

SEBASTIAN SANDOVAL-OLASCOAGA

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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Cambridge, MA 2018–2023

Ph.D. Candidate in Urban and Regional Economics

Honors: MIT Presidential (2018–2019) and Departmental (2019–2023) Fellowships

École Normale Supérieure (ENS, Paris) / Paris School of Economics (PSE) – Paris, FR 2013–2015

Master of Science in Applied Economics: Public Policy and Development

Honors: Graduated *Summa Cum Laude*

Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE) – Mexico City, MX 2008–2012

Bachelors in Economics

Honors: Highest score at the national level on the mandatory economics exit examination (CENEVAL)

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Redfin – Seattle, WA May–Sep. 2022; May–Sep. 2021

Economist/Data Science *Department*

- Designed and analyzed two randomized controlled trials to understand the impact of a home's extreme weather event risk score on users' behavior, home bidding, and decision-making. My research allowed Redfin to conduct its first academic-industry partnership.
- Conducted research with real-time housing big data on the impact of climate change on housing and migration, spatial effects of weather events on the housing market, and on the COVID-19-related eviction moratorium.
- My research was covered by Bloomberg, CNN, The Weather Channel, Forbes, NBC News, CNBC, Yale Environment 360, Fast Company, Inman, and Fox Business. In total, my research brought around 553 press mentions and improved Redfin's SEO (approximately 13% improvement in rankings).
- My contributions helped make reporters come to Redfin first for comments on how climate events will impact housing. More than 80% of the chief economist's interviews are about climate change.

OptumLabs – Cambridge, MA 2019–2021

Health Economist/Data Science *Visiting Fellow*

- Researched the relationship between health care policies and clinical outcomes using claims data, electronic health records, and laboratory test results.
- My paper was published in JAMA, one of the country's best medical journals, and was covered by MIT News, and NPR (I was interviewed for NPR's Marketplace), among other outlets.
- My research helped Maryland's General Assembly Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness draft policies to create the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology – Cambridge, MA 2019 and 2022

Head Teaching Assistant for Quantitative Reasoning and Statistical Methods

- Managed a team of 5 graduate teaching assistants.
- Since its inception, I have been the only TA in this class to get an overall student rating of 7/7.

Treasury Department – Mexico City, MX 2015–2018

Director of Economic Policy

- Conducted research, drafted policies, prepared forecasts and scenarios, drafted the budget, and otherwise supported the Chief Economist to design and oversee the implementation of the Mexican fiscal consolidation process from 2015–2018, allowing Mexico's government to achieve its first primary surplus in 9 years and reducing the debt-to-GDP ratio for the first time in 10 years. During this process, two of the world's top rating agencies stabilized their rating perspective for Mexico's government.
- Successfully renegotiated the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) between the Mexican, US, and Canadian governments with a team of economists, diplomats, and lawyers.
- Identified potential economic and financial threats to economic and financial markets, which were then discussed during the interdepartmental Financial Stability Oversight Council (CESF). Mexico's government still uses my metrics and presentations to prepare its budget and create new policies.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) – Paris, FR 2014–2015

Junior Researcher – Directorate for Employment, Labor and Social Affairs

PUBLICATIONS

- Sandoval-Olascoaga, S., Garcia, C., Zayas, G., Arcaya, M. (2023). Housing Conditions in the COVID-19 Pandemic. In book: *The Social Epidemiology of the COVID-19 Pandemic*. Publisher: Oxford University Press. Editors: Duncan, D., Kawachi, I., Morse, S.
- Sandoval-Olascoaga, S., Metcalfe, R., Kahn, M., Fairweather, D. (2022). The Impact of Flooding Information on the Property Market: Evidence from a Nationwide Field Experiment. *Work in Progress*
 - Our initial results were covered in a Redfin News post, and they were covered by Bloomberg, The Weather Channel, Yale Environment, The Real Deal.
- Sandoval-Olascoaga, S., Venkataramani A., Arcaya, M. (2021). Eviction Moratoria Expiration and COVID-19 Infection Risk Across Strata of Health and Socioeconomic Status in the United States. In: *JAMA Network Open*, 4(8):e2129041.
 - Covered by MIT News, NPR (I was interviewed for NPR's Marketplace), Brookings, CIDRAP, Medical Xpress, AJMC, Physician's Weekly. The research helped Maryland's General Assembly Joint Committee on Ending Homelessness draft policies to create the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.
- Vilar, M., Sandoval-Olascoaga, S., Bernal, A., Shimoga, S., Bustamante, A. (2015). The impact of the 2008 financial crisis on food security and food expenditures in Mexico: a disproportionate effect on the vulnerable. In: *Public Health Nutrition*, Cambridge University Press.
- Vilar, M., Sandoval-Olascoaga, S., Bernal, A., Perez, A. (2014). The Effect of Mexican Household Food Security Status and Income Distribution on Food Access. In: *Food Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, Volume 3, Issue 2.
- Vilar, M., Sandoval-Olascoaga, S., Bernal, A., Perez, A. (2014). Mexico: A complex mosaic of population nutrition problems. In book: *Pobreza y Desigualdad: un enfoque multidisciplinario*. Publisher: Universidad Iberoamericana. Editor: Pablo Cotler.

WORKING PAPERS

- Climate Risk Communication, Decision-Making, and Housing Choice. (*Draft Available Soon*)
 - Experiment #1 is a joint effort between Robert Metcalfe, Matthew Kahn, Daryl Fairweather, and myself, whereas Experiment #2 is an individual work.
- The Effects of Localized Climate Shocks on Places and People. (*Draft Available Soon*)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- MIT *Presidential* and *Departmental* Fellowship (2018–2023).
 - *Presidential* Fellowship is awarded to ~10% of MIT entering graduate students annually.
- Harold Horowitz Research (MIT) Fund (2022).
- CONACYT Graduate Fellowship (2018–2022).
- OptumLabs Fellow (2019 – 2021).
- Priscilla King Gray (MIT) Fellow (Summer 2021).
- Boston Area Research Initiative (Northeastern and Harvard University) Research Seed Grant (2020–2021).
- Priscilla King Gray (MIT) Fellow. (Winter 2020).
- Lloyd and Nadine Rodwin International Fellowship (2018).
- Graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from my Master's degree (2015).
- CONACYT Graduate Fellowship (2015).
- Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Fellowship (2013–2015).
- CENEVAL award for getting the Top National Score for the Economics Exit Examination (2012).
- Emerging Leaders in the Americas Program (ELAP) Canadian scholarship (2011).

- Center for Research and Teaching of Economics (CIDE) Fellowship (2008–2012).

ACADEMIC AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Referee for the Journal of Development Economics, Latin American Economic Review, ClinicoEconomics and Outcomes Research, and Habitat International.
- Ph.D. Admission Committee Member for MIT's Environmental Policy and Planning Ph.D. Track (2020, 2021, 2022).
- Member of MIT's Graduate Student Council (2020–2022)
- Member MIT's Graduate Housing Working Group Subcommittee (2020–2022).
- Member of MIT's Graduate Student Council Advocacy Subcommittee (2020–2022).
- Board Member of the Paris School of Economics Students' Association (2013–2015).

SKILLS

- *Programming and Statistical Languages:* R, Python, STATA, QGIS, SQL, AWS (S3 and Redshift), and Git.
- *Languages:* English, Spanish, and French.