

# ELISSA M. COHEN

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Citizenship: United States

## EDUCATION

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**American University**, Washington, DC

*Ph.D.*, Economics

Expected May 2023

*M.A.*, Economics

May 2019

*Concentrations:* Public, Labor, and Complexity Economics

**Santa Fe Institute**, Santa Fe, NM

*Complex Systems Summer School*

Summer 2019

**Cornell University**, Ithaca, NY

*A.B.*, Economics, Sociology

May 2012

*Minors:* Law and Society, Policy Analysis and Management, Inequality Studies

*Magna Cum Laude*

**London School of Economics**, London, UK

Political Economy, Development Economics

Summer 2010

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**NERA Economic Consulting, Intellectual Property and Antitrust**

Jan 2017 — May 2019

*Analyst*

*Washington, DC*

- Developed and conducted experimental studies for antitrust and intellectual property disputes related to trade mark and trade dress infringements, and mass tort and false advertising class action complaints.
- Analyzed and interpreted primary and secondary market and financial data sources using Stata to be used as evidence in expert witness testimony.
- Developed strategy for rebuttal critiques of expert witnesses of the opposing side.
- Supervised and trained junior analysts to ensure overall team success.
- Provided business development and administrative support by developing marketing materials for potential clients, compiled a dataset of relevant cases and ongoing litigation.

**The Urban Institute, Income and Benefits Policy Center**

Jan 2015 — Dec 2016

*Research Associate II*

*Washington, DC*

- Managed multiple survey instrument designs, data collection, and analyses for the DOL's \$1.9 billion dollar Trade Adjustment Community College and Career Training (TAACCCT) grant program, a federal workforce development program focused on technical and healthcare career pathways; obtained over 90% survey response completion rates on all survey instruments.
- Managed the maintenance and development of the TAACCCT Grantee database, tracking 256 grantee program designs, goals, and outcomes across three grant waves; analyzed and reported on participant-level educational and labor market outcome data for TAACCCT grantees; helped co-author four briefs and a report on grantee characteristics and program outcomes.
- Coordinated with state TANF administrators to perform quality control maintenance of the HHS/ACF funded, publicly available Welfare Rules Database (WRD); managed the development of a new child-only TANF policy categories to augment the robustness of WRD; managed the design and implementation of new data quality control protocols and wrote statistical programs to automate the creation of the Welfare Rules Databook tables.

- Served on multiple hiring committees; reviewed resumes of potential applicants, conducted phone and in-person interviews, provided advice in selecting to whom to give job offers.
- As a member of the junior staff programming board (RAADs), organized and executed junior research staff professional development programming and coordinated research seminar series; coordinated with human resources staff to develop and fund new universal staff training programs.

**The Urban Institute, Income and Benefits Policy Center**

*Research Assistant*

Jun 2012 — Dec 2014

*Washington, DC*

- Assisted maintaining and updating of the WRD by meticulously reviewing and coding primary case-worker manuals and state legislative documents. Analyzed data and assisted writing the annual report.
- Conducted a network analysis of 49 grantee networks as part of the program evaluation for HHS and DOE's Health Professions Opportunity Grants program; performed ongoing direct correspondence with hundreds of individuals across the 49 network organizations.
- Assisted in the ongoing maintenance and development of the TRIM microsimulation model.

**Cornell University, Center for the Study of Inequality**

*Research Assistant, for Professors Kim Weeden and Stephen Morgan*

Aug 2010 — May 2011

*Ithaca, NY*

- Investigated the STEM pipeline using occupational achievement goals of secondary school students based on parental occupational attainment; coded occupation to align with SOC codes for over 10,000 high school students and performed quality control validation of other research assistant's coding; conducted descriptive analyses and literature reviews.

**Cornell University, Dept. of Policy Analysis and Mgmt**

*Research Assistant, for Professor Rosemary Avery*

Jan 2010 — July 2010

*Ithaca, NY*

- Investigated the effects of a 2003 Federal Trade Commission regulation on the weight loss industry using proprietary advertising data; coded television weight loss advertisements for false and misleading statements; performed robustness checks of analyses using the coded advertisements; assisted in the writing and compiling of the final report.

**The Reinvestment Fund, Policy Solution Center**

*Policy Intern*

Jun 2011 — Aug 2011

*Philadelphia, PA*

- Validated ArcMap geo-coding for TRF's national supermarket access study.
- Assisted in development and conducting of market value analyses and economic surveying.
- Developed instructional guides for how to use TRF's PolicyMap.

**Columbus Property Management and Development, Inc.**

*Assistant to Corporate Counsel*

Jun 2009 — Jan 2010

*Philadelphia, PA*

- Gathered due diligence for affordable housing tax credit real estate ventures.
- Filed court evictions for landlord-tenant court.
- Coordinated with social workers to ensure tenants understood why they were at landlord-tenant court.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**American University, Department of Economics**

*Teaching Assistant*

Aug 2017 — present

*Washington, DC*

- Taught weekly discussion sessions and review sessions, held weekly office hours, and graded homework, exams, and papers.
- Assisted preparation of answer keys to homework assignments and exams, provided in-class support and led activities during lectures, maintained course content on class websites, for the following courses:

- ECON-823: Econometric Methods (Doctoral)

Fall 2018

- ECON-824: Advanced Econometric Methods (Doctoral) Spring 2019
- ECON-623: Applied Econometrics I (Master's) Spring 2019, Fall 2020
- ECON-322: Introduction to Econometrics (Undergraduate) Fall 2020
- ECON-803: Microeconomic Theory I (Doctoral) Fall 2020
- ECON-300: Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate) Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020
- ECON-200: Introduction to Microeconomics (Undergraduate) Spring 2018
- ECON-100: Introduction to Macroeconomics (Undergraduate) Fall 2017, Fall 2018

#### *Curriculum Development Assistant*

- Developed in-class activities for instructors teach macroeconomic and microeconomic principles.
- Developed and curated test question banks for instructors to efficiently construct online exams.
- Copy-edited the open access online textbook.

- ECON-200: Introduction to Microeconomics (Undergraduate) Summer 2020
- ECON-100: Introduction to Macroeconomics (Undergraduate) Summer 2020

#### **Cornell University, Department of Education**

##### *Undergraduate Teaching Assistant*

- Taught weekly discussion sessions and graded homework and papers for 35 students.
- EDUC 2410: The Art of Teaching (Undergraduate) Spring 2011

#### **Washington Hebrew Congregation**

Aug 2014 — Jun 2015

##### *Judaic Studies Teacher*

Washington, DC

- Lead the instruction of 20 second grade children in Judaic studies.
- Developed and executed weekly lesson plans.
- Communicated weekly progress of students to parents via written correspondence.
- Managed and developed teaching acumen in two teaching assistants.

## **VOLUNTEER AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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#### **Complexity and Policy Studies Conference**

Spring 2019 — present

##### *Organizing Committee Member*

Washington, DC

- Review and assess the originality and significance of conference paper submissions for admissions.
- Help develop and long-term financial feasibility of the conference budget.
- Coordinate with vendors to ensure conference events run efficiently.

#### **SEIU Local 500 American University Graduate Worker Union**

Jan 2018 — present

##### *Lead Collective Bargaining Negotiator*

Washington, DC

- Develop bargaining platform for a 900 person bargaining unit through survey, focus-group, and member-wide meeting campaigns.
- Negotiate graduate worker bargaining positions to augment working conditions and benefits; successfully negotiated \$2000 stipend increases for doctoral students and raised hourly wages for master's students by over 20%.

#### **IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program**

Jan 2013 — Apr 2017

##### *Advanced Tax Preparer*

Washington, DC

- Obtained annual tax preparer certification.
- Prepared tax returns for low-to-moderate income families, persons with disabilities, the elderly, and those with limited English speaking backgrounds.
- Communicated effectively and patiently with clients each step of the tax return preparation process.

- Maintained strong attention to detail in order to efficiently and effectively complete client tax returns.

### Cornell Alumni Admissions Ambassador Network

CAAAN Volunteer

2012 — present

Washington, DC

- Serve as an alumni ambassador to prospective Cornell students by conducting 1-on-1 and group applicant interviews; provide advice and support to interviewed incoming students.

## SKILLS

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<b>Modeling &amp; Analysis</b>	Python, Stata, R, Mathematica, NetLogo, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, MS Office
<b>Certificates</b>	“Greenberg Seminars in Effective Teaching,” American University, Apr 2020 “Social & Behavioral Research,” CITI Human Subjects Research, Jan 2020
<b>Languages</b>	English (Native), Hebrew (Conversational)

## AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

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<b>Graduate Student Scholarship:</b>	International Society of Artificial Life	Spring 2020
<b>Graduate Student Research Award:</b>	American University	Spring 2019
<b>Doctor of Philosophy in Economics Fellowship:</b>	American University	Fall 2017 — present
<b>Emerging Scholar Award:</b>	U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services	2016

## PUBLISHED PEER-REVIEWED, POLICY, AND WORKING PAPERS

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Cika, A., **Cohen, E.**, Kruszewski G., Seet, L., Steinmann, P., and Yin, W. (2020). *Resilient Life: An Exploration of Perturbed Autopoietic Patterns in Conway’s Game of Life*. In L. Soros, J. Bongard, and J. Lovato (Ed.), *Proceedings of the Artificial Life Conference 2020 (ALIFE 2020)* 32, 656-664. Burlington, Vermont: MIT Press. [Link here](#).

Golan, A., Mumladze, T., Wilson, D., **Cohen, E.**, McGuinness, T., Mooney, W., and Moon, J. (2020). *Effect of Universal TB Vaccination and Other Policy-Relevant Factors on the Probability of Patient Death from COVID-19*. HCEO Working Paper Series Working Paper No. 2020-041: University of Chicago. [Link here](#).

Eyster, L., Harford, C., Trutko, J., **Cohen, E.**, Mikelson, K.S., Durham, C., O’Brien, C.T., Martin-Caughey, A., Briggs, A., and Nguyen, K. (2019). *The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program: Implementation of the Rounds 1 and 2 Grants*. (Research Report). Prepared for the US Department of Labor, Chief Evaluation Office. Washington, DC: Urban Institute. [Link here](#).

Mikelson, K.S., Eyster, L., Durham, C., and **Cohen, E.** (2017). *The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program: TAACCCT Goals, Design, and Evaluation*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute. [Link here](#).

**Cohen, E.**, Mikelson, K.S., Eyster, L., and Durham, C. (2017). *The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program: Grantee Characteristics*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute. [Link here](#).

Eyster, L., **Cohen, E.**, Mikelson, K.S., and Durham, C. (2017). *The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program: TAACCCT Approaches, Targeted Industries, and Partnerships*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute. [Link here](#).

Durham, C., Eyster, L., Mikelson, K.S., and **Cohen, E.** (2017). *The Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program: Early Results of the TAACCCT Grants*. Washington, DC: The Urban Institute. [Link here](#).

**Cohen, E.**, Minton, S., Thompson, M., Crowe, E., and Giannarelli, L. (2016). *Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2015* (OPRE Report 2016-67). Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [Link here.](#)

Huber, E., **Cohen, E.**, Briggs, A., and Kassabian, D. (2015). *Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2014* (OPRE Report 2015-81). Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [Link here.](#)

Huber, E., Kassabian, D., and **Cohen, E.** (2014). *Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2013* (OPRE Report 2014-52). Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [Link here.](#)

Kassabian, D., Huber, E., **Cohen, E.**, and Giannarelli, L. (2013). *Welfare Rules Databook: State TANF Policies as of July 2012* (OPRE Report 2013-27). Washington, DC: Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. [Link here.](#)

## PRESENTATIONS

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**Cohen, Elissa.** “The Value of Statistical Life: A Gendered Perspective.” Presented November 12, 2020. Poster presented at: 42nd Annual 2020 APPAM Fall Research Conference. Washington, DC.

Cika, A., **Cohen, E.\***, Kruszewski G., Seet, L., Steinmann, P., and Yin, W. “Resilient Life: An Exploration of Perturbed Autopoietic Patterns in Conway’s Game of Life.” Presented July 13, 2020. Artificial Life Conference 2020 (ALIFE 2020). Burlington, Vermont.

**Cohen, Elissa.** “How the Minor in Inequality Studies Can Make a Major Difference.” Presented November 3, 2016. Cornell University - Center for the Study of Inequality; Ithaca, NY.

**Cohen, Elissa.** “Then and Now: Cash Welfare from the AFDC Program to Today’s TANF Program.” The Urban Institute. Presented June 1, 2016. Research and Evaluation Conference on Self-Sufficiency; Washington, DC.

Giannarelli, L., **Cohen, E.**, Briggs, A., and Huber, E. “Transitional Cash Benefits for Families who left TANF: New data from the Welfare Rules Database.” The Urban Institute. Presented August 25, 2015. National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics Conference; Atlanta, GA.

Huber, E., Kassabian, D., **Cohen, E.**, and Giannarelli, L. “Variation in States’ Child-Only and Non-Parent Caretaker TANF Rules: Evidence from the Welfare Rules Database.” The Urban Institute. Presented May 29, 2014. Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference; Washington, DC.

Kassabian, D., Huber, E., **Cohen, E.**, and Giannarelli, L. “States’ Child-Only and Non-Parent Caretaker TANF Rules: Evidence from the Welfare Rules Database.” The Urban Institute. Presented August 20, 2013. National Association for Welfare Research and Statistics Conference; Chicago, IL.