

Samuel Nitkin

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EDUCATION

University of Chicago; Chicago, IL

B.A. in Economics, Anthropology Minor

Graduated June 2022, Magna Cum Laude

GPA: 3.87 / 4.00

Advanced Coursework: Analysis in Rn I & II, Abstract Linear Algebra, Econometrics, Economics of Education, Public Economics, Behavioral Economics, Game Theory, Ethnographic Methods

GRE: 167 Quantitative Reasoning; 167 Verbal Reasoning

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Predoctoral Fellow — Opportunity Insights; Cambridge, MA

July 2022-Present

Principal Investigators: Raj Chetty, John Friedman, David Deming, and Zach Bleemer

- Studied the determinants and impacts of admissions to highly selective colleges in the U.S.
- Analyzed large administrative datasets covering the universe of U.S. taxpayers using IRS tax records and college-specific admissions data in Stata and SAS
- Contributed to Chetty, R., Deming, D. J., & Friedman, J. N. (2023). “Diversifying Society’s Leaders? The Causal Effects of Admission to Highly Selective Private Colleges” revise and resubmit, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*
- Formalized the “Correlated Admissions Criteria” assumption, which is necessary when measuring the causal effect of college attendance using idiosyncratic variation in admissions across multiple colleges
- Developed non-monetary measures of post-secondary success by defining prestigious firms through a revealed preference model residualized on wages
- Generated 50+ data visualizations to present novel results clearly and effectively for research papers and presentations

Research Assistant— Princeton University; Princeton, NJ

January 2022-June 2022

Principal Investigator: Ishan Nath

- Mapped water table levels and crop intensities in GIS to study regional variation in the climate impacts of agricultural production
- Conducted literature review on global water rights and markets to develop a framework for categorizing markets

Research Assistant— The Becker Friedman Institute; Chicago, IL

June 2021-August 2021

Principal Investigator: Michael Dinerstein

- Investigated the impacts of charter school finances on student outcomes, enrollment, and staffing allocations by exploiting a 2011 policy change in New York City that allowed charter schools run by the same organization to merge their finances
- Programmed various models of event studies with staggered treatment times to determine which estimation tools worked best in our context

Data Analyst— The To&Through Project; Chicago, IL

June 2020-June 2021

Principal Investigator: Alex Seeskin

- Cleaned, prepared, and analyzed data in R for the public-facing To&Through online tool, presenting aggregated outcomes at six milestones for hundreds of thousands Chicago students
- Contributed to McKoy, D., Usher, A., Nagaoka, J., & Khatri, S. (2021). “Approaching Chicago Student Attainment from a Community Perspective” *University of Chicago Consortium on School Research*
- Collaborated weekly with the design team to tell the most effective story with our data
- Spearheaded research project on the outcomes of students attending alternative programs
- Presented data visualizations of student outcomes to school and community stakeholders

TEACHING AND SERVICE

Seminar Organizer — Harvard University; Cambridge, MA

June 2023-Present

- Organized research seminar for Harvard Predoctoral Fellows to share independent research ideas in economics and hone presentational skills

Tutor— Maroon Tutor Match; Chicago, IL

November 2018-February 2022

- Tutored students one-on-one in math, engineering, human geography, science, and standardized testing

Curriculum Intern— Debate it Forward; Chicago, IL

June 2019-August 2019

- Researched effective teaching styles and designed a curriculum that taught debate skills to elementary and middle school students in a fun, creative, and effective manner
- Taught at Debate it Forward camp, instructing over 100 students how to conduct research and construct arguments through games, field trips, and mock debates

Chief Operating Officer— TeCanal; Baltimore MD

October 2016-May 2018

- Organized non-profit that ran after school programs and provided computers in under-resourced Baltimore communities, focusing on K-8 STEM education
- Designed curriculum that taught programming skills using Scratch, a block-based visual programming language
- Developed partnerships with Baltimore institutions, including Creative Alliance and the Immigration Outreach Service Center, to bring technology resources to a larger community

ACADEMIC HONORS & FELLOWSHIPS

2021 Metcalf Summer Research Fellowship

2020 Hertog Foundation Political Partisanship Fellowship

2020 Metcalf Summer Research Fellowship

2019 Milgrom Community Service and Innovation Fellowship

2019 University of Chicago Dean's List

2018 SSgt Karl G. Taylor, Sr. Detachment 1084 Scholarship

2018 National Economics Challenge, 2nd Place, Adam Smith Division

COMPUTER SKILLS

Stata, R, SAS, Python, C, ArcGIS, LaTeX, Microsoft Office Suite