# Coly L. Elhai

# Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building, Washington Rd, Princeton, NJ 08544

elhaicl@gmail.com | (804) 608-9285

EDUCATION Williams College 2015-2019

Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Mathematics

Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude

Maggie Walker Governor's School for Government and International Studies 2011-2015

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

#### Research Assistant to Owen Zidar, Princeton Program in Public Finance

2019-present

- Analyzed capital gains taxes and realizations for "The Tax Elasticity of Capital Gains and Revenue-Maximizing Rates" (Agersnap and Zidar, working paper 2020)
- Simulated revenues under different wealth tax regimes for "Top Wealth in America: New Estimates and Implications for Taxing the Rich" (Smith, Zidar, and Zwick, working paper 2020)
- Analyzed migration flows and social safety net generosity for an ongoing project with Pablo Fajgelbaum, Eduardo Morales, Francesco Ruggieri, and Owen Zidar
- Developed a labor market model and collected administrative data for an ongoing project with Amy Finkelstein, Owen Zidar, and Eric Zwick on health care costs

#### Thesis Writer, Williams College Economics Department

2018-2019

Supervised by Tara Watson

- Conducted independent research on New Jersey's 2017 criminal justice reform, including analysis of the impacts of introducing an algorithm to replace cash bail
- Presented this work at the Women in Economics Research conference at Williams College
- Earned honors in economics for a written thesis and presentation made to professors in the department

#### Research Fellow, Voting Rights Data Institute

Summer 2018

Supervised by Moon Duchin (Tufts) and Justin Solomon (MIT)

- Worked collaboratively with professors and other students to create analytical tools to promote fair districting
- Built two apps in RShiny for ecological inference analysis
- Used state election and voter data to create a model of partisan gerrymandering in Alaska

# **Sentinels Fellow**, Center for Learning in Action at Williams College Supervised by Tara Watson

Summer 2018

- Received award to conduct independent research into regional food insecurity and SNAP participation
- Cleaned and analyzed data from the state Department of Transitional Assistance and Berkshire Food Project
- Produced a report on the food access landscape of Berkshire County

#### Research Assistant, Treasury Department Office of Economic Policy

Summer 2017

Supervised by Jason Brown, Tiffany Chou, Ted Figinski, Anne Hall, Erin Troland, et al.

- Contributed to a briefing on child care costs and the impact of regulation
- Created a model demonstrating the effect of proposed changes to repayment plans for federal student loans
- Regularly reported on consumer debt, household assets, and other economic indicators

## SKILLS **Programming**

Proficient in Stata, R, Python, LAT<sub>E</sub>X, and Excel. Working experience with Git, Java, and SQL. Some experience with QGIS and Matlab.

### Natural languages

English (native), French (intermediate), Mandarin Chinese (intermediate)

# SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

# **Co-author**, RA Guide (https://raguide.github.io/)

2020

- Coordinated a team of four current and past research assistants to write a guide for prospective and current RAs in economics
- Incorporated feedback from over 40 economists before releasing the guide online

#### TA and Tutor, Williams College

2016-2019

- Ran TA sessions and graded problem sets for classes on discrete mathematics and price and allocation theory
- Aided students with problem sets and review for classes including introductory computer science, statistics, and introductory micro- and macroeconomics

**Board Member**, Representing the Identities of Students in Economics (RISE)

2017-2019

- Helped found a club for the promotion of underrepresented groups in the economics major and field
- Responsible for outreach to other clubs and student government, as well as building relationships with economics faculty

#### AWARDS Goldberg Prize

2019

Award made to the student in the Williams College Mathematics senior class who presented the best colloquium. Won for a presentation on outlier analysis, Markov chains, and their applications to redistricting reform.

**Gaudino Fellowship** 

2018

Fellowship given to students to pursue independent projects involving engaging with personal beliefs and self-reflection. Received to conduct a month-long study examining religious tolerance, plurality, and beliefs in Taiwan.

Class of 1960s Scholar

2018-2019

Selected to participate in a series of research seminars given by scholars visiting Williams College.

#### **Kershaw Internship Award**

2017

Granted funding to pursue an internship in public policy.

#### 1st place, UNHack the Vote

2017

Member of the winning team in a hackathon focused on gerrymandering.