## **JENNA ANDERS**

janders@g.harvard.edu 703-346-4289

https://jenna-anders.github.io



Littauer Center 1805 Cambridge St Cambridge MA 02138 Placement Director: Claudia Goldin Placement Director: Lawrence F. Katz Administrative Director: Brenda Piquet cgoldin@harvard.edu lkatz@harvard.edu bpiquet@harvard.edu 617-495-3934 617-495-5079 617-495-8927

**Education** Harvard University

Ph.D. Economics, 2018 to 2024 (expected)

Harvard Environmental Economics Program Pre-Doctoral Fellow

**Brown University** 

B.A. Economics (honors), Environmental Studies, 2016

Fields Primary: Public Economics, Environmental Economics

Secondary: Labor Economics

**References** Professor Nathaniel Hendren

MIT Harvard University
nhendren@mit.edu jesse\_shapiro@fas.harvard.edu

Professor Lawrence Katz Harvard University lkatz@harvard.edu

Job Market Paper

"The Gorilla in the Closet: Regulatory Enforcement Under Federalism" (with Romaine Campbell)

Professor Jesse Shapiro

How does federal regulatory capacity affect state enforcement outcomes? In this paper, we provide a model in which a stronger federal regulatory agency can either strengthen or weaken states' negotiating position with their regulated entities. The optimal federal enforcement for the states is one that maximizes state-level negotiated penalties. We apply this in the context of environmental regulation to test whether the EPA's enforcement is too strong or too lenient in two environmental programs. First, using an EPA database of state-issued penalties, we show that when EPA's budget was cut in 2011, state penalties for Clean Air Act violations shrank by 15%. Second, using a dataset with information about environmental remediation projects under California state jurisdiction, we show that firms are more likely to begin cleanup projects during Democratic federal administrations. Our remediation analysis identifies the mechanism: while firm cleanup behavior is affected by EPA strength, cleanups conducted by the state are not, providing evidence that the effects operate through firm-state bargaining. We conclude that over one-third of EPA's effect on environmental penalties is through its spillovers to state outcomes, and that states would benefit from a stronger EPA.

**Working Papers** 

"The Welfare Effects of Eligibility Expansions: Theory and Evidence from SNAP" (with Charlie Rafkin), 2022. Conditionally accepted at *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.

We study the U.S. rollout of eligibility expansions in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Using administrative data from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, we show that expanding eligibility raises enrollment among the inframarginal (always-eligible) population. Using an online experiment and an administrative survey, we find evidence that information frictions, rather than stigma, drive the new take-up. To interpret our findings, we develop a general model of the optimal eligibility threshold for welfare programs with incomplete take-up. Given our empirical results and certain modeling assumptions, the SNAP eligibility threshold is lower than optimal.

**Work in Progress** 

"Welfare Analyses of Firm-Based Government Policies" (with Valerie Chuang, Nathaniel Hendren, and Eric Zwick)

"Friendship Formation and the Missing Market" (with Amanda Pallais)

Fellowships & Awards

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2018-2023

Teaching Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems, Harvard University, teaching fellow for

Professor Raj Chetty, 2022

Graduate Labor Economics, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Lawrence Katz,

2021

**Research** Research Assistant, Harvard University, Amanda Pallais, 2016-2018

Academic Service Referee, Quarterly Journal of Economics

Referee, Journal of Urban Economics

MOOC creator, Pathways to Research and Doctoral Careers (PREDOC) Consortium

Co-organizer, Harvard Labor/Public Finance Workshop, 2021-2022

**Research Grants** Chae Family Economics Research Fund, Harvard, 2022

Mind, Brain, and Behavior, Harvard, 2020

The Lab for Economic Applications and Policy (LEAP), Harvard, 2020

Foundations of Human Behavior, Harvard, 2019

Warburg Foundation, Harvard, 2019