

Ari Anisfeld

anisfeld@uchicago.edu ◇ (847) 877 0130 ◇ arianisfeld.com

Placement Director:

Prof. Steven Durlauf
sdurlauf@uchicago.edu
(773) 702-8400

REFERENCES

Steven Durlauf (*Chair*)

Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor
Harris School of Public Policy
University of Chicago
durlauf@gmail.com

Lesley Turner

Associate Professor
Harris School of Public Policy
University of Chicago
ljturner@uchicago.edu

Anjali Adukia

Assistant Professor
Harris School of Public Policy
University of Chicago
adukia@uchicago.edu

Raul Sanchez de la Sierra

Assistant Professor
Harris School of Public Policy
University of Chicago
raul@uchicago.edu

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

PhD Public Policy

2019 - 2025

Fields: Labor Economics and Econometrics

MS Computational Analysis and Public Policy with Honors

2016 - 2018

University of New Mexico

MA Secondary Education

2011 - 2014

Grinnell College

BA History with Honors, Global Development Studies concentration

2005 - 2009

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

- *Language, Identity, and Ethnic Cohesion in Schools* (with Pepi Pandiloski)

Distinct group identities can create barriers for trade, investment in public goods, and social learning. This paper studies how integration impacts productivity and cohesion in settings with broad linguistic diversity, where language differences may deepen the divides created by group identities. We randomly assign high school students to same- or different-ethnicity partners to play a cooperative video game in Macedonia, where students are segregated by ethnicity. We measure productivity using video game scores and assess social cohesion with two measures: the willingness to pay for a same-ethnicity partner (via an adaptive choice experiment) and ingroup bias (via a dictator game). We find that inter-ethnic contact improves social cohesion without affecting productivity. To examine the role of language, we exploit random variation in the language skills overlap within pairs. We find that shared language skills are associated with greater inter-ethnic cohesion gains and lower non-pecuniary costs. These results reflect both a match effect (i.e., sharing a language is beneficial) and a correlation between language skills and positive potential outcomes. Additionally, cross-ethnic pairs match on one of the partner's home languages or a third neutral language. Cohesion gains are largest for participants who match on their own home language; if anything, matching on a neutral language is worse than matching on the partner's home language.

Working papers

- *Social Learning in Segregated Societies* (with Pepi Pandiloski)
- *Costly Withdrawals Reduce Future College Going: Evidence from Return to Title IV Funds* (with Elizabeth Bell, Oded Gurantz, Dennis Kramer)

- *How Local is Local Development? Evidence from Casinos* (with Jordan Rosenthal-Kay) R & R, Regional Science and Urban Economics
- *Aequitas: A Bias and Fairness Audit Toolkit* (with Pedro Saleiro, Benedict Kuester, Loren Hinkson, Jesse London, Abby Stevens, Kit T. Rodolfa, Rayid Ghani)

Work in progress

- *The Distributional Impact of Government Communication on College Persistence* (with Salman Khan and Dennis Kramer)
- *Do Marginal Students Benefit from Longer Access to Aid?: Evidence from the Restriction of Pell Lifetime Eligibility* (with Salman Khan and Dennis Kramer)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

2025 *Association for Education Finance & Policy (AEFP) (Washington, D.C.), AEFP Education and Development Seminar (Online)*

2024 *APPAM (Washington, D.C.), University of Chicago Committee on Education Workshop, University of Chicago Development Workshop, Stone Center Summer School Poster Session (Chicago, IL)*

2023 *Urban Economics Association (UEA) (Milan, Italy), Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) (Washington, D.C.)*

2018 *MetroLab Network (Newark, NJ)*

GRANTS

2025 Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund Grant (\$5K)

2023 JPAL European Social Inclusion Initiative (\$50K)

2023 Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund Grant (\$10K)

2023 Becker Friedman Institutes Political Economics Initiative (\$4.5K)

2022 BFI/DIL Development Economics Research Fund Research Grant (\$30K)

2022 BFI New Data Acquisition Grant (\$15K)

2022 BFI/DIL Development Economics Research Fund Exploratory Travel Grant (\$5K)

2022 Committee on Education Research Grant (\$1K)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago Chicago, IL
Teaching Assistant (indicates Head TA)*

- Advanced Topics in Causal Inference (Molly Offer-Westort, Spring, 2024); Education and Economic Development (Anjali Adukia, Winter 2023); Human Capital, Markets, and the Family (James Heckman, Spring 2022); Applied Econometrics II (Koichiro Ito, Spring 2019); Data Skills for Public Policy* (Peter Ganong, Fall 2018, Spring 2020, Spring 2021); Machine Learning and Policy (Jens Ludwig, Spring 2018); Statistics for Data Analysis II (Austin Wright and Ingvil Gaarder, Winter 2018); Statistics for Data Analysis I* (Dan Black and Amir Jina, Fall 2017); Public Policy Practicum (Charlie Barlow, Winter and Spring 2017)

Instructor

- Harris Coding Lab (Summer 2023, Summer 2022, Summer+Fall 2021, Summer+Fall 2020, Fall 2019)

Thoreau Middle School Thoreau, NM
Algebra and Pre-Algebra Teacher 2011 - 2014

RELATED EXPERIENCE

U.S. Department of Education
Research and Policy Fellow 2024 -

University of Chicago Chicago, IL
Member, Stone Center Inequality Working Group 2024 -
Research Assistant to Anjali Adukia 2020 - 2021
Research Assistant to Yana Gallen 2017 - 2018

Booth School of Business, University of Chicago
Pre-Doctoral Research Professional – Peter Ganong and Pascal Noel

Chicago, IL
2018 - 2019

Center for Data Science and Public Policy
Research Assistant

Chicago, IL
2018

New York City Department of Education
Analyst with Research and Policy Support Group

New York, NY
2016

Presence Health
Analytics Programmer

Chicago, IL
2017

Gobabeb Research and Training Center
Research and IT Fellow

Namib-Naukluft Park, Namibia
2009 - 2010

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Committee on Education Fellow (2020 - 2025)
Urban Doctoral Fellow (2021 - 2022)
Metcalf Fellowship (2021)
Polsky Accelerator Entrepreneur (2019)
CAPP Start-up Scholarship (2016 - 2018)
Education Pioneers Fellowship (2016)
Segal AmeriCorps Education Award (2011 - 2013)
Grinnell Corps Fellowship (2009)
Creole Creamery Hall of Fame (2008)

LEADERSHIP & SERVICE

UChicago Committee on Education Workshop, Co-Coordinator, (2022 - 2023)
DataKind, Volunteer data expert for San Antonio Community College, (2022)
Murray Language Academy Local School Council, Member, (2020 - 2024)
Booth Research Professionals, Mentor, (2020 - 2023)
Harris School PhD Social Committee, Co-Chair, (2020 - 2021)
Harris School PhD Admissions Committee, Reader, (2021)
iMentor, Mentor, (2018 - 2021)
Chicago Policy Review, Editor, (2016 - 2018)
South Side Civic ScopeAthon, Co-Organizer, (2017)

Referee Services: *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*

SKILLS

Computational *Strong:* R, Python, L^AT_EX; *Intermediate:* SQL, Stata, HTML/CSS/JS
Language *Native:* English; *Intermediate:* Spanish; *Beginner:* Mandarin Chinese