ANASTASIIA FAIKINA

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SUMMARY

Applied economist with 4+ of experience in causal inference, experimental evaluation, survey design, machine learning, data collection and analysis; passionate about studying digital technologies to improve people's lives.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

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

Machine Learning: supervised/unsupervised learning, evaluation and 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

UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation – Research Assistant, 2021
- Worked with a team of researchers on the theoretical and empirical analysis of the Gaza-Israel conflict
  - Assisted in developing and testing theoretical predictions using the universe of violent events from 2007–2014

Rady School of Management, UC San Diego – Research Assistant, 2018–2020
- Worked with a multi-disciplinary team of researchers on a large-scale experiment evaluating mobile money salary payments for public school employees in Afghanistan
  - Managed and analyzed large administrative datasets on monthly salary payments, biometric registration, and the universe of mobile money transactions for 30,000 employees; designed and analyzed field and phone surveys
  - Used NLP to construct worldwide statistics about salary delays and ghost employees using Google News
- Worked with a team of researchers to assist international donors on development programs in Nepal
  - Made several field trips to meet with donors and other stakeholders; analyzed census and survey data; prepared evidence-based policy reports on decentralization and social protection

Department of Economics, UC San Diego – Teaching Assistant, 2017–2018
- Taught undergraduate economics, econometrics, and data analytics courses using R and Stata software

RESEARCH PROJECTS

"Watching the Vote: Are Transparency Technologies Good for (Non-)Democracy?"
- Evaluated the intended and unintended impacts of election video monitoring in Russia
- Applied a regression discontinuity design to electoral data to evaluate the effects on election outcomes/fraud
- Used an instrumental variables approach and public procurement contracts to estimate accountability effects
- Conducted field and online survey experiments to estimate the effects on citizens' beliefs and behavior

"Using Mobile Salary Payments to Reduce Corruption and Promote Financial Development in Afghanistan" (with Joshua Blumenstock, Michael Callen, Stefano Fiorin, and Tarek Ghani)
- Evaluated the effects of mobile money salary payments on corruption and financial inclusion using a large-scale field experiment (see details above)

"Community Governance and Local Economic Activity" (with Dan Tavrov)
- Evaluated economic effects of decentralization of local governments on firms and individual entrepreneurs in Ukraine using event studies and state-of-the-art difference-in-differences techniques
- Managed and analyzed the administrative and annual financial records for the universe of firms (∼2 mln) and entrepreneurs (∼5 mln)

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 [$20,000] · UCSD Research Grant 2019 [$1,000] · Summer Research Fellowship 2017 · Regents Fellowship 2016/17 · Oxford Scholarship 2015/16