

Ari Anisfeld

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Placement Director:

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AFFILIATIONS

2022 - U.S. Education Department, Research and Policy Fellow

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

2011 - 2014

MA Secondary Education

Grinnell College

2005 - 2009

BA History with Honors, Global Development Studies concentration

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

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

Building social cohesion in diverse societies presents a significant challenge, one that is further compounded by linguistic diversity. This study investigates how language and identity impact cohesion built through inter-group contact. The setting is three high schools in Macedonia that segregate students by ethnicity. We randomly assign students to complete cooperative tasks with a co-ethnic or cross-ethnic partner. Within cross-ethnic pairs, shared language skills are random, conditional on observable baseline skills. Inter-ethnic contact enhances social cohesion without a statistically significant effect on productivity in a cooperative video game. The cohesion measures strongly correlate with the level of shared language skills within cross-ethnic pairs. Using propensity re-weighting, we find these correlations reflect both match effects (i.e. it is useful to have shared language skills) and underlying heterogeneity. The existence of match effects suggests room for policy to improve cohesion at a relatively low cost. Cohesion outcomes increase sharply when an individual has a cross-ethnic partner who can communicate in the focal player's home language. There does not appear to be a "backlash" effect, and if anything speaking a neutral language is worse than using the other player'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)
- *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

- 2024** *University of Chicago Committee on Education Workshop, University of Chicago Development Workshop, Stone Center Summer School Poster Session (Chicago, IL), APPAM (Washington D.C.)*
- 2023** *Urban Economic Association (Milan, Italy), Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE) (Washington D.C.)*
- 2018** *MetroLab Network (Newark, NJ)*

GRANTS

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

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 Chicago, IL
Pre-Doctoral Research Professional – Peter Ganong and Pascal Noel 2018 - 2019

Center for Data Science and Public Policy Chicago, IL
Research Assistant 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)

SKILLS

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

REFERENCES

Steven Durlauf (*Chair*)
Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor
Harris School of Public Policy
University of Chicago
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Lesley Turner
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