Helena Pedrotti

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EDUCATION

2019-present	Ph.D. Candidate in Economics	**New York University**
2023	M.A. in Economics	**New York University**
2017-2019	Predoctoral Fellow	**Stanford GSB**
2013-2017	B.A. in Mathematics and Economics	**Reed College**

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary	Industrial Organization, Public Economics
Secondary	Urban Economics, Real Estate

REFERENCES

Prof. Daniel Waldinger, NYU *(Chair)*
19 West 4th St
6th Floor
New York, NY 10012
+1 (212) 998-8900 (office)
danielwaldinger@nyu.edu

Prof. Guillaume Frechette, NYU
19 West 4th St
5th Floor, Office 507
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Prof. Martin Rotemberg, NYU
19 West 4th St
7th Floor, Office 728
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WORKING PAPERS

Local Discretion in Low Income Housing Policy: Evidence from France
[Job Market Paper]

Municipal preferences for incumbent residents can clash with central government goals to reduce income segregation. With local discretion, wealthier municipalities often choose not to build low-income housing. This reinforces income clustering by encouraging in-migration of wealthier households from localities that build social housing. I leverage a discontinuity in French policy encouraging construction of social housing, and find that wealthier residents either accept fines for opting-out of construction, or migrate. To quantify the effect of allowing discretion, I develop and estimate a model of residential demand. Allowing any local discretion substantially increases income segregation, but policy mandates lower the welfare of non-social housing residents.

Zoning Against Neighborhood Change

Since its inception, zoning laws have expanded their scope to control the exact maximum allowable height, the number of units available per building across the city, and the total floor area allowed in each building. Stronger zoning laws result in less neighborhood change and such ossification is valuable to risk averse homeowners. By controlling the environment around one's property, zoning prevents rapid unforeseen neighborhood transformations, and the resulting negative externalities. Zoning thus provides a prospective homeowner with insurance against such transformations through a more accurate forecast of future neighborhood amenities. This paper quantifies this motive contributing value of zoning, and its effect on homeowners location choices. I leverage the implementation of a California zoning amendment that allows homeowners to construct a secondary unit on their property. Price differences in response to the law change between two neighborhoods with similar amenities but different zoning levels would thus reflect the value of zoning laws for homeowners.

Right to Rent: The Impact of Energy Efficiency Efforts on Housing and Rental Markets

Tiered Water Pricing: Drought Control or Redistribution Tool?

TEACHING EXPERIENCE (G = graduate, U = undergraduate)

Fall 2022	Graduate TA Econometrics *(G)* for Profs. Chris Conlon and Paul Scott	**NYU**
Fall 2021	TA Introduction to Econometrics *(U)* for Prof. Sharon Traiberman	**NYU**

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Winter 2021	RA for Prof. Paul Scott	**NYU**
2020-2021	RA for Prof. Daniel Waldinger	**NYU**
2017-2019	RA for Profs. B. Bronnenberg, S. Jha, P. Koudjis, R. Lester, P. Somaini	**Stanford GSB**
Summer 2016	REU Economics Researcher with Prof. Chris Ferguson	**NSF**
Summer 2015	RA for Prof. Jeffrey Parker	**Reed College**

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

June 2025	AEA Summer Dissertation Fellowship ($15,000)	**Philadelphia Federal Reserve**
May 2024	Horowitz Fellowship for Social Policy ($10,000)	**Horowitz Foundation**
May 2024	Irving Louis Award ($5,000)	**Horowitz Foundation**
March 2023	C.V. Starr Center for Applied Economics data grant ($8,500)	**NYU**
2023, 2024	Global Research Initiative Fellowship for mobility (awarded $\times 2$)	**NYU**
June 2022	Urban summer school travel grant	**Urban Economics Association**
August 2019	Graduate Research Fellowship (3-year fully funded)	**National Science Foundation**
August 2019	MacCracken doctoral fellowship (5-year fully funded)	**NYU**
May 2017	Gerald M. Meier Award for best undergraduate thesis in economics	**Reed College**
May 2017	Phi Beta Kappa Award for academic excellence	**Reed College**

SEMINARS

2025	Philadelphia Fed, NYU Microeconomics Seminar, NYU Stern IO Internal Seminar

MISCELLANEOUS

Languages	English (native), French (intermediate)
Citizenship	USA

Last updated: November 2025