

ELIZABETH SANTORELLA

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EDUCATION

Harvard University

PhD student in economics

Research focus: econometrics, education, and public economics

June 2017 (expected)

Harvard University

M.A. in Economics

November 2015

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

S.B. in Physics & Economics

Physics concentration in computer science

GPA: 4.9 / 5.0

June 2013

RESEARCH

Bureaucrat Value Added: The Effect of Individual Bureaucrats on Local Economic Outcomes in India

In progress

with Moya Chin, Jonas Hjort, and Gautam Rao

We investigate the influence individual officers in the Indian Administrative Service have on local economic activity. We use two distinct methods from labor and education economics: the AKM approach, which has traditionally been used to estimate the share of variation in wages that is due to firms and workers; and the value-added approach, which has traditionally been used to estimate teachers' effects on students' test scores.

Teacher Effects on Student Behavior

In progress

As large school districts adopt test-based value-added measures and parents protest the increasing use of standardized tests, it is timely to ask whether teacher evaluation systems should expand the use of quantitative measures that are not based on test scores. As a first step in this direction, I examine the magnitude and short-term consequences of teacher effects on student attendance. I find that teachers have moderate effects on attendance: A teacher who is one standard deviation above average reduces the average student's absences by 0.55 days in elementary school and 0.74 days in middle school. Teacher effects on attendance are nearly uncorrelated with teacher effects on test scores. Teacher effects on attendance appear to be moderately persistent, fading out to 17% to 98% of their original size after four years.

SKILLS

Computer Languages

Python, with Numpy and Pandas; Matlab; Stata; R; Javascript

Other Skills

Econometrics, machine learning, technical writing, teaching, performance engineering, numerical optimization

HONORS

2015-2016 Subir Chowdhury Fellowship on Quality & Economics

2015 On third place team, world Econometric Game

2014-2015 Rita Ricardo-Campbell Fellowship in Economics

2013-2014 Harvard University Graduate Student Fellowship

2013 Phi Beta Kappa

2013 Sigma Pi Sigma (physics honor society)

EXPERIENCE

Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences

Teaching Fellow

January 2016 - May 2016

Cambridge, MA

- Prepared materials and taught for two weekly review sessions and held office hours for Economics 2120, Introduction to Applied Econometrics. Most of the students were PhD students in economics, public policy, or health policy taking their second graduate-level econometrics course.

Harvard Kennedy School of Government

Teaching Fellow

September 2015 - December 2015

Cambridge, MA

- Prepared materials and taught for two weekly review sessions, held office hours, and graded exams for API-109, Advanced Microeconomic Analysis I. The students were 80 students in the Master's of Public Administration - International Development program.

MIT

Microeconomics Tutor

February 2013 - May 2013

Cambridge, MA

- Extensively tutored a student whose disabilities prevented him from accessing the standard course materials.

Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

Research Assistant

March 2012 - August 2012

Cambridge, MA

- Worked with Professor Tavneet Suri and a team of research assistants to clean and analyze data from field experiments in development economics.
- Used Stata extensively.

MIT Sloan School of Business

Research Assistant

March 2012 - August 2012

Cambridge, MA

- Worked with Professor Robert Pindyck to develop models of willingness to pay to mitigate climate change or avoid catastrophic events.
- Used Matlab extensively.

MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory

Web Programmer

May 2011- January 2012

Cambridge, MA

- Added features and fixed bugs on the website Course Picker, which helps MIT students select courses.
- Worked with sources to obtain reliable data.