

JEANNE SORIN

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Education

University of Chicago , Ph.D. Economics	<i>2019–present (expected June 2025)</i>
Sciences Po , M.Sc. Economics	<i>2016–2019</i>
Sciences Po , B.A. Social Sciences	<i>2013–2015</i>

References

Professor Michael Greenstone (Co-Chair) University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics mgreenst@uchicago.edu (773) 702-8250	Professor Esteban Rossi-Hansberg (Co-Chair) University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics earossih@uchicago.edu (773) 834-5240
Professor Fiona Burlig University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy burlig@uchicago.edu (660) 283-2931	Professor Milena Almagro University of Chicago Booth School of Business milena.almagro@chicagobooth.edu (773) 702-7743

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary:	Development Economics, Urban Economics
Secondary:	Environmental Economics

Job Market Paper

Public Roads on Private Lands: Land Costs and Optimal Road Improvements in Urban Uganda

Abstract: Land acquisition costs can undermine the net returns of public infrastructure projects in developing cities, hindering the implementation of high-benefit projects. I investigate this issue in Kampala, Uganda, using new survey data with real estate brokers and landowners to evaluate the benefits and costs of 140 km of road improvements since 2017. By exploiting variation in the timing of upgrades, I estimate local benefits and develop a quantitative spatial model that accounts for spillovers and the fiscal cost of land acquisition. I find that, due to the high fiscal wedge, acquiring land through eminent domain could have resulted in negative net returns. However, the government's voluntary land acquisition

approach reduced costs, generating net welfare gains equivalent to 99 USD per resident. I also show how the city's three property rights regimes influenced land costs, with weaker property rights functioning as a Pigouvian subsidy. Finally, I solve for the optimal road improvements under different institutional settings and funding restrictions, offering insights for policy design to enhance allocative efficiency and welfare outcomes.

Publications and Accepted Papers

Learning is in the Air: Clean Air as an Experience Good (with B. Resosudarmo and Y. Sun).

Accepted at *Journal of Development Economics* based on Pre-Results Review.

AEA RCT Registry No. 0013110

Abstract: Despite the enormous costs of air pollution, willingness-to-pay (WTP) for clean air in polluted developing contexts remains low. We posit one understudied reason is that clean air is an experience good, whose value is revealed after consumption. We test this using a cluster-randomized trial, and seek to document an experience wedge, i.e. a difference between anticipated and realized utility of consuming a good. We deploy a novel experience-based intervention, installing air monitors and purifiers, potentially a more salient treatment than traditional information in pamphlets or videos. To explore the mechanisms behind the hypothesized wedge, we implement a purifier-only treatment to distinguish between (1) knowledge about objective pollution exposure and (2) the sensory experience of breathing in clean air. This will be the first experimental evidence demonstrating how experience can shift demand for clean air, with implications for public health policy, environmental awareness campaigns, and using WTP estimates in economic evaluations.

Working Papers

Jobs in the Smog: Firm Location and Workers Exposure to Pollution in African Cities

(with V. Bassi, M. Kahn, N. Lozano Gracia and T. Porzio).

AEA RCT Registry No. 0014162

Submitted.

Abstract: Air pollution within African cities is high but unevenly distributed. In principle, individuals could mitigate the severe health risk by working in the less polluted parts of the city. In practice, we show that pollution avoidance is challenging because firms locate on the busiest and most polluted roads searching for customer visibility. Both workers and entrepreneurs bear the cost of this pollution exposure, but the benefits are unequally distributed: profits are much higher in polluted areas, while compensating differentials in wages are minimal. An information experiment reveals limited awareness of pollution, suggesting that workers might be undercompensated for their exposure.

French Railroad Shrinkage

Abstract: Transportation infrastructure determines a location's accessibility and, in turn, is a key driver of demographic and economic distributions across space. Investments and dis-investments in this infrastructure are common, but the impacts of contractionary transportation policies have not been extensively studied. Using a simple modification of the standard quantitative spatial model, I theorize that while positive accessibility changes to a location result in rapid population adjustment, negative changes may create a slow and asymmetric population adjustment due to the presence of slowly depreciating housing capital. This paper provides empirical support for the existence of these non-linear responses by studying the impact of the closure of more than one half of the French railroad between 1930 and 1960. I find that, within a given county, municipalities hit one-standard deviation harder by the policy had a 7 percent lower population growth between 1926 and 1982. This response is slow, strongest between two and four decades after the policy, and is non-linear in the short run: it is systematically lower when estimated on market access decrease than it is for (relative) market access increase.

Work in Progress

Exposures to Indoor and Outdoor PM_{2.5} in a Developing Megacity (with D. Rahut, B. P. Resosudarmo, D. Suryadarma and Y. Sun).

Traffic Solutions in Delhi (with Michael Greenstone and Anant Sudarshan)

Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

Theodore Schultz Economics Fellowship Award	<i>2024 - 2025</i>
Research Grant (w. Y. Sun et al.) (Asian Development Bank) (\$99,548)	<i>2024</i>
Research Grant (w. Y. Sun) (WEISS) (\$49,391)	<i>2023</i>
Certificate in Urban Science & Sustainable Development (University of Chicago)	<i>2023</i>
PhD Research Grant (STEG-CEPR) (\$19,458)	<i>2023</i>
Development Economics Research Fund (University of Chicago) (\$14,105)	<i>2023</i>
Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph Fieldwork Award (CISSR) (\$4,800)	<i>2023</i>
Pilot Grant (IGC) (\$14,165)	<i>2023</i>
Project Preparation Grant (IGC)	<i>2022</i>
Pilot Grant (w. Y. Sun) (WEISS Fund) (\$8,720)	<i>2021</i>
Proposal Development Grant (w. Y. Sun) (KCAI JPAL) (\$41,696)	<i>2021</i>
Berkeley/Sloan Summer School in Environmental and Energy Economics	<i>2021</i>
Graduate Fellowship (University of Chicago)	<i>2019 - 2024</i>
EPIC DRW Graduate Fellowship (University of Chicago)	<i>2019 - 2024</i>
Open Source Economics Laboratory Summer Fellowship (University of Chicago)	<i>2019</i>
Best Master's Thesis (Sciences Po)	<i>2019</i>
<i>Cum laude</i> (top 10%) bachelor degree (Sciences Po)	<i>2016</i>

Teaching Experience

Elements of Econ. Analysis I (undergraduate)	College Lecturer	<i>Fall 2022</i>
Math Camp (graduate)	TA	<i>Fall 2023</i>
App. Microeconomics in Econ. History (graduate)	TA for Prof. Rick Hornbeck	<i>Winter 2023</i>
Environmental Economics II (graduate)	TA for Prof. Michael Greenstone	<i>Winter 2022</i>
El. of Econ Analysis I Honors (undergraduate)	TA for Prof. Victor Lima	<i>Fall 2021</i>

Research Experience and Other Employment

Research Assistant for Prof. M. Greenstone, University of Chicago	<i>2021</i>
Research Assistant for Prof. T. Porzio and V. Bassi, Columbia University and USC	<i>2018-2019</i>
Research Assistant for Prof. M. Kahn, USC	<i>2018</i>
Research Assistant for Prof. F. Oswald, Sciences Po	<i>2018-2019</i>

Research Assistant for Prof. J. Cage, Sciences Po

2016-2017

Intern Antitrust, NERA Economic Consulting (Paris)

2017

Professional Experience

Co-Founder and Organizer of Energy and Env. Econ. Student Sem., University of Chicago 2021-2023

Conferences

2023-2024: *IGC Uganda Climate Change Workshop, JHU Cities and Development Workshop*

2022-2023: *LSE Environmental Week, WB-IGC 7th Urbanization & Poverty Res. Research Conference*

2021-2022: *NBER Summer Institute (Urban), North American Meeting of the Urban Economic Association, Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference, STEG Annual Conference* 2020-2021: *PacDev, European Meeting of the Urban Economic Association*

Refereeing Activity

Journal of Environmental Economics and Management

Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists

Other Writing

Urbanisation, transport and the environment: Some considerations for a more productive Kampala (with Juliana Oliveira-Cunha), *IGC Policy Brief UGA-24185*

Additional Information

Citizenship

France

Programming Skills

Julia, R, Stata, Python

Languages

French (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (Intermediate)