

Samara Mendez

Rethink Priorities
Personal Website

samara@rethinkpriorities.org
samaramendez@gmail.com

Education

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

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)

Appointments

Senior Economist, Rethink Priorities (2021)

Economist, The Humane League Labs (2018)

Publications

“The Impacts of the Lifeline Subsidy on High-speed Internet access.” (*with Scott Savage and Gabor Molnar*)
Journal of Law and Economics, forthcoming.

“Milking It: Exploring the impact of plant-based dairy alternatives in the US.” (*with Jacob Peacock*)
Open Science Framework, June 2021.

“Measuring Better Chicken Commitment–Compliant Chicken Supply.” (*with Jacob Peacock*)
Open Science Framework, Aug 2020.

“US Egg Production Data Set.” *Open Science Framework*, Aug 2019.

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”

Work in Progress

“Impact of Corporate Commitments to Source Cage-Free Eggs on Layer Hen Housing”
(*with Jacob Peacock and Matt Butner*) *Preregistration on Open Science Framework*, Jan 2020.

“Estimating BCC-compliant chicken demand from US food businesses”
(*with George Garcia, III*)

Fields of Interest

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

Presentations

- 2018** Environmental Brown Bag, CU Boulder (Apr)
 “Brand Power, Pass-through, and Consumption Effects of Municipal Taxes”
 “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

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: R, Stata, LaTeX, Mathematica • *Intermediate:* Github, ArcGIS *Basic:* Matlab

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