

Sarah R. Cohodes

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Teachers College Columbia University

2019– Associate Professor of Economics and Education (with tenure)
Faculty Affiliate, Columbia Population Research Center (2017–)
Faculty Affiliate, Columbia Committee on the Economics of Education (2015–)

2015–19 Assistant Professor of Education and Public Policy

Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

2021–22 Visiting Scholar

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Public Policy, Harvard University, 2015
Ed.M. Education Policy and Management, Harvard University, 2011
B.A. Economics, Swarthmore College, 2005

AFFILIATIONS

2017– National Bureau of Economic Research
Research Associate (2021–)
Faculty Research Fellow (2017–21)

2018– Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
Faculty Affiliate

2016– CESifo
Research Affiliate

2012– Blueprint Labs (formerly MIT School Effectiveness and Inequality Institute)
Faculty Affiliate (2015–)
Research Associate (2012–15)

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

2022– Co-Editor, *Journal of Public Economics*

2020– Co-Editor, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

2022– Editorial Board, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*

2019– Editorial Board, *Education Finance and Policy*

PUBLICATIONS

Cohodes, Sarah R. and Katharine S. Parham.* “Charter Schools’ Effectiveness, Mechanisms, and Competitive Influence.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance*. 2021.

Also released as NBER Working Paper 28477.

Cohodes, Sarah R., Elizabeth Setren, and Christopher Walters. “Can Successful Schools Replicate? Scaling Up Boston’s Charter Sector.” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 13(1): 138-167. 2021.

Also released as NBER Working Paper 25796.

Cohodes, Sarah R. “The Long-Run Impacts of Specialized Programming for High-Achieving Students.” *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, 12(1): 126-166. 2020.

Cohodes, Sarah R. “Charter Schools and the Achievement Gap.” *The Future of Children*. Policy Issue: 1-16, 2018.

Cohodes, Sarah R., Daniel S. Grossman, Samuel A. Kleiner, and Michael F. Lovenheim. “The Effect of Child Health Insurance Access on Schooling: Evidence from Public Insurance Expansions.” *Journal of Human Resources*, 51(3): 556-588, 2016.

Also released as NBER Working Paper 20178.

Angrist, Joshua D., Sarah R. Cohodes, Susan M. Dynarski, Parag A. Pathak, and Christopher R. Walters. “Stand and Deliver: Effects of Boston’s Charter High Schools on College Preparation, Entry, and Choice.” *Journal of Labor Economics*, 34(2): 275-318, 2016.

Also released as NBER Working Paper 19275.

Chabrier, Julia, Sarah R. Cohodes, and Philip Oreopoulos. “What Can We Learn from Charter School Lotteries?” *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 30(3): 57-84, 2016.

Also released as NBER Working Paper 22390.

Cohodes, Sarah R. “Teaching to the Student: Charter School Effectiveness in Spite of Perverse Incentives.” *Education Finance and Policy*, 11(1): 1-42, 2016.

Deming, David J., Sarah R. Cohodes, Jennifer Jennings, and Christopher Jencks. “School Accountability, Postsecondary Attainment, and Earnings.” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 58(5): 848-862, 2016.

Also released as NBER Working Paper 19444.

Cohodes, Sarah R. and Joshua S. Goodman. “Merit Aid, College Quality and College Completion: Massachusetts’ Adams Scholarship as an In-Kind Subsidy.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 6(4): 251-285, 2014.

Page, Lindsay C., Jon Fullerton, Sarah R. Cohodes, Martin R. West, Andrew Bacher-Hicks, Antoniya Owens, and Sarah Glover. “The Strategic Data Project’s Strategic Performance Indicators.” *Education Finance and Policy*, 8(3): 435-456, 2013.

Dee, Thomas S. and Sarah R. Cohodes. “Out-of-Field Teachers and Student Achievement: Evidence from Matched-Pairs Comparisons.” *Public Finance Review*, 36(1): 7-32, 2008.

WORKING PAPERS

Cohodes, Sarah R., Sean P. Corcoran, Jennifer L. Jennings, and Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj. “When Do Informational Interventions Work? Experimental Evidence from New York City High School Choice.” National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 29690, 2022. *Under review*.

* Indicates graduate student coauthor

Cohodes, Sarah R. and James J. Feigenbaum. “Why Does Education Increase Voting? Evidence from Boston’s Charter Schools.” National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 29308, 2021.

Corcoran, Sean P., Jennifer L. Jennings, Sarah R. Cohodes, and Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj. “Leveling the Playing Field for High School Choice: Results from a Field Experiment of Informational Interventions.” National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 24471, 2018. *Under review.*

WORK IN PROGRESS

A Randomized Evaluation of STEM-Focused Summer Programs, with Helen Ho* and Silvia Robles.

Do Test Scores Translate into College Enrollment? Evidence from Massachusetts Charter Schools.

The Consequences of Faculty Sexual Misconduct.

Understanding How Education and Gender Influence Civic Participation: Evidence from Massachusetts, with Cameron Arzen.*

FUNDING

Do Test Scores Translate into College Enrollment? Evidence from Massachusetts Charter Schools

2022–23 City Fund (~\$97,000)
Principal Investigator

The Choice Architecture of Admission to Education (ArcEd)

2021–25 The Research Council of Norway (~\$114,000)
co-Principal Investigator
PI: Astrid Marie Jorde Sandsør, co-PIs: Rosa Cheesman, Siv-Elisabeth Skjelbred

[Predoctoral Interdisciplinary Research Training Grant Program in Postsecondary Education](#)

2020–25 Institute for Education Sciences (~\$3.5 million)
co-Principal Investigator
PI: Thomas Brock, co-PI: Aaron Pallas

The Long-Term Outcomes of Charter Schooling

2018–22 Walton Family Foundation and Arnold Ventures (~\$337,000)
Principal Investigator on a subcontract through Harvard University
Harvard PI’s: David Deming and Thomas Kane

Impact of Boston Charters on Earnings: Feasibility Study

2019–21 Walton Family Foundation (~\$74,000)
co-Principal Investigator
PI: Parag Pathak, co-PIs: Joshua Angrist and Thomas Kane

Implementation and Evaluation of BookNook in the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Houston

2020 J-PAL (~\$100,000)
Principal Investigator
co-PI: Douglas Ready

Leveling the Playing Field for New York City High School Choice

- 2016–19 Smith Richardson Foundation (~\$250,000)
Principal Investigator
co-PIs: Sean Corcoran, Jennifer Jennings, and Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj
- 2015–18 W.T. Grant Foundation (~\$448,000)
co-Principal Investigator
PI: Jennifer Jennings, co-PIs: Sean Corcoran and Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj
- 2014–16 Heckscher Foundation for Children (2 grants totaling ~\$163,000)
co-Principal Investigator
co-PI's: Sean Corcoran, Jennifer Jennings, and Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj

A Randomized Evaluation of STEM-Focused Summer Programs

- 2015–17 Provost's Improvement Fund, Teachers College Columbia University (\$20,000)
Principal Investigator
- 2015–17 Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (~\$121,000)
co-Principal Investigator
PI: Joshua Angrist, co-PI Silvia Robles

AWARDS, HONORS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2021 Keynote Speaker, Northeastern Educational Research Association Conference
- 2020 Excellence in Refereeing Award, *American Economic Review: Insights*
- 2016 Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Award, Economics of Education, CESifo
- 2016 Jean Flanigan Outstanding Dissertation Award, Association for Education Finance and Policy
- 2015 Dissertation Fellowship, Rappaport Institute for Greater Boston
- 2014 Dissertation Fellowship, Urban Policy and Governance, Taubman Center for State and Local Governance
- 2012–15 Doctoral Fellow, Harvard Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy
- 2012–13 Emerging Education Policy Scholar, Fordham Institute/American Enterprise Institute
- 2011 Honorable Mention, Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation

TEACHING

Teachers College Columbia University

Data Analysis for Policy and Decision Making II (graduate)

Quantitative Methods for Evaluating Education Policies and Programs (graduate)

OTHER WRITING

Public Communication

Cohodes, Sarah. "Josh Angrist and the Search for Truth." *Education Next*, December 7, 2021.

Cohodes, Sarah and Susan Dynarski. “Colleges Are Fueling the Pandemic in a Classic Market Failure.” *The New York Times*, October 8, 2020.

Cohodes, Sarah. “A Better Fall Is Possible.” *The Atlantic*, July 7, 2020.

Cohodes, Sarah R., Elizabeth M. Setren, and Christopher R. Walters. “Replicating Successful Charter Schools in Boston.” *VoxEU.org*, August 22, 2019.

Chabrier, Julia, Sarah R. Cohodes, and Philip Oreopoulos. “Here’s a Choice for Massachusetts’ Public Schools: Study Top Charters’ Practices to Help Underserved Students.” *The Hechinger Report*, August 3, 2017.

Book Chapter

Hannaway, Jane and Sarah R. Cohodes. “Miami-Dade County: Trouble in Choice Paradise”, in Fredrick Hess and Chester Finn eds. *No Remedy Left Behind: Lessons from a Half-Decade of NCLB*. AEI Press, 2007.

Research and Policy Reports

Cohodes, Sarah R., and Christine M. Pitts. *A New COVID-19 Data Source for Answering Emerging Pandemic Questions*. The Evidence Project at the Center for Reinventing Public Education, 2022.

Cohodes, Sarah R. and Susan M. Dynarski. “Massachusetts Charter Cap Holds Back Disadvantaged Students.” *Evidence Speaks*, 2(1), Brookings Institution, September 15, 2016.

Also published in *Education Next*.

Deming, David J., Sarah R. Cohodes, Jennifer Jennings, and Christopher Jencks. “When Does Accountability Work? Texas System Had Mixed Effects on College Graduation Rates and Future Earnings.” *Education Next*, 16(1): 70-76, 2016.

Cohodes, Sarah R., Elizabeth M. Setren, Christopher R. Walters, Joshua D. Angrist, and Parag A. Pathak. *Charter School Demand and Effectiveness: A Boston Update*. The Boston Foundation, 2013.

Angrist, Joshua D., Sarah R. Cohodes, Susan M. Dynarski, Parag A. Pathak, and Christopher R. Walters. *Charter Schools and the Road to College Readiness: The Effects on College Preparation, Attendance and Choice*. The Boston Foundation, 2013.

Angrist, Joshua D., Sarah R. Cohodes, Susan M. Dynarski, Jon Fullerton, Thomas J. Kane, Parag A. Pathak, and Christopher R. Walters. *Student Achievement in Massachusetts’ Charter Schools*. Center for Education Policy Research, Harvard University, 2011.

Abdulkadiroglu, Atila Joshua D. Angrist, Sarah R. Cohodes, Susan M. Dynarski, Jon Fullerton, Thomas J. Kane, and Parag A. Pathak. *Informing the Debate: Comparing Boston’s Charter, Pilot and Traditional Schools*. The Boston Foundation, 2009.

Christenson, Gayle S., Ary Amerikaner, Daniel J. Klasik, and Sarah R. Cohodes. *Evaluation of Flexibility Under No Child Left Behind: Volume III - The Rural Education Achievement Program*. U.S. Department of Education, 2007.

Christenson, Gayle S., Sarah R. Cohodes, Devin Fernandes, Daniel Klasik, Daniel Loss, and Michael Segeritz. *Private School Participants in Programs under the No Child Left Behind Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act*. U.S. Department of Education, 2007.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2007–15 Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University

Affiliated Doctoral Student (2011–15)
Research Manager II (2009–11)
Data Manager and Research Analyst (2007–09)

2005–07 The Urban Institute, Education Policy Center
Research Assistant

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

- 2022 Colby College, Elon University,* Michigan State University,* Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank,* NYU IES-PIRT Seminar, Society of Labor Economists Meeting (SOLE),* University of California Riverside, University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy (*scheduled)
- 2021 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), Globalisation and Economic Policy (GEP)/Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) Education Economics Workshop, Montana State University Initiative for Regulation and Applied Economic Analysis, Northeast Economics of Education Workshop
- 2020 AEFP, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM), Children’s Hospital at Columbia University (Grand Rounds), IZA Economics of Education Conference
- 2019 AEFP, APPAM, CESifo Area Conference on the Economics of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Tulane University Department of Economics, Stanford Graduate School of Education
- 2018 AEFP, APPAM, CESifo Area Conference on the Economics of Education, Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, MIT School Access and Quality Summit, Princeton University Education Research Section, University of Michigan Causal Inference in Education Research Seminar
- 2017 APPAM, Brookings Institution, Rutgers University Department of Economics, Stanford Center for Education Policy Analysis, University of Virginia EdPolicyWorks
- 2016 AEFP, APPAM, CESifo Area Conference on the Economics of Education, Columbia Quantitative Methods in Social Science Research Seminar, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Northeast Economics of Education Workshop, NYU Wagner, Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN Stockholm), University of Chicago Education Workshop
- 2015 AEFP, APPAM, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston/MIT SEII K-12 Education in Massachusetts Conference, Harvard University Program on Education and Policy Governance, NBER Spring Education Program Meeting, NYU IES-PIRT Seminar, Teachers College Columbia University
- 2014 AEFP, APPAM, Federal Reserve Bank of Boston, Harvard Graduate School of Education, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)
- 2013 AEFP, APPAM, SREE
- 2012 AEFP, SREE
- 2011 Harvard University Program on Education and Policy Governance

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Referee

AERA Open, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, American Educational Research Journal, Economics of Education Review, Education Finance and Policy, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, Educational Researcher, Evaluation Review, ILR Review, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Urban Economics, National Tax Journal, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Science

Grant Reviewer

J-PAL, National Science Foundation, Smith Richardson Foundation, W.T. Grant Foundation

Conference Program Committees

AEFP Program Committee (2019)

APPAM Education Program Committee (2016, 2018)

GEP/CEPR Education Economics Workshop Scientific Committee (2021)

SOLE Meeting Program Committee (2022)

SREE Conference Reviewer (2014, 2015, 2016)

Conference Panel Discussant or Chair

AEFP (2013, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, 2021)

APPAM (2015, 2016, 2018, 2020)

CESifo Area Conference on the Economics of Education (2017, 2018, 2019)

SOLE (2022)

Advisory Boards and Working Groups

2021– Center on Reinventing Public Education at University of Washington
Consensus Panel on Academic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

2020– Pennsylvania Charter Performance Center
Advisory Board

2018–19 Mathematica Policy Research
Impact Study of Federally Funded Magnet Schools, Technical Working Group (2019)
Districtwide Effects of School Choice, Working Group (2018)

Mentoring

2022 AEA CSWEP CeMENT Workshop
Mentor

2020 AEA CSWEP Graduate Student Mentoring Workshop
Mentor

Member

American Economic Association

Association for Education Finance and Policy

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

Society of Labor Economists

Teachers College Committees

2021–22 Education Policy and Social Analysis Mixed Methods Assistant Professor Faculty Search Committee

2019–21 Institutional Review Board

2016–20 Selection Committees for Dean’s Grants for Student Research, Dean’s Grants for Research Dissertation Fellowship, Doctoral Dissertation Grant, and Poster Session for the Academic Festival (various years)

2018–19 Chair, Education Policy Ph.D. Admissions Committee

2017–18 Economics of Education Open Rank Faculty Search Committee

Updated May 2022