

# Tara Sullivan

Department of Economics  
University of California, San Diego

Email: [tasulliv@ucsd.edu](mailto:tasulliv@ucsd.edu)

Phone: (347) 669-2103

Links: [Website](#), [Github](#), [LinkedIn](#)

---

## Education

**University of California, San Diego**, La Jolla CA

Sept. 2015 - present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics [*Expected: June 2022*]

*Primary fields:* Macroeconomics, Econometrics

*Dissertation:* “Group-based beliefs and human capital specialization”

- If men and women choose their major based on their expected probability of success in a field, and those beliefs are formed based on existing outcomes for men and women, do otherwise identical men and women make different major choices? And does this perpetuate gender gaps in college major choice?
- Model incorporates Bayesian learning into optimal stopping problem.
- Data analysis and theoretical modeling programmed in Python; see Github repository ([link](#))

**Boston College**, Chestnut Hill, MA

Sept. 2008 - May 2012

BA in Economics (Honors), BA in International Relations

*Phi beta kappa, magna cum laude, Giffuni prize for best senior thesis in the Economics department*

---

## Employment history

**University of California, San Diego**, La Jolla CA

Oct. 2015 - present

*Teaching Assistant*

- Principals of Macroeconomics, Winter 2019, 2020, & 2021. Managed a teaching staff of 10-12 for a course of 500 students. Organized transition to online exams in March 2020, and to full online instruction in 2021. Instructor: Valerie Ramey.
- Ph.D. Econometrics A, Fall 2017 & 2018. Taught first-year economics graduate students probability theory and statistical inference. Subsequently won 2019 TA Excellence award. Instructors: Brendan Beare & Graham Elliot.
- Ph.D. Computation, Winter 2017 & 2018. Taught first-year economics graduate students data visualization in Stata, dynamic programming in Matlab, as well as basic batch scripts and server usage. Instructors: Michelle White & Garey Ramey.
- M.A. International Economics, Spring 2018, 2019, & 2020. Taught public policy master's students data cleaning in Stata, regression analysis, and structural modeling. Instructors: Natalia Ramondo & Renee Bowen.

**Environmental Defense Fund**, New York, NY

July 2019 - Sept. 2019

*Pre-doctoral Intern*, Office of the Chief Economist

- Summer position researching climate change adaptation; wrote forthcoming policy report, “Agricultural climate change adaptation: a review of macroeconomic approaches.”

**University of California, San Diego**, La Jolla, CA

June 2018 - Nov. 2018

*Research Assistant*

- Wrote Structural VAR ado files in Stata to estimate impulse response functions that maximize forecast error variance. Required extensive use of Mata and knowledge of MATLAB. Supervisor: Valerie Ramey.
- Analysis of the effectiveness of fixed vs random effects for macroeconomic model identification. Supervisor: David Lagakos.

**Federal Reserve Bank of New York**, New York, NY

June 2012 - July 2015

*Senior Research Analyst*, Research Group, Financial Intermediation

- Overhauled system through which the Research, Markets, and Banking Supervision groups access bank holding company regulatory data using SQL, SAS, and Stata.
- Produced quarterly policy reports on banking industry. Analysis performed in Stata and VBA.

---

## Technical skills

### Programming languages

- Fluent: Python ([quantitative example](#); [matplotlib example](#)); Stata ([example](#));  $\text{\LaTeX}$
- Familiar: Git, SQL, VBA, SAS, MATLAB, Mata, batch script, shell script

### Analysis

- Fluent: Statistical inference (hypothesis testing, interval estimation); Point estimation methods (MLE, GMM, Bayes estimators); Linear regression; Instrumental variables; Panel data analysis (unobserved effects models, discrete choice models, and censored and truncated regression models); Time-series analysis (reduced-form and structural VARs, cointegration, forecast error variance decomposition); Observational causal inference; Nonparametric and semi-parametric models (kernel density estimation, bandwidth selection and cross validation, local polynomial regression); Optimal stopping problems
- Familiar: General method of sieves; Neural networks; Bayesian networks; Regression discontinuity design; Potential outcomes models; Markov models; Propensity score matching; Bootstrapping; Synthetic control methods; Principal component analysis; Quantile regression; Numerical linear algebra; Nonlinear systems and numerical optimization