

Dana Shaat, Ph.D.

Email: danak.shaat@gmail.com

Phone: 571-425-7227; Citizenship: USA

Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/danashaat/home>

Professional Summary

Applied Microeconomist with a Ph.D. in Economics and four years of experience designing and leading rigorous evaluations in K–12 education and postsecondary workforce initiatives, and interest in broader policy domains. Specialized in using data and causal inference methods, including RCTs, quasi-experiments, and advanced statistical techniques, to generate actionable insights for policy and practice. Proven track record in securing multimillion-dollar research funding, directing complex, multi-institutional studies, and delivering high-impact reports and presentations for diverse stakeholders. Strong communicator and project leader, with expertise in translating technical findings into clear, policy-relevant narratives.

Education

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Ph.D. Economics, 2021

Dissertation Title: Essays on the Economics of Education, Gender, and Public Policy

Committee: Professors Eliza Forsythe, Russell Weinstein, Darren Lubotsky, and Elizabeth Powers

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, M.Sc. Economics, 2017

George Mason University, B.S. Economics, Math minor, August 2014

Technical Skills

Programming: STATA (Adv.), LaTeX (Adv.), Python (Inter.), R (Inter.), Microsoft Excel (Adv.)

Tools: Microsoft Office Suite, AirTable

Methods: Data Analysis, Causal Inference, Econometric Modeling, RCT, Quasi-experimental design, Natural experiments

Project Management: Team Leadership, Budget oversight, Stakeholder engagement, Technical and non-Technical Writing

Employment History

Economist

American Institutes for Research (AIR) (2021–2025) - Select Project Work:

Project Director and Quantitative Lead:

U.S. Department of Education Postsecondary Student Success Grant, ACCE Evaluation, Portland State University

- Designed and led an RCT of a transfer student coaching program across three institutions in Oregon
- Oversaw a \$1.2 million project budget and coordinated all project phases, data sharing, and team deliverables
- Managed client relations and facilitated cross-institutional working group meetings
- Facilitated the execution of student-level data sharing agreements across participating institutions

The National Future Farmers of America (FFA) Foundation Evaluation

- Secured \$450K in funding and led a quasi-experimental evaluation of long-term impacts of FFA membership
- Developed impact evaluation analysis plans and oversaw all data collection, processing, and analysis
- Oversaw project budget, client engagement, technical teams, and all deliverables

Quantitative Research Lead:

Competency-Based Education Pathways Evaluation - Ascendium Education Foundation

- Secured \$3M in funding; designed and led quantitative evaluation of Competency-Based Education (CBE) effectiveness
- Recruited and coordinated with two- and four-year colleges participating in the study

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation – Network for School Improvement Evaluation

- Managed data acquisition from Texas school districts and the National Student Clearinghouse
- Designed student surveys, conducted impact analyses (PSM, diff-in-diff), and co-authored final report and presentations

Researcher:

- ***National Center for Education Statistics:*** Advised study directors and reviewed survey instruments, designs, and data processing and imputation plans for longitudinal studies
- ***RESEA (Department of Labor):*** Estimated precision of predictive models for the Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment Evidence Building Portfolio

- **NECTEP:** Designed measures of Labor Market Alignment of high school CTE programs to local labor markets, National Evaluation of CTE under Perkins V
- Led quantitative analysis for the Urban Teachers and IDEA Public Schools Math Redesign under U.S. Dept. of Education grants

Instructor & Teaching Assistant

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2016–2021)

- Taught two standalone upper-level economics courses (Economics of the Workplace (ECON 447) and Employee Compensation and Incentives (ECON 448))
- Led weekly discussion sections as a TA for Principals of Microeconomics
- Created instructional materials and assessments, supported over 100 students per semester

Graduate Research Assistant

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign (2016-2018)

- RA to Professor Adam Osman, *Fall 2016 and Spring 2017*
 - Led analysis of baseline data for RCTs conducted in Cairo, Egypt
- RA to Professors Benjamin Marx and Tatyana Deryugina, *Summer and Fall 2018*
 - Contributions supported peer-reviewed publication in [*American Economic Review: Insights*](#)
 - Wrote Python scripts to web-scrape Lexus Nexis, analyzed longitudinal data with more than 5 million observations from the American Red Cross, created Zip code crosswalks to link philanthropic giving within geographic areas across years

Peer Reviewed Publications and Working Papers

Calkins, A., Binder, A. J., Shaat, D., & Timpe, B. (2023). [When Sarah Meets Lawrence: The Effects of Coeducation on Women's College Major Choices](#). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 15(3), 1-34. DOI: 10.1257/app.20210692

“The Effects of Statewide Credit Transfer Agreements on Community College Enrollment” (*Job Market Paper, last updated 2021*) [*in progress*]

Published Reports

Zeiser, K. L., Bitter, C., Shaat, D., & Guzman-Alvarez, A. (2024). [Evaluation of the Implementation and Impact of New Tech Network's College Access Network](#)

Kurban, E., Wan, Y., Hawkins, M., & Shaat, D. (2024). Evaluation of the IDEA Public Schools Education Innovation and Research Grant: Math Curriculum Redesign. *American Institutes for Research*.
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED660017.pdf>

Song, M., Shaat, D., Wayne, A. J., & Graczewski, C. (2024). Addendum to the Final Report of the EIR Mid-Phase Project on MyTeachingPartner-Secondary Program (September 2023). *American Institutes for Research*.
<https://files.eric.ed.gov/fulltext/ED657292.pdf>

Zeiser, K. L., Bitter, C., & Yang, J. H., & Shaat, D. (2022). [The Study of Deeper Learning: College Enrollment, Persistence, and Degree Completion in the First 6 Years After High School](#).

Select Conference Presentations

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Annual Meeting, *Fall 2023, 2024*

American Education Research Association Annual Meeting, *Spring 2024*

The Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness Annual Meeting, *Fall 2022*

Western Economic Association Organized Session, *Spring 2020*

Southern Economics Association Annual Meeting, *Fall 2020*

Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference, *Spring 2020*