

Andre Gray

Economics Department
University of California, San Diego

+1 949 689 2941 / adgray@ucsd.edu
<https://andregra.github.io>

Placement Director
Placement Coordinator

Prashant Bharadwaj
Andrew Flores

prbharadwaj@ucsd.edu
econ-jobmarket@ucsd.edu

Education

Ph.D., UC San Diego Economics, (expected) June 2026
M.A. Economics, UC San Diego 2023
B.S. Economics/Mathematics (*summa cum laude*), University of Southern California, 2017

Fields

Development, Migration, Urban Economics

References

Sam Bazzi
Professor
Department of Economics
UC San Diego
sbazzi@ucsd.edu

Sara Lowes
Associate Professor
Department of Economics
UC San Diego
slowes@ucsd.edu

Anya Samek
Associate Professor
Rady School of Management
UC San Diego
asamek@ucsd.edu

Job Market Paper

“Density and Diversity in African Cities”

The impact of migration is not just a function of how many people migrate, but where they come from. Migrants carry region-specific identities, traits and skills that shape outcomes in receiving areas. In rapidly urbanizing African cities, the composition of migrants may play a negative role, as ethnic and linguistic divisions drive conflict and counteract classic agglomeration forces. This paper disentangles the effects of migrant flows and migrant composition on productivity in destinations. I build a subnational panel of internal migrant flows across Africa and develop a nonlinear shift-share instrument that identifies shocks to both levels and the birthplace composition of migrants. Using exogenous variation from climate, commodity and conflict shocks, I identify changes to the size and composition of migrants. I find that cities that receive migrants from more diverse birthplaces have lower short-run growth, but experience long-run urbanization benefits. The effects of migrant composition are heterogeneous, with more diverse cities experiencing higher ethnic conflict, but also higher rates of structural transformation. The methods proposed have broad applications to identifying nonlinear effects of migration, when relative group sizes matter for outcomes.

Publications

Samek, Anya, Arie Kapteyn, and Andre Gray. "Using vignettes to improve understanding of Social Security and annuities." *Journal of Pension Economics & Finance* (2019): 1-18.

Samek, Anya, Andre Gray, Ashlesha Datar, and Nancy Nicosia. "Adolescent time and risk preferences: Measurement, determinants and field consequences." *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* 184 (2021): 460-488.

Work in Progress

Integrating Traditional and Conventional Medicine for Efficient Public Service Delivery [with Sara Lowes and Fulvia Budillon]

Historical Immigration and the Market for Schooling in American Cities

Tiebout Sorting and Labor Misallocation [with Jacob Brown and Kurtis Gilliat]

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant at UC San Diego:

MGTA 458: Experiments in Firms [MBA Course], Anya Samek and Erik Johnson, 1 quarter

MGT 160: Experiments in Firms, Anya Samek and Erik Johnson, 4 quarters

ECON 151: Public Economics, Katherine Meckel, 3 quarters

ECON 116: Development Economics, Sara Lowes, 1 quarter

GPCO 404: Market Failures [MPP Course], Julie Cullen, 2 quarters

GPCO 407: Policy Analysis / Decision Theory [MPP Course], Jennifer Burney, 1 quarter

Honors and Awards

Ben Horne Memorial Prize, UCSD Economics 2023

USC Mork Scholar, Full Tuition Academic Scholarship, 2013-2017

Grants

Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics, 2025

Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) Grant, 2025

International Growth Center (IGC) Full Research Grant, 2024

Institute for Humane Studies (IHS) Expense Support, George Mason University 2024

Travel and Research Grant, UCSD Economics, Winter 2023; Spring 2024; Summer 2024,2025; Fall 2025

International Travel Grant, UCSD International Institute 2023

Weiss Fund for Research in Development Economics 2023

School of Social Science Research Grant 2023

Conference Presentations

2025 North American Urban Econ Association (UEA) Meeting Montreal, October 2025

Empirical Microeconomics Workshop 2025 U Calgary, September 2025

Institute for Humane Studies Winter Graduate Conference, GMU, Jan 2025

2024 Historical Political Economy Conference, USC, Oct 2024

2024 Development and Political Economics Conference (DevPEC), April 2024

2024 Pacific Conference for Development Economics, Stanford University, March 2024

8th Urbanization and Poverty Reduction Research Conference, World Bank, March 2024

Graduate Workshop on Field Research, University of Nigeria, Nsukka, August 2022

North American Economic Science Association (ESA) Meeting, Los Angeles, CA, Oct 2019.

Academic Work Experience

Research Assistant

Dr. Katherine Meckel and Dr. Jessie Handbury, UC San Diego

March 2022-June 2022

Field Project Manager

Dr. Sara Lowes and Dr. James Robinson, Nigeria

June 2022 – Aug 2022

Research Assistant

Dr. Sara Lowes, UC San Diego

May 2021-Jan 2022

Research Specialist

Dr. Anya Samek, University of Southern California (USC) Center for Economic and Social Research (CESR)

May 2017-June 2020

Skills

Stata, R, Python, ODK, LaTeX, QGIS

Other Information

Citizenship: USA

Languages: English (Native), Spanish (fluent)