

# MICHAEL TOPPER

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## EDUCATION & AWARDS

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**University of California Santa Barbara:** *PhD Economics* 2018 - Present

- Expected graduation: June 2023

**San Diego State University:** *M.A. Economics* 2016 - 2018

- M.C. Madhavan Prize: Awarded annually by the San Diego State Department of Economics to the Outstanding Graduating Masters Student.
- The Weintraub Paper Award: Excellence in writing about Economics: “Do Donald Trump Rallies Cause More Violence?”
- Terhune Scholarship: Awarded by faculty to top program candidates

**University of California San Diego:** *B.S. Mathematics/Economics* 2013 - 2015

## RESEARCH

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**Working Paper:** “*How Fraternity Moratoriums Affect Alcohol Offenses and Sexual Assault*” 2020 - Present

In this paper, I exploit the variation from temporary university-wide halts on all fraternity activity with alcohol (moratoriums) across 38 universities. I construct a novel dataset using web-scraping, PDF-extracting, and Freedom of Information Act requests to present the first causal evidence of what could happen across university campuses if fraternities were prohibited from serving alcohol at social events and faced stricter regulations. In particular, I find strong evidence that fraternity moratoriums lower alcohol violations campus-wide by 25%. Inquire for latest version.

## WORK EXPERIENCE

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**Research Assistant for Dr. Heather Royer:** *University of California Santa Barbara* 2020 - 2021

- Analyzed large spatial data sets in ArcGIS/R to examine chemical concentrations in California using geospatial variation.
- Conducted data analysis/visualization utilizing R. Visualizations included “heat” maps, summary statistics, and trends.

**Curriculum Creator for Econ 145 and Econ 245:** *University of California Santa Barbara* 2020 - Present

- Main contributor of course curriculum for Econ 145: Data Wrangling in Economics and Econ 245: Data Wrangling for Economics (Graduate Version) using the R programming language. See my [R book](#) for some original materials.

**Teaching Assistant:** *University of California Santa Barbara* 2018 - Present

- Academic Senate Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Nominee 2019 and 2020 (school-wide honor) for Intro to Econometrics and Data Wrangling for Economists.

**Instructor of Record:** *San Diego State University* 2017 - 2018

- Primary instructor covering Introductory Microeconomics for 110+ students in Fall/Spring.
- Reviews: [RateMyProfessor](#) (public). Inquire for official San Diego State Reviews and my original course materials.

**Appfolio:** *Value Added Services: SaaS Intern* 2015 - 2016

- Beat sales goals to set Value Added Team Screen sales records.
- Lead “Project Lease” product initiative, working cross-functionally with engineering team to translate customer needs to new Value Added services.

## ADDITIONAL INFO

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**Technical:** R, Python, ArcGIS,  $\LaTeX$ , STATA, MatLab

**Areas of Focus:** Econometric Modeling & Theory, Advanced Data Modeling, SaaS Data Operations

**Out of Office:** Personal Food Critic, One-man Rock Band, Basketball Extraordinaire