

**EMMA RACKSTRAW**  
Doctoral Candidate, Harvard University  
Job Market Candidate 2023-24  
[www.emmarackstraw.com](http://www.emmarackstraw.com)

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## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Email: [emmarackstraw@g.harvard.edu](mailto:emmarackstraw@g.harvard.edu)  
Phone: 240-478-7673  
Citizenship: USA

## EDUCATION

- Harvard University, Ph.D. in Public Policy (Economics Track), Expected Spring 2024
  - PhD Exchange Scholar at The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, 2022-23
- Wellesley College, B.A. in Economics (Major) and Music (Minor), 2014

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Labor/public economics

Additional: economics of discrimination, economics of crime, experimental economics, behavioral economics

## CONTACTS & REFERENCES

Placement Director: Marcella Alsan  
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617-384-0016

Committee Member: Will Dobbie  
[will\\_dobbie@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:will_dobbie@hks.harvard.edu)  
617-495-0405

Committee Member: Desmond Ang  
[desmond\\_ang@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:desmond_ang@hks.harvard.edu)  
617-495-4505

Program Director: Nicole Tateosian  
[nicole\\_tateosian@hks.harvard.edu](mailto:nicole_tateosian@hks.harvard.edu)  
617-495-1190

Committee Member: Crystal Yang  
[cyang@law.harvard.edu](mailto:cyang@law.harvard.edu)  
617-496-4477

Teaching Reference: Tim Layton  
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## CURRENT RESEARCH PAPERS

- **Job Market Paper:** Policing as Entertainment: The Distortionary Effect of Reality TV & Copaganda.
- Bias-Motivated Updating in the Labor Market. Available at [SSRN](https://ssrn.com/abstract=4144444).
- Background Check Adjudication & Fair Chance Hiring. (with Amanda Agan & David Autor)

## EMPLOYMENT

- Research Assistant for Will Dobbie, Harvard Kennedy School, 2019 - 2022
  - Provided research assistance for criminal justice and discrimination related projects and courses
- Associate Fellow (Academic IPA), Office of Evaluation Sciences, 2019

- Designed curriculum on research methods and evaluation
- Senior Policy Associate, J-PAL North America at MIT, 2016 - 2019
  - Led Crime and Political Economy & Governance sectors
- Research Economist, Council of Economic Advisers, 2014 - 2016
  - Provided economic analysis in labor and education policy
- Case Fellow (Research Assistant), Wellesley College, 2012 - 2014
  - Helped redesign econometrics curriculum; updated course on inequality
- Tutor, Wellesley College, 2011 - 2014
  - Helped students with writing, microeconomics, and econometrics

## FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

- 2023: Academy of Management Doctoral Consortium Scholarship, Program in Criminal Justice Grantee
- 2021: ReSTAT Research Grantee, Mind Brain Behavior Initiative Grantee
- 2020: HKS Wiener Center for Social Policy Pilot Grantee; Peggy Howard Fellowship for Graduate Study in Economics; Radcliffe Engaged Summer Grantee
- 2019: National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program
- 2014: Natalie Bolton Faculty Prize in International Economics; Phi Beta Kappa

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

External Conferences and Workshops:

- Academy of Management Meeting, 2023
- Western Economic Association International Meeting, 2023
- American Economic Association Meeting, 2023
- Texas Economics of Crime Workshop, 2022
- Association of American Law Schools, 2019
- American Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, 2018

Referee Service: Journal of Public Economics, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

## TEACHING

Teaching Interests: Econometrics, Discrimination, Labor Economics, Behavioral Economics, Microeconomics, Causal Inference, Experimental Economics, Academic Writing

Teaching Experience:

- Empirical Methods II for MPPs, Harvard Kennedy School, 2021
- Evaluation Course for Chief Evaluation Officers, Office of Evaluation Sciences, 2019
- Executive Education Course in Randomized Evaluation, J-PAL at MIT, 2019
- Econometrics for Undergraduates, Wellesley College, 2013

## SKILLS

**Data & Software:** Stata (Advanced), L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X (Proficient), Zotero (Proficient), Excel (Proficient), R (Proficient), Python (Basic)

**Languages:** English (Native), French (Proficient), Spanish (Basic)

**Talents:** Singing (Semi-Professional), Glassblowing (Amateur)

## SERVICE

**Professional Service:** Kennedy School PhD Students' Association President (2021-2022), PhD Peer Mentor (2020-present), HKS Anti-Racism in Economics Founding Member (2020-2022), Organizer of Economics of Discrimination Reading Group (2020-2021)

**Community Service:** Morris Animal Refuge Volunteer (2022-present), Prison Volunteer in MA DOC (2017-2020) and PA DOC (2022-present), Meals on Wheels Volunteer (2020-present)