

Sarah R. Cohodes

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy

2023– Associate Professor of Public Policy
Faculty Affiliate, Education Policy Initiative

Teachers College Columbia University

2019–23 Associate Professor of Economics and Education
Program Director, Economics and Education (2022–23)
Faculty Affiliate, Columbia Population Research Center (2017–23)
Faculty Affiliate, Columbia Committee on the Economics of Education (2015–23)

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*
- 2022– Editorial Board, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*
- 2019– Editorial Board, *Education Finance and Policy*
- 2020–22 Co-Editor, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

PUBLICATIONS

Cohodes, Sarah R., and Astrid Pineda.* “Different Paths to College Success: The Impact of Massachusetts’ Charter Schools on College Trajectories”. *American Economic Review Insights*, conditionally accepted.

Also NBER Working Paper 32732

Cohodes, Sarah R. and James J. Feigenbaum. “Why Does Education Increase Voting? Evidence from Boston’s Charter Schools.” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, accepted.

Also NBER Working Paper 29308

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.” *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 47(1): 208-236. 2025.

Also NBER Working Paper 29690.

Cohodes, Sarah R. and Susha Roy. “Thirty years of charter schools: What does lottery-based research tell us?” *Journal of School Choice*, 19(1): 8-49. 2025.

Also Blueprint Labs Discussion Paper 2023.18.

Cohodes, Sarah R., Helen T. Ho,* Elizabeth Huffaker,* and Silvia C. Robles. “Residential vs. Online? Experimental Evidence on Diversifying the STEM Pipeline.” *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 114: 507-11. 2024.

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

Also 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 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 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

* Indicates graduate student coauthor at the time the project was conducted

Choice.” *Journal of Labor Economics*, 34(2): 275-318, 2016.
Also 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 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 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

Arnzen,* Cameron and Sarah R. Cohodes. “Education and the Gender Voting Gap” EdWorkingPaper 25-1152, Annenberg Institute at Brown University, 2025.

Cohodes, Sarah R., Astrid Marie Jorde Sandsør, and Siv-Elisabeth Skjellbred. Who May Enter? Qualification and Ranking in Centralized Admission Systems to Higher Education, 2025.

Cohodes, Sarah R., Helen Ho,* and Silvia C. Robles. “STEM Summer Programs for Underrepresented Youth Increase STEM Degrees.” National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 30227, 2022, Updated 2024.

Cohodes, Sarah R., Ozkan Eren, and Orgul Ozturk. “Teacher Performance Pay, Coaching, and Long-Run Student Outcomes.” National Bureau of Economic Research Working Paper 31056, 2023.

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.

FUNDING

The Long-Term Outcomes of Charter Schooling
2025–26 Smith Richardson Foundation (~\$400,000)
co-Principal Investigator, PI: Thomas Kane

2018–23 Walton Family Foundation and Arnold Ventures (~\$337,000)
Principal Investigator on a subcontract through Harvard University, Harvard PI’s: David Deming and Thomas Kane

Beyond the Test: Understanding Heterogeneity in Charter School Impacts

2024–26 MIT Blueprint Labs Charter School Research Collaborative (~\$228,000)
Principal Investigator, co-PI: Chris Torres

2022–24 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

Predocutorial 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

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-PIs: 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

2025 Keynote Lecture, Workshop on Education Economics and Policy, University of Oslo
(scheduled)

2025 Keynote Lecture, International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education, Magna
Graecia University

2023 Keynote Lecture, IZA/ECONtribute Workshop on the Economics of Education

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

University of Michigan, Ford School of Public Policy

Education Policy and Economic Mobility

Economics of the Public Sector

Teachers College Columbia University

Data Analysis for Policy and Decision Making II

Quantitative Methods for Evaluating Education Policies and Programs

OTHER WRITING

Public Communication

Cohodes, Sarah R., and Astrid Pineda. “A Surprising Finding on Massachusetts Charter Schools.” *Education Next*, August 14, 2024.

Cohodes, Sarah R., Helen Ho, and Silvia C. Robles. “Strengthening the STEM pipeline through summer programmes for underrepresented minority students.” *VoxEU.org*, August 20, 2022.

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 James Feigenbaum. "Why Education Increases Voting: Evidence from Boston Charter Schools." *Education Next*, 24(3): 60-64, 2024.

Cohodes, Sarah R., Dan Goldhaber, Paul Hill, Andrew Ho, Vladimir Kogan, Morgan Polikoff, Carrie Sampson, and Martin West. "Student Achievement Gaps and the Pandemic: A New Review of Evidence from 2021-2022." Center on Reinventing Public Education, 2022.

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

- 2026 Brigham Young University* *scheduled
- 2025 Harvard University Program on Education and Policy Governance School Choice Conference, Inter-American Development Bank, International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education, Princeton University, Workshop on Education Economics and Policy (University of Oslo)* *scheduled
- 2024 American Economic Association Meeting (AEA), Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), Boston University Wheelock School of Education, Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Midwest Economics of Education Conference, NBER Fall Economics of Education Program Meeting, NBER Economics of Talent Meeting, Population Studies Center at the University of Michigan, Yale University
- 2023 Institute for Labor Economics (IZA), University of Arkansas, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf, University of Florida, University of Rochester
- 2022 AEFP, Colby College, Michigan State University, Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, NBER Fall Economics of Education Program Meeting, NYU IES-PIRT Seminar, Simon Fraser University, Society of Labor Economists Meeting (SOLE), University of California Riverside, University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy
- 2021 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 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 AEFP, 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

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 Journal, Economics of Education Review, Education Finance and Policy, Education Next, 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, Milbank Quarterly, National Tax Journal, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Science

Grant Reviewer

Israel Science Foundation, J-PAL, National Science Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation, Smith Richardson Foundation, Spencer 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, 2022, 2024)

APPAM (2015, 2016, 2018, 2020)

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

SOLE (2022)

Advisory Boards and Working Groups

2024– MIT Blueprint Labs Charter School Research Collaborative
Executive Committee and Advisory Council

2023– Massachusetts Education-to-Career Research and Data Hub (E2C)
Research Advisory Committee

2021–23 Center on Reinventing Public Education
Consensus Panel on Academic Impacts of COVID-19 Pandemic

2018–25 Mathematica Policy Research
Impact Study of Federally Funded Magnet Schools, Technical Working Group (2019–25)
Districtwide Effects of School Choice, Working Group (2018)

Mentoring

- 2024-25 Michigan ADVANCE Launch Committee for Emilio Borghesan, Mentor
- 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

University of Michigan Committees

- 2024-25 Ford School Kohn Chair of Economic Policy Search Committee
- 2024-25 Ford School Faculty Grievance Board
- 2023- Ford School Ph.D. Admissions Committee

Teachers College Committees

- 2022-23 Faculty Salary Committee
- 2022-23 Chair, Economics and Education Faculty Search Committee
- 2021-22 Education Policy and Social Analysis Mixed Methods Assistant Professor Search Committee
- 2019-21 Institutional Review Board
- 2018-19 Chair, Education Policy Ph.D. Admissions Committee
- 2017-18 Economics of Education Open Rank Faculty Search Committee

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