</p> <p><i>Survey Design Tools:</i> Advanced: SurveyCTO, Qualtrics</p> <p><i>Languages:</i> English (Native), Portuguese (Advanced)</p>
SERVICE	<p>Ad-Hoc Reviewer (Education/Policy): <i>Journal of Teacher Education</i></p> <p><i>Other:</i> Certified Trainer for World Bank TEACH Observation Tool (ECE, Primary, and Secondary)</p>