

SARAH J. REBER

Joseph A. Pechman Fellow in Economic Studies
The Brookings Institution

sarahreber.com

(Updated: September 2022)

EMPLOYMENT

Brookings Institution

2021-2022 Joseph A. Pechman Fellow in Economic Studies
2021-2022 Visiting Fellow in Economic Studies
2019-2021 David M. Rubenstein Fellow in Economic Studies

UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs

2012-2022 Associate Professor of Public Policy
2005-2012 Assistant Professor of Public Policy

University of California, Berkeley

2003-2005 Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar in Health Policy Research

AFFILIATIONS

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Research Associate
California Policy Lab (CPL), Affiliated Expert

EDUCATION

2003 Ph.D., Economics, Harvard University
1996 A.B., Economics, Harvard University, *magna cum laude*

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

[School vs. District Level Views of School Spending Inequality and Progressivity: Evidence from Florida and Illinois](#) (with Nora Gordon), forthcoming, *Peabody Journal of Education*.

[Does Virtual Advising Increase College Enrollment? Evidence from a Random Assignment College Access Field Experiment](#) (with Meredith Phillips), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, August 2022.

[Were Federal COVID Relief Funds for Schools Enough?](#) (with Nora Gordon), in *Tax Policy and the Economy*, Robert Moffitt, ed., volume 36, University of Chicago Press, 2021.

[Federal Aid to School Districts During the COVID-19 Crisis](#) (with Nora Gordon). *National Tax Journal*, September 2020.

[Assessment of Exposure to High-Performing Schools and Risk of Adolescent Substance Use: A Natural Experiment](#) (with Rebecca N. Dudovitz, Paul J. Chung, David Kennedy, Joan S.

Tucker, Steve Shoptaw, Kulwant K. Dosanjh, and Mitchell D. Wong). *Journal of the American Medical Association: Pediatrics*. December 2018.

[The effects of school desegregation on mixed-race births](#) (with Nora Gordon). *Journal of Population Economics*, April 2018.

[The Quest for a Targeted and Effective Title I ESEA: Challenges in Designing and Implementing Fiscal Compliance Rules](#) (with Nora Gordon), *Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*, December 2015.

[The K-12 Education Battle](#) (with Elizabeth Cascio), In *The Legacies of the War on Poverty*, July 2013, Sheldon Danziger and Martha J. Bailey, eds.

[The Poverty Gap in School Spending Following the Introduction of Title I](#) (with Elizabeth Cascio), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, May 2013.

[Local Responses to Federal Grants: Evidence from the Introduction of Title I in the South](#) (with Elizabeth Cascio and Nora Gordon), *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, August 2013.

[From Separate and Unequal to Integrated and Equal? School Desegregation and School Finance in Louisiana](#) *Review of Economics and Statistics*. May 2011.

[Desegregation and Educational Attainment for Blacks](#) *Journal of Human Resources*. Fall 2010.

[Paying for Progress: Conditional Grants and the Desegregation of Southern Schools](#) (with Elizabeth Cascio, Nora Gordon, and Ethan Lewis), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. February 2010. ([Online Appendix](#))

[From Brown to Busing](#) (with Elizabeth Cascio, Nora Gordon, and Ethan Lewis), *Journal of Urban Economics*. September 2008.

[Court-Ordered Desegregation: Successes and Failures in Integration Since Brown vs. Board of Education](#) *Journal of Human Resources*. Summer 2005.

[Paying for Health Insurance: The Tradeoff between Competition and Adverse Selection](#) with David M. Cutler, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. May 1998.

POLICY REPORTS AND OTHER WRITING

[Addressing Inequities in the US K-12 Education System](#) (with Nora Gordon). In *Rebuilding the Post-Pandemic Economy*, Melissa S. Kearney and Amy Ganz, eds., Aspen Economic Strategy Group, The Aspen Institute. 2021.

[Vaccine hesitancy in nursing homes isn't all politics: An update](#) (with Cyrus Kosar). Brookings Institution Report. 2021.

[Vaccine hesitancy in nursing homes isn't all politics](#) (with Cyrus Kosar). Brookings Institution Report. 2021.

[Schools need more federal dollars but Title I is not the right tool for the job](#) (with Nora Gordon), *The Hill*. April 27, 2021.

[American Indians and Alaska Natives are dying of COVID-19 at shocking rates](#) (with Randall Akee). Brookings Institution. 2021.

[Why Congress should take action now for schools to open in the fall](#) (with Nora Gordon), *The Hill*. July 6, 2020.

[Race gaps in COVID-19 deaths are even bigger than they appear](#) (with Tiffany Ford and Richard V. Reeves). Brookings Institution. 2020.

[Federal Aid for Schools and COVID-19](#) (with Nora Gordon). Brookings Institution. 2020.

- [Supporting students and promoting economic recovery in the time of COVID-19](#)
- [Schools need flexibility in coronavirus stabilization funds](#)
- [How Congress can equitably allocate COVID-19 education aid to states](#)

[Opportunity engines: Middle-Class Mobility in higher education](#) (with Chenoah Sinclair). Brookings Institution Report. May 2020.

[Comments on the Standardized Testing Task Force Recommendations to Review and Update Components of the Statewide Eligibility Index and Expand Eligibility in the Local Context in UC Regents Should Consider All Evidence and Options in Decision on Admissions Policy](#), Policy Analysis for California Education Commentary. April 22, 2020.

[Report on the Implementation and Impacts of the V-SOURCE College Access Program](#) (with Meredith Phillips). 2019.

[Setting the Stage: Trends in Student Demographics and Enrollment in California](#) (with Demetra Kologrides) in *Getting Down to Facts II*. Susanna Loeb, Ed. September 2018.

[Making California Data more Useful for Educational Improvement](#) (with Meredith Phillips and Jesse Rothstein). in *Getting Down to Facts II*. Susanna Loeb, Ed. September 2018.

[Description: Why and how descriptive analysis informs education decisions, A Guide for Researchers](#) (with S. Loeb, S. Dynarski, D. McFarland, P. Morris, S. Reardon), Institute for Education Sciences Applied Research Methods Series. March 2017.

[School Vouchers: Promise and Pitfalls](#), *Econofact*. March 2017.

[Implementation and Effects of LDC and MDC in Kentucky Districts](#) (with Joan Herman, Scott Epstein, Seth Leon, Deborah La Torre Matrundola, and Kilchan Choi)

Comment on "Explaining Trends in High School Graduation: The Changing Elementary and Secondary Education Policy Landscape and Income Inequality over the Last Half Century"

by Nora Gordon. In [*Human Capital In History*](#), Leah Platt Boustan, Carola Frydman, and Robert A. Margo, eds. 2014.

[*Review of Sharing the Prize: The Economics of the Civil Rights Movement in the South*](#). By Gavin Wright. In *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*. Winter 2014.

[*Review of The Elusive Ideal: Equal Educational Opportunity and the Federal Role in Boston's Public Schools, 1950-1985*](#). By Adam R. Nelson. In *Journal of Economic History*. December 2005.

TEACHING

Awards

- Public Policy Professor of the Year (2016)
- Best MPP Course (2015, 2016)

Courses Taught

- Principles of Microeconomic Theory I (MPP core course)
- Statistical Methods for Policy Analysis II (MPP core course)
- Health Care Policy and Finance (Public Policy/Health Services Research)
- The Economics of Education Policy (Public Policy)
- Arguing with Data: Introduction to Descriptive Data Analysis (Public Policy)

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Smith Richardson Foundation, *Balancing Efficiency and Equity: The Role of Local, State, and Federal Financing in Education*; co-PIs Elizabeth Cascio and Nora Gordon; \$45,493.

Institute for Education Sciences, U.S. Department of Education, *Promoting College Enrollment among Disadvantaged Students: A Randomized Controlled Trial of Two Low-Cost Interventions*, Joint PIs (in alphabetical order): Tiffani Chin, Meredith Phillips, Sarah Reber; August 2011-July 2016; \$2,977,299.

National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, 2008/09-2009/10.

UCLA Center for American Politics and Public Policy Kenneth L. Sokoloff Fellow, 2008/09.

California Center for Population Research Seed Grant, *The Health Effects of Air Pollution: Evidence from Forest Fires*, 2006-2007, \$12,500.

Spencer Foundation, Research Grant, *The Federal Role in Equality of Educational Opportunity: Evidence from the Civil Rights Act and Title I*, co-principal investigator with Elizabeth Cascio and Nora Gordon, 2006-2008, Award Number 200600131, \$157,400.

National Science Foundation, Research Grant, *Local Responses to Federal Education Policy: Evidence from the Civil Rights Act and Title I*, co-principal investigator with Nora Gordon, Elizabeth Cascio, and Ethan Lewis, 2005-2007, Award Number 0519126, \$220,441.

University of Kentucky Center for Poverty Research, Regional Small Grant recipient, 2005-2006. \$18,423.

Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship for Research Related to Education, 2002-2003.

American Educational Research Association Dissertation Fellowship, 2002-2003.

National Science Foundation, Graduate Fellowship, 1998-2001.

Lincoln Institute for Land Use Policy Dissertation Grant, 2001-2002.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

- CeMENT Mentor (American Economic Association Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession program), 2021
- National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Mentor, 2020
- Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics, Program Committee, 2017 and 2018
- Co-Organizer (with Leah Boustan), All-California Labor Economics Conference, 2015
- Committee on Undergraduate Admissions and Relations with Schools, UCLA Academic Senate, 2013-2016
- Selection Committee, National Academy of Education/Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship Program, 2013-2016
- Faculty Advisor to Denver Public Schools Fellows, Strategic Data Project, Harvard Graduate School of Education, 2011-2013
- Excellence in Refereeing Award, *American Economic Review*, 2010 and 2011

Refereeing (selected): *American Economic Review: Insights*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *American Economic Review*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Education and Finance Policy*, *National Tax Journal*.

President's Council of Economic Advisers

- Staff Economist, May 1997-June 1998
- Research Assistant, August 1996-May 1997