

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 Fellowship, **Stanford GSB**
2013-2017 B.Sc. in Mathematics and Economics, **Reed College**

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary Industrial Organization, Public
Secondary Housing, Real Estate

REFERENCES

Prof. Daniel Waldinger, NYU (Chair)
19 West 4th St
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New York, NY 10012
+1 (212) 998-8900 (office)
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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 seeks to quantify this motive contributing value of zoning, and its effect on homeowners; location choices. It aim to 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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

(G = graduate, U = undergraduate)

<i>Fall 2022</i>	Graduate TA Econometrics (G) for Prof. Chris Conlon, NYU
<i>Fall 2022</i>	Graduate TA Econometrics (G) for Prof. Paul Scott, NYU
<i>Fall 2021</i>	TA Introduction to Econometrics (U) for Prof. Sharon Traiberman, NYU

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

<i>Winter 2021</i>	Research assistant for Prof. Paul Scott, NYU
<i>2020-2021</i>	Research assistant for Prof. Daniel Waldinger, NYU
<i>2017-2019</i>	Research assistant for Profs. Bart Bronnenberg, Saumitra Jha, Peter Koudjis, Rebecca Lester, Paulo Somaini, Stanford GSB
<i>Summer 2016</i>	NSF REU Economics Researcher with Prof. Chris Ferguson, LAKES
<i>Summer 2015</i>	Research assistant for Prof. Jeffrey Parker, Reed College

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

<i>June 2025</i>	AEA Summer Dissertation Fellowship (\$15,000), Philadelphia Federal Reserve
<i>May 2024</i>	Horowitz Fellowship for Social Policy (\$10,000), Horowitz Foundation
<i>May 2024</i>	Irving Louis Award (\$5,000), Horowitz Foundation
<i>March 2023</i>	C.V. Starr Center for Applied Economics data grant (\$8,500), NYU
<i>2023, 2024</i>	Global Research Initiative Fellowship for mobility (awarded twice), NYU
<i>June 2022</i>	Travel grant, 2022 Summer School in Urban Economics
<i>August 2019</i>	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (3-year full funded)
<i>August 2019</i>	MacCracken doctoral fellowship, NYU
<i>May 2017</i>	Gerald M. Meier Award for best undergraduate thesis in economics, Reed College
<i>May 2017</i>	Phi Beta Kappa Award for academic excellence, Reed College
<i>May 2015</i>	Bernard Goldhammer Research Grant, Reed College

SEMINARS

2025 Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, NYU Microeconomics Seminar, NYU Stern
School of Business IO Friday Seminar

MISCELLANEOUS

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