

Goya Razavi

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Placement Director: Steven Durlauf — sdurlauf@uchicago.edu — (773) 702-8400

Education

University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy

Ph.D. in Public Policy 2019 – 2025

MA in Public Policy 2018 – 2019

London School of Economics

MSc in Philosophy of the Social Sciences 2015 – 2016

BSc in Economics 2012 – 2015

References

Professor Steven Durlauf (Chair)
University of Chicago
Harris School of Public Policy
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Professor Atila Abdulkadiroğlu
Duke University
Department of Economics
aa88@duke.edu

Professor Dan Black
University of Chicago
Harris School of Public Policy
danblack@uchicago.edu

Professor James Heckman
University of Chicago
Department of Economics
jheckman@uchicago.edu

Research and Teaching Fields

Primary: Labor Economics

Secondary: Economics of Education, Urban Economics

Job Market Paper

Universal Higher Education and Upward Mobility: Degree Returns, Admission Policies and Student Sorting

Abstract: This paper examines the role of universal higher education in promoting social mobility. I study this question in Denmark, where colleges are tuition-free and generous cost of living grants are available to all, providing an ideal setting to study some of the sources of inequalities that remain. Leveraging GPA-based admission cutoffs from a centralized matching algorithm, I find that crossing the threshold to a more selective college degree increases income for low socioeconomic status (SES) students by 9%, with negligible labor market returns for high-SES students. To further shed light on determinants of the SES wage gap, I develop a joint model of degree selection and labor market outcomes, which embeds peer effects — capturing the impact of peer composition within college degrees on outcomes. I find that the current GPA-based meritocratic admissions system is inefficient in terms of maximizing long-term earnings. Implementing class-based affirmative action in admissions could reduce the SES wage gap by 15% through upward mobility of disadvantaged students, without adversely impacting displaced high-SES students. The SES wage gap could be fully eliminated if low-SES students selected degrees based on expected earnings returns.

Working Papers

Pricing Schools and Neighborhood Attributes (with James Heckman & Sadegh Eshaghnia), *NBER Working Paper #31371 (under review)*

The Dynastic Benefits of Neighborhood Sorting (with James Heckman & Sadegh Eshaghnia)

Neighborhood Effects and Children's Long-term Outcomes (with Sadegh Eshaghnia)

Selected Work in Progress

The Efficiency of Affirmative Action Policies: Evidence From China (with Runzhong Xu)

Neighborhood Mobility over the Life Cycle, Sorting, and Segregation (with James Heckman & Sadegh Eshaghnia)

Invited Talks and Conferences

2024: Stone Center Inequality Working Group; European Meetings of the Urban Economics Association; Stone Center Summer School (poster); EEA-ESEM Congress; APPAM Fall Research Conference

2023: European Meetings of the Urban Economics Association; Inequality Working Group

2022: European Meetings of the Urban Economics Association

< 21: LSE Economics Department, European Commission (DG GROW, DG TAXUD), European Investment Bank, LSE Reason, Knowledge and Values Colloquium

Fellowships, Grants and Awards

Urban Doctoral Fellowship, Mansueto Institute	2024
Harris Professional Development Fund Award, University of Chicago	2024
Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy	2023
Luxembourg National Research Fund Fellowship (co-PI, \$200,000)	2019 – 23
PhD Scholarship, University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy	2019 – 23
Harris School of Public Policy Merit Scholarship, University of Chicago	2018
LSE Graduate Scholarship	2015

Teaching Experience

Inequality: Theory, Methods and Evidence (PhD-level), Professor Steven Durlauf	2024
Current Topics in Public Policy: Intergenerational Mobility, Professor Steven Durlauf	2022, 2023
Econometrics (PhD-level), Professor Steven Durlauf	2021
Social Interactions and Inequality (PhD-level), Professor Steven Durlauf	2020, 2021, 2023
Game Theory (PhD-level), Professor Konstantin Sonin	2020

Research Experience

Research Associate , <i>Center for the Economics of Human Development</i>	2024 –
Department of Economics, University of Chicago	
Inequality Working Group , <i>Stone Center for Research on Wealth Inequality and Mobility</i>	2023 –
Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago	
Research Assistant , Professors Steven Durlauf and James Heckman	2019 – 20

Research Assistant, Professors Tim Besley, Anders Jensen, and Pierre Bachas

2014 – 15

Policy Experience

Public Policy Advisor, PwC, Public Sector Consulting 2017 – 18

Economic Policy Officer, European Commission, DG Taxation and Customs Union 2016 – 17

Policy Analyst, United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime, Policy Analysis & Public Affairs 2015 – 16

Service

MPP and PhD Academic Tutor, Harris School of Public Policy 2023

Mentor, Harris School of Public Policy 2020

PhD Student Admissions Committee, Harris School of Public Policy 2019 – 20

Additional Information

Programming: Stata, R, Python, Matlab, HTML

Languages: French, English, German (fluent); Luxembourgish and Dutch (intermediate)

Citizenship: Luxembourg and France

This version: 20 October 2024