

ANASTASIIA FAIKINA

afaikina@ucsd.edu · www.anastasiiafaikina.com · LinkedIn · +1 (760) 626-5685

SUMMARY

Applied economist with 4+ years of experience in research and program evaluation by bridging causal data analysis and insights from economic theory; passionate about studying digital technologies to improve people's lives

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Causal Inference: difference-in-differences, event study, regression discontinuity design, field/online experiments, matching, synthetic control, instrumental variables

Machine Learning: supervised/unsupervised learning, evaluation, model selection, NLP, text classification

Computer Skills: Stata, Python, R, SQL, Octave, MATLAB, LaTeX

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of California San Diego, 2022 (*expected*)

M.A. in Economics, University of California San Diego, 2018

B.A. in Economics with High Honors, NRU Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia, 2016

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

School of Global Policy and Strategy, UC San Diego – Research Assistant, 2021

- Developed theoretical predictions for the Gaza-Israel conflict
- Tested the predictions empirically using the universe of violent events from 2007–2014

Rady School of Management, UC San Diego – Research Assistant, 2018–2020

Performed an evaluation of the reform that introduced mobile money salary payments for public school employees using a large-scale field experiment in Afghanistan

- Designed field and phone surveys, managed large administrative datasets, evaluated the effects of mobile salary payments on corruption, employees' experience, and financial inclusion
- Discovered that salary delays and ghost employees are prominent issues in more than 20 countries using the natural language processing of Google News articles

Assisted researchers and international donors on development programs in Nepal

- Identified research areas during field trips and performed the empirical analysis of census and survey data
- Delivered evidence-based policy reports on decentralization and social protection

Department of Economics, UC San Diego – Teaching Assistant, 2017–2018

- Assisted undergraduate students in grasping core economic ideas and econometric techniques
- Taught how to apply these methods to real-life problems using R and Stata software

RESEARCH PROJECTS

“Watching the Vote: Are Transparency Technologies Good for Non-Democracy?” (*W.H. Memorial Prize*)

- Evaluated that election video monitoring reduces electoral fraud in Russia by applying a regression discontinuity design and forensics tools to the administrative data
- Executed field and online survey experiments and found that video monitoring improves citizens' trust in electoral institutions and increases their willingness to vote

“Using Mobile Salary Payments to Reduce Corruption and Promote Financial Development in Afghanistan” (with Joshua Blumenstock, Michael Callen, Stefano Fiorin, and Tarek Ghani)

- Estimated experimentally that mobile money salary payments reduce corruption and improve employees' experience and financial inclusion in urban areas while facing challenges in conflict-affected areas

“Community Governance and Local Economic Activity” (with Dan Tavrov)

- Showed that the decentralization of local governments has negative economic effects on individual entrepreneurs and null effects on firms using difference-in-differences methods and administrative records (~7 mln observations)

CERTIFICATIONS

SQL for Data Science, Coursera, 2021 · Applied Data Science with Python Specialization, Coursera, 2021 · Python for Everybody Specialization, Coursera, 2020 · Machine Learning, Coursera, 2020

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

IGCC Dissertation Fellowship, 2020/21 · Candidacy Fellowship, 2019/20 · Clive Granger Research Fellowship, 2019 · Walter Heller Memorial Prize, 2019 · Harriman/Carnegie Research Grant, 2019 · UCSD Research Grant, 2019 · Summer Research Fellowship, 2017 · Regents Fellowship, 2016/17 · Oxford Scholarship, 2015/16