

# 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, regression discontinuity design, field/online experiments, matching, synthetic control, instrumental variables

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

**Computer Skills:** Stata, Python, R, SQL, Octave, MATLAB, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## 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**

- 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 on 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