

Samara Mendez

Economist
Humane League Labs
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Education

Ph.D. Economics, University of Colorado, Boulder (defended 2018)

Dissertation: "Policy Effects in Applied Microeconomic Settings"

Dissertation Committee: Chrystie Burr (Chair), Scott Savage, Daniel Kaffine, Jonathan Hughes

M.A. Economics, University of Colorado, Boulder (2015)

B.A. Economics (with Special Honors), University of Texas, Austin (2013)

B.A. Mathematics, University of Texas, Austin (2013)

Fields of Interest

Environmental/Agricultural Economics • Industrial Organization • Food Economics • Policy

Appointments

Economist, Humane League Labs (2018)

Researching the intersection of consumer behavior, firm behavior, and public policy with a focus on how these policies impact animals and their welfare.

Working Papers

"Brand Power, Pass-through, and Consumption Effects of Municipal Taxes: Evidence from Berkeley, CA"

"Just Label It? The Effects of Labels in the Market for Genetically Modified Foods"

"Universal Service Policies for Fixed Broadband: The Effect of the Lifeline Program on Prices, Demand, and Welfare" (*with Scott Savage and Gabor Molnar*)

Presentations

2018 Environmental Brown Bag, CU Boulder (Apr)

"Brand Power, Pass-through, and Consumption Effects of Municipal Taxes: Evidence from Berkeley"

"Incidence and Welfare Effects of Placement of Excise Taxes in Highly Concentrated Markets"

2017 Environmental Brown Bag, CU Boulder (Dec)

"Just Label It? The Effects of Labels in the Market for Genetically Modified Foods"

CU Boulder's Environmental and Resource Economics Workshop, Vail CO (Sept)

"Just Label It? The Effects of Labels in the Market for Genetically Modified Foods"

Environmental Brown Bag, CU Boulder (Apr)

"Upstream Pollution, Downstream Market Power, and Waste"

2016 AERE Sponsored Sessions, Southern Economic Association, Washington D.C. (Nov.)

"Just Label It? The Effects of Labels in the Market for Genetically Modified Foods"

Environmental Brown Bag, CU Boulder (Oct)
“The Effect of Fines on Food Waste: Evidence from French Policy”
2015 Environmental Brown Bag, CU Boulder (Oct)
“Food Labeling Research Sketches”
Environmental Brown Bag, CU Boulder (Feb)
“Planning to Prevent Water Waste”

Research Experience

2017 Using Classroom Observation Technology to Assess Teaching Improvement in Short-Term Microteaching Environments (June)
Interdisciplinary research project management, IRB protocol proposal writing, qualitative data analysis
2016 Dissertation Research Grant (Spring)
Multi-project research administration, research agenda development, data analysis, website creation
2015 Research Assistant to Dr. Scott Savage, CU Boulder (Summer)
Data sourcing and cleaning, statistical and spatial (GIS) data analysis, literature review writing
Research for Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research, CU Boulder (Spring, Summer)
Quantitative and qualitative analysis, master document preparation, graphical data presentation
2014 Research for Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research, CU Boulder (Fall)
2013 Research Assistant to Drs. Valerie Bencivenga and Beatrix Paal, UT Austin (Spring, Summer)
Project administration, process documentation, interdisciplinary team communication

Leadership Experience

2018 Graduate Instructor Mentor, Department of Economics, CU Boulder (Spring)
Seminar and event planning, graduate professional development training
2017 Founder, CU Boulder Department of Economics Composting Program (August)
Logistics planning, budget creation, administrative outreach
Lead Graduate Instructor, Graduate Teacher Program, CU Boulder (Spring, Fall)
Academic management, pedagogy development training, interdisciplinary research
Organizing Committee, March for Science Denver (Spring)
Planning, coordinating, and executing a very large event, science communication
2016 Lead Graduate Instructor, Graduate Teacher Program, CU Boulder (Fall)

Teaching Experience

2017 Graduate Instructor, CU Boulder (Fall)
Math Tools for Economists II
Graduate Instructor, CU Boulder (Summer)
Economics English Immersion Training
2016 Graduate Instructor, CU Boulder (Fall)
Natural Resource Economics
Graduate Instructor, CU Boulder (Spring, Summer)
Math Tools for Economists II
2015 Graduate Instructor, CU Boulder (Fall)
Math Tools for Economists II
Teaching Assistant, CU Boulder (Spring, Summer)
Principles of Microeconomics

- 2014** Teaching Assistant, CU Boulder (Spring, Fall)
Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Macroeconomics
- 2013** Teaching Assistant, CU Boulder (Spring, Fall)
Principles of Macroeconomics
- 2012** Supplemental Instructor, UT Austin (Spring, Fall)
Principles of Macroeconomics
- 2011** Supplemental Instructor, UT Austin (Fall)
Principles of Macroeconomics

See [CU Boulder Faculty Course Questionnaire results portal](#) for teacher ratings

Awards

- 2018** Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award, Graduate School, CU Boulder
 Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Performance and Lasting Contribution to Graduate Student
 Leadership in Economics, Graduate Teacher Program, CU Boulder
- 2017** Stanford Calderwood Student Teaching Award, Dept. of Economics, CU Boulder
 Dissertation Research Grant, Dept. of Economics, CU Boulder
- 2016** Leslie Whittington Endowed Fellowship for Excellence in Economics, CU Boulder
- 2015** Prize in Macroeconomics, Dept. of Economics, CU Boulder
- 2013** First Year Graduate Student Fellowship, Dept. of Economics, CU Boulder

Research Skills

Statistical analysis • Theoretical modeling • Multi-enterprise project management • Website design
 Data collection and preparation • Database creation and management • IRB protocol proposal writing
 Master document/work process preparation • Report writing and data presentation for general audiences
Advanced: Stata, LaTeX, MS Excel/Word/Powerpoint, Mathematica • *Intermediate:* ArcGIS, SquareSpace
Basic: Matlab, R, Github

Dissertation Committee Contacts

Professor Chrystie Burr (Chair)	chrystie.burr@colorado.edu	303-492-0863
Professor Scott Savage	scott.savage@colorado.edu	303-735-1165
Professor Daniel Kaffine	daniel.kaffine@colorado.edu	303-492-6652
Professor Jonathan Hughes	jonathan.e.hughes@colorado.edu	303-735-0220