

DANTON NORIEGA-GOODWIN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Public Policy and Economics

Duke University, Durham, NC

M.A. Economics

Georgetown University, Washington, DC

February 2013

M.S. Applied Statistics

California State University at Long Beach, Long Beach, CA

May 2011

B.S. Mathematics

University of California at Irvine, Irvine, CA

Orange Coast Community College, Costa Mesa, CA

August 2006

CURRENT RESEARCH

“The Effectiveness of the Double Up Food Bucks Incentive” (*Main Dissertation Chapter*)

Investigating the effectiveness of targeted fruit and vegetable subsidies as a policy for improving the health of SNAP beneficiaries.

“The Durham Connects RCT and Request for Social Services” (*Dissertation Chapter*)

Exploiting random assignment to measure if the Durham Connects nurse home-visiting program helped reduce learning and administrative costs, consequently increasing social service applications by eligible families.

“The SNAP Benefit Cycle and the Demand for Emergency Assistance from Formal Networks” (*Dissertation Chapter*)

An event study aimed at determining if families are more likely to request emergency assistance from formal networks (e.g. social services, food pantries) at the end of their SNAP Benefit Cycle.

“Nudging Convenience Store Shoppers Towards Healthier Snacks” (*UNC-Duke BECR Center*)

Testing different healthful food nudges—shelf placement, messaging, bundling—across to a large set of local convenience stores.

“Understanding the Statistical Properties of IRI Store-based and House-based Scanner Data” with Matthew Harding and Ya Xue (*USDA Grant*)

Analysis of food scanner data the USDA purchased from IRI. The goals of the grant can be broadly categorized into assessing the suitability of the IRI for nutrition policy research and comparing the IRI data to other publicly available data sets.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

Durham Childrens Data Center (DCDC), *Duke University*

January 2017 – Present

Durham, NC

- I analyze data from Durham County Social Services for DCDC and for my dissertation. I’m working with Dr. Ken Dodge, Dr. Beth Gifford, and my co-chair, Dr. Anna Gassman-Pines.

Data Scientist (Part-time) September 2016 – December 2016
TransLoc Durham, NC

- Helped refine the multitudes of metrics available to the product team into understandable, actionable information. Programmed extensively in R and minimally in Javascript. Favorite packages: flexdashboard, DT, highcharter, and tidyverse.

Data Science Intern May 2016 – August 2016
TransLoc Durham, NC

- Helped develop products and packages that simplify working with and understanding transit data. Learned workflows guided by the "agile" development philosophy.

Research Assistant January 2015 – May 2016
Duke-UNC BECR Center, Duke University Durham, NC

- Investigated food purchasing behavior and food-related health outcomes of US households with an emphasis on food assistance policy (SNAP/WIC). Required being comfortable querying and cleaning datasets with hundreds of millions of observations.

Teaching Assistant Spring 2015
Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University Durham, NC

- Co-taught *PubPol 590 Applied Big Data Science Energy Data Analytics and Policy* with my advisor, Dr. Matthew Harding. Students learned introductory theory about causal inference (taught by Harding) and how to use Python to analyze large datasets and do basic econometric modeling and machine learning (taught by me). The goal was for students to finish the class with the capacity to do basic consulting for energy companies.

SSRI Visiting Student Research Fellow August 2014 – January 2015
Social Science Research Institute (SSRI), Duke University Durham, NC

- Provided consulting services to Duke University faculty and students through **PARISS**.

Research Assistant Spring 2013 – Spring 2014
Department of Economics, Georgetown University Washington, DC

- Conducted research for Dr. Matthew Harding (Stanford), Dr. Arik Levinson (Georgetown), and Dr. Michael Lovenheim (Cornell).

Unemployment and Food Purchases project: analyzing unemployment shocks on household food consumption using a massive dataset (i.e. Big Data) of scanned food labels.

Adverse Selection, Home Sales, and the Market Value of Solar Panels: investigating whether the market undervalues homes that have invested in solar panels and other green technologies.

Household Energy Consumption project: analyzing household energy consumption and the effects of different energy usage information pamphlets on consumption.

Teaching Assistant Fall 2012, Fall 2013 and Spring 2014
Department of Economics, Georgetown University Washington, DC and Durham, NC
Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University

- Taught recitation classes for graduate and undergraduate students taking econometrics, blending theory with practical Stata examples. Created an online grading system from scratch using Blackboard, L^AT_EX, and a PDF splitter. Occasionally taught lectures for Professor Harding.

Courses

ECON 553 – Econometrics (Fall 2012) – TA Evaluation Score 4.65 / 5

ECON 553 – Econometrics (Fall 2013) – Score 4.7

ECON 122 – Intro to Econometrics (Spring 2014) – Score 4.6

PUBPOL 590 – Applied Big Data Science: Energy Data Analytics and Policy (Spring 2015) – N/A

Select Reviews

- “Dan seemed to genuinely care about helping everyone learn the material. He was always willing to answer questions and really helped me improve on solving proofs. Overall, I thought Dan was the best TA in the master’s program.”
- “I can’t think of a way to improve the class without reducing the content requirements. You were helpful, enthusiastic, and comical about what I had previously thought was a dry, boring subject. It was somehow both my least favorite class (workload) and my favorite class (learning!). I learned A LOT, mathematically and conceptually. AND I LEARNED STATA! Thanks for all the tools and ‘do’ files and review sessions.”
- “Dan knew and communicated the material for this extremely difficult class better than any TA I have ever had (and better than most professors). The most helpful thing he did was taking the time to go through and explain the step by step process for difficult Stata procedures. It really wouldn’t surprise me to see Dan become a great professor one day.”
- “Dan, you are an exceptional teacher and if you haven’t already considered it, you should think about becoming a professor. Econometrics was one of my most engaging classes this semester, a far cry from the terrible warnings I’d received from students of prior semesters. You deserve a big part of the credit.”
- “Pretty awesome TA. I actually learned things in this class.”

Graduate Assistant

Math and Statistics Department, CSU Long Beach

Spring 2011

Long Beach, CA

- Assisted undergraduate students in all levels of mathematics and helped grade calculus exams.

Math, Statistics, and Physics Tutor

Learning Assistance Center, CSU Long Beach

Sept 2009 – Feb 2011

Long Beach, CA

- Tutored undergraduate students with math, statistics, and physics problems.

Transportation Economist Intern

US Department of Transportation

Summer 2010

Washington, DC

- Created a user friendly spreadsheet model that predicts Highway Trust Fund revenues under 7 different potential economic scenarios. The model was presented to the US DOT Chief Economist’s team and 2 years later used in a report to Congress about the state of the HTF.

Native English Teacher

Haksung Girls’ Middle School

Sept 2008 – June 2009

Ulsan, South Korea

Field Team Leader

AmeriCorps NCCC

Sep 2007 – Aug 2008

Sacramento, CA

Substitute Teacher

Newport-Mesa Unified School District

Winter 2006 and Spring 2007

Newport Beach, CA

Physics and Math Tutor

Upgrade Tutoring and Pacific Tutoring

Winter 2006 and Spring 2007

Newport Beach and Irvine, CA

AVID Tutor

Newport Harbor High School

2003 – 2004, Winter 2006, and Spring 2007

Newport Beach, CA

PROGRAMMING

- R** 5+ years of experience. Preferred programming language.
- highcharts.js** 6 months of experience. Preferred tool for plotting data.
- Stata** 6+ years. Taught 3 courses with Stata. Used for quickly testing regression models.
- Python** 2+ years. Competent user of pandas. Taught a program evaluation class using Python.

- Matlab** 2+ years. Primarily used to learn and tinker with Machine Learning.
- SAS** 2+ years of experience but last used in 2011 as part of my M.S. in Applied Statistics.
- SQL** 1.5 year. Basic extraction and data processing.

Software

gtfsr R package. Quickly access, validate, and map GTFS data.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Merit-Based Fellowship (Economics), *Georgetown University* 2011 – 2013
- 2010 STIPDG Outstanding Intern Award, *US Department of Transportation* Summer 2010
- Fletcher Jones Fellowship, *University of California at Irvine* (Awarded but chose not to pursue Ph.D.) Fall 2006
- Dean's Honor List, *University of California at Irvine* Winter 2005 – Spring 2006
- Early Transfer (Academic Excellence), *Orange Coast College to UCI* Winter 2005
- President's List for Academic Excellence, *Orange Coast College* Fall 2003 – Fall 2004
- Community College Scholarship Recipient, *Hispanic Education Endowment Fund (HEEF)* Fall 2004

FUN FACTS

- Dual citizen of Chile and the US.
- Native Spanish-speaker.
- Avid Ultimate Frisbee player.