

# Samara Mendez

Department of Economics  
University of Colorado Boulder  
Boulder, C.O. 80309

512-696-0381  
[samara.mendez@colorado.edu](mailto:samara.mendez@colorado.edu)  
<https://samaramendez.github.io>

---

## Education

Ph.D., Economics, University of Colorado, Boulder (expected 2019)

*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

## Working Papers

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

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

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

## 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

## 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*

## **Presentations**

- 2018** Environmental Brown Bag, CU Boulder (Apr)  
“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”

## **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

## 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)

## Dissertation Committee Contacts

Professor Chrystie Burr (Chair)	<a href="mailto:chrystie.burr@colorado.edu">chrystie.burr@colorado.edu</a>	303-492-0863
Professor Scott Savage	<a href="mailto:scott.savage@colorado.edu">scott.savage@colorado.edu</a>	303-735-1165
Professor Daniel Kaffine	<a href="mailto:daniel.kaffine@colorado.edu">daniel.kaffine@colorado.edu</a>	303-492-6652
Professor Jonathan Hughes	<a href="mailto:jonathan.e.hughes@colorado.edu">jonathan.e.hughes@colorado.edu</a>	303-735-0220