

Email: dserra@tamu.edu

Webpage: <http://people.tamu.edu/~dserra>

Google Scholar: [link](#)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Texas A&M University, Associate Professor of Economics.

AFFILIATIONS

IZA (Institute of Labor Economics): Research Fellow.

J-PAL (Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab): Affiliated Professor.

LEO (Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities): Faculty Affiliate.

EGAP (Evidence in Governance and Politics): Research Member.

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, University of Oxford (*Edgeworth Prize* for outstanding doctoral thesis).

MSc in Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science.

BSc in Economics and Social Sciences (DES), Bocconi University, Milan.

PAST EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX. (2018 – 2019)
Spring 2019: Maternity Leave.

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX. (2012 – 2018)
Fall 2014: Maternity Leave

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Florida State University. (2009 – 2012)

EDITORIAL ROLES

Co-editor, *Economic Inquiry*. (2021 – present)

Associate Editor, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*. (2020 – 2023)

RESEARCH FIELDS

Political Economy, Economics of Education, Development Economics, Gender Economics.

PUBLICATIONS

- (1) “[Gender and leadership in organizations: The threat of backlash](#)” with P. Chakraborty (Centenary College). *Economic Journal*, 134, Issue 660, May 2024.
- (2) “[Mobilizing parents at home and at school: An experiment on primary education in Angola](#)” with V. Di Maro (World Bank), S. Leeffer (Nova University of Lisbon) and P. Vicente (Nova University of Lisbon). *Economic Development and Cultural Change* 72:3, 1069-1116, 2024.
- (3) “[Can high school counselors help the economics pipeline?](#)” with M. Gentry (Texas A&M University) and J. Meer (Texas A&M University). *American Economic Association P&P* 113: 462-66, 2023.
- (4) “[Health Workers’ Behavior, Patient Reporting and Reputational Concerns: Lab-in-the-Field Experimental Evidence from Kenya](#)” with I. Mbiti (University of Virginia). *Experimental Economics*, 25: 514–556, 2022.
- (5) “[Gender differences in the choice of major: The importance of female role models](#)” with C. Porter (Lancaster University). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 12(3): 226-54, 2020.

PUBLICATIONS (continued)

- (6) “Motivating Whistleblowers” with J. Butler (UC Merced) and G. Spagnolo (SITE Stockholm School of Economics). Management Science, 66.2: 605-621, 2020.
- (7) “Corrupt Police” with K. Abbink (Monash University) and D. Ryvkin (Florida State University). Games and Economic Behavior, 10: 101-119, 2020.
- (8) “Corruption and competition among bureaucrats: An experimental study” with D. Ryvkin (Florida State university). Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 175: 439-451, 2020.
- (9) “Is more competition always better? An experimental study of extortionary corruption” with D. Ryvkin (Florida State University). Economic Inquiry, 57 (1): 50-72, 2019.
- (10) “Corruption, Social Judgment and Culture: An Experiment” with T. Salmon (Southern Methodist University). Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 142: 64-78, 2017.
- (11) “*I paid a bribe*: An experiment on information sharing and extortionary corruption” with D. Ryvkin (Florida State University) and J. Tremewan (University of Auckland). European Economic Review, 94: 1-22, 2017.
- (12) “Participatory accountability and collective action: Experimental evidence from Albania” with A. Barr (University of Nottingham) and T. Packard (World Bank). European Economic Review, 68: 250–269, 2014.
- (13) “Intermediaries in corruption: An experiment” with M. Drugov (New Economic School) and J. Hamman (Florida State University). Experimental Economics, 17: 78-99, 2014.
Winner of the Editor’s prize for the best paper published in Experimental Economics in 2014.
- (14) “Combining top-down and bottom-up accountability: Evidence from a bribery experiment.” Journal of Law, Economics and Organization 28(3): 569-587, August 2012.
- (15) “How corruptible are you? Bribery under uncertainty” with D. Ryvkin (Florida State University). Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 81: 466-77, January 2012.
- (16) “Corruption and culture: An experimental analysis” with A. Barr (U of Nottingham). Journal of Public Economics, 94, Issues 11-12, December 2010.
- (17) “Intrinsic motivations and the non-profit sector: Evidence from Ethiopia” with A. Barr (University of Nottingham) and P. Serneels (University of East Anglia), Personality and Individual Differences, 51(3): 309-314, 2011. Special issue on *Economics and Personality*.
- (18) “The effects of externalities and framing on bribery in a petty corruption experiment” with A. Barr (University of Nottingham), Experimental Economics, 12(4): 488 – 503, 2009.
- (19) “Empirical determinants of corruption: A sensitivity analysis” Public Choice 126 (1-2): 225-256, 2006.

WORKING PAPERS

- (20) “[From childhood abduction to adulthood: Enduring consequences for women in Uganda.](#)” with A. Cassar (University of San Francisco), E. Kandpal (The Center for Global Development), M. Lambert (Texas A&M University) and C. Mbabazi (Makerere University). First draft: January 2025. *Under review*.
- (21) “[The impact of role models on youths’ aspirations, gender attitudes and education in Somalia](#)” with E. Kipchumba (Trinity College, Dublin), C. Porter (Lancaster University) and M. Sulaiman (BRAC University). TAMU working paper, 2022. *New draft*: IZA DP No: 17261, August 2024. *Under review*.
- (22) “[My department cares: Supporting college students through encouragement emails](#)” with D. Gomez-Vasquez (Texas A&M University). *First draft*: August 2024.

- (23) “[Proud to belong: The impact of ethics training on police officers in Ghana](#)” with D. Harris (University of Oxford), O. Borcan (U of East Anglia), H. Telli (International Growth Center), B. Schettini (Brazil Ministry of Education), S. Dercon (University of Oxford). *First draft*: June 2022. *Revised*: [IZA working paper](#), 2024. *Under review*.
- (24) “[Activating Change: The Role of Information and Beliefs in Online Activism](#)” with F. Afridi (ISI Delhi), A. Basistha (ISI Delhi), A. Dhillon (Kings’ College London). IZA wp, July 2023. *Revised*: April 2025. *Under review*.
- (25) “[Can Crises Affect Citizen Activism? Evidence from a Pandemic](#)” with F. Afridi (ISI Delhi), A. Basistha (ISI Delhi) and A. Dhillon (King’s College). CAGE wp, November 2023. *Revised*: IZA wp March 2025. *Under review*.

BOOK CHAPTERS AND EDITED VOLUME

- “Experimental Development Economics: Current Scope and Future Directions” with U. Dasgupta, P. Jakiela, P. Maitra, O. Ozier and A. Viceisza, forthcoming in for the *Handbook of Experimental Development Economics*, edited by Utteeyo Dasgupta and Pushkar Maitra. Edward Elgar. In press.
- “Role models in Developing Countries” forthcoming in for the *Handbook of Experimental Development Economics*, edited by Utteeyo Dasgupta and Pushkar Maitra. Edward Elgar. In press.
- “Anticorruption policies: Lessons from the lab” with K. Abbink (Monash University). In D. Serra, & L. Wantchekon (Eds.), *New Advances in Experimental Research on Corruption* (1 ed., Vol. 15, pp. 77-115). (Research in Experimental Economics). Emerald Group Publishing Limited, 2012.
- New Advances of Experimental Research on Corruption*, edited with Leonard Wantchekon (Princeton). Bingley: Emerald Group Publishing, June 2012.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Economics of Education

- “[Promoting STEM Education for Girls through Instagram and WhatsApp Interventions: Experimental evidence from Peru](#)” with M. Agurto (Universidad de Piura) and S. Sudipta (Virginia Tech University).
- *Funded by the Consorcio de Investigación Económica y Social, Peru.*
- “[Unlocking Opportunities: Facilitating Student Transfers from 2- to 4-Year Colleges through Coaching](#)” with C. Carruthers (U Tennessee), I. Casellas Connors (TAMU) and K. Cortes (TAMU).
- *Funded by J-PAL Social Policy Research Initiative (SPRI).*
- “[Recruiting economics majors: The impact of an information campaign targeted at high school counselors](#)” with J. Meer (Texas A&M University) and Kennedy Johnston (Texas A&M University).
- *Funded by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and the American Economic Association Committee for the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP).*
- “The Labor Market Impacts of a College-Based Role Model Intervention” with C. Porter (Lancaster University).
- *Funded by the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) and the American Economic Association Committee for the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP).*

Gender and Development Economics

- “[Women’s Leadership in Village Savings and Loan Associations](#)” with M. Sulaiman (BRAC University), K. Bjorvatn (Norwegian School of Economics), S. Chowdhury (University of Sydney), C. Franco (Norwegian School of Economics).
- *Funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.*
- “[From Jobs to Careers: Lifting Constraints to Women’s Career Advancement in South Asia](#)” with R. Robertson (Texas A&M University), F. Afridi (ISI Delhi), H. Ahmed (Lahore School of Economics).
- *Funded by the IZA Gender, Growth and Labor Markets in Low-Income Countries (G²LM|LIC) program.*

“[The Impact of Cash Transfers, Coaching and Mental Health Counseling on Victimized Women in Uganda](#)” with A. Cassar (University of San Francisco), E. Kandpal (The Center for Global Development), M. Lambert (Texas A&M University) and C. Mbabazi (Makerere University).

- *Funded by The World Bank and the Center for Global Development (CGD).*

"Understanding Barriers and Incentives to Formal Employment for Home-Based Women Workers in Pakistan" with F. Afridi (ISI Delhi), R. Robertson (TAMU Bush School) and H. Ahmed (Lahore School of Economics).

- *Funded by the IZA Gender, Growth and Labor Markets in Low-Income Countries (G²LM|LIC) program.*

“Inclusive Growth in the Green Economy” with R. Robertson (TAMU Bush School) and H. Ahmed (Lahore School of Economics).

Political Economy

“[Who joins the committee? An experiment on shared governance, corruption and public scrutiny](#)” with A. Cao (Center for Naval Analyses) and D. Ryvkin (Florida State University). *Data collection completed.*

Labor Economics: Biases in the Workplace

“[Reaching for the Stars? An experiment on discrimination in hiring](#)” with D. Gomez-Vasquez (Texas A&M University) and T. Salmon (SMU). *Data collection completed.*

“[The impact of high-quality research feedback on the academic success of junior scholars](#)” with E. Kuka (George Washington University). *Data collection ongoing.*

- *Funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation*

“[Can different modes of communication affect gender bias in the workplace?](#)” with D. Gomez-Vasquez (Texas A&M University), M. Lambert (Texas A&M University) and T. Salmon (SMU). *In the lab.*

GRANTS

2024	<i>J-PAL Social Policy Research Initiative (SPRI)</i> . \$170,312. (PI) With C. Carruthers (U Tennessee), K. Cortes (TAMU Bush School) and I. Casellas Connors (TAMU Bush School).
2024	<i>Arnold Ventures (planning grant)</i> . \$97,387. With K. Johnston (PhD student, Texas A&M University).
2023	<i>CSWEP-SSRC Women in Economics and Mathematics Research Consortium</i> . \$176,000. (PI) With J. Meer (TAMU).
2023	<i>IZA Gender, Growth and Labor Markets in Low-Income Countries (G²LM LIC)</i> . \$420,598. (Co-PI) With R. Robertson (TAMU Bush School).
2023	<i>US Department of State</i> . \$246,000. (Co-PI) With Raymond Robertson (Texas A&M, Bush School). <i>Terminated in January 2025.</i>
2022	<i>CIES, Consorcio de Investigación Económica y Social, Peru</i> . \$60,000. (Co-PI) With M. Agurto (Universidad de Piura) and S. Sarangi (Virginia Tech University).
2022	The World Bank, Development Research Group. \$200,000. (Co-PI) With E. Kandpal (The World Bank) and A. Cassar (University of San Francisco).
2021	<i>The Russell Sage Foundation</i> . \$49,818. (PI) With E. Kuka (GWU).

GRANTS (continued)

- 2021 *T3 Funds, Texas A&M University. \$30,000. (PI)*
With K. Cortes (TAMU) and E. Snider (TAMU).
- 2021 *The Spencer Foundation. Co-PI. \$49,396. (Co-PI)*
With M. Sulaiman (BRAC University), and C. Porter (Lancaster University) and E. Kupchamba (Trinity College, Dublin).
- 2020 *The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. \$49,838. (PI)*
With E. Kuka (GWU).
- 2020 *The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. \$440,000. (Co-PI)*
With M. Sulaiman (BRAC University), C. Franco (NHH - FAIR), K. Bjorvatn (NHH, FAIR) and S. Chowdhury (University of Sydney).

INVITED KEYNOTES, PLENARY PANELS AND OUTREACH SESSIONS

- 2025
- American Economic Association (AEA) Conference on Teaching and Research in Economic Education (CTREE) - *invited keynote*.
 - Summer School in Experiments and Behavioral Economics, Soletto, Italy – *invited keynote* (declined due to travel conflicts).
 - Second Workshop on “Inequality in Tertiary Education,” Modena, Italy – *invited keynote* (declined due to travel conflicts).
- 2025
- “Ask Me Anything” (AMA) session commemorating the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, organized by J-PAL Africa on February 11, 2025 - *invited AMA host*.
- 2023
- International Conference on Applied Development Economics, sponsored by the International Growth Center and the Lahore School of Economics - *invited keynote*.
- 2022
- International Conference on the Economics of Global Interactions, organized by University of Bari and FAIR-NHH- *invited keynote*.
 - Cornell’s 100 Years of Economic Development Conference - *invited plenary panelist on “Behavioral Development Economics”*.
- 2021
- International Conference on Applied Development Economics sponsored by the International Growth Center and the Lahore School of Economics - *invited keynote* (virtual).
 - Southern Economics Association Conference - Panel on “Experimental Development Economics: Current Scope and Future Directions - *invited panelist*.

INVITED SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (last 8 years)

**Scheduled*

- 2025
- Stanford University, Center on Democracy, Development and the Rule of Law; NBER Gender Spring Meeting; NBER Summer Institute – Children*; Building Inclusive Growth (BIG) Forum, University of Notre Dame* (*invited*); Gender Economics Conference, hosted by Barnard College and Teachers College, Columbia University* (*invited*); Stata Virtual Economics symposium*; Boston University*; Smith College*; Lancaster University (UK); IZA G2LM|LIC Research Conference, London; Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP) EdDev online meeting; Texas Development Economics Workshop (*co-organizer*); Texas Experimental Economics Workshop, ASSA Annual conference.

- 2024 London School of Economics (LSE) Behavioral Political Economy workshop (*invited presenter*); Gender in the Global Economy workshop, Bernard College, New York (*invited presenter*); Synapse Lab at the University of Stavanger, Norway; EGAP Displacement, Migration and Integration Priority Meeting, Washington, DC; Texas Development Economics Workshop (*co-organizer*); University of Wyoming (*postponed*); Center for the Study of African Economies (CSAE) Annual Conference, Oxford; ASSA Annual conference.
- 2023 University of Pittsburgh; AXA Research Lab on Gender Equality at Bocconi University; University of Nebraska – Lincoln; Advances in Field Experiments (AFE) conference; Center for the Studies of African Economies (CSAE) Annual Conference, Oxford (UK); Discrimination and Diversity Workshop, University of East Anglia; American Economic Association (ASSA) Annual Conference; Midwest International Economic Development Annual Conference; G2LM|BREAD Conference on Development Economics, Nairobi.
- 2022 University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, Gies College of Business; University of Alaska-Anchorage; University of Florida; Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economicas (CIDE), Mexico; NBER Summer Institute; Universidad del Rosario, Colombia; Monash University; University of East Anglia; Workshop of Experimental and Behavioral Economics of the Americas (WEBEAS) online seminar; Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Conference; Discrimination and Disparities online seminar series; Texas Economics of Crime Workshop; By-annual Social Dilemmas Conference.
- 2021 Loyola Marymount University; University of Nottingham; Middlebury College; King's College, London; International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI); Tinbergen Institute, Amsterdam; University of Regensburg; Newcastle University; Indian Statistical Institute (ISI); NEUDC Conference; ESA North American Conference; Southern Economic Association (SEA) annual meeting; Annual Symposium on Economic Experiments in Developing Countries (SEEDC); Economic Science Association (ESA) North-America Conference; KDI School-World Bank DIME Conference on Impact Evaluation in Sustainable and Inclusive Development.
- 2020 University of Texas at Austin; American University; Virginia Tech University; University of Queensland BESC seminar; Universidad de Los Andes; Texas Tech University; Advances in Field Experiments (AFE) Conference; Economic Science Association (ESA) World Conference; American Economic Association (ASSA) Annual Conference; The Women in Economics initiative (WiE) workshop.
- 2019 Fair - The Choice Lab, Norwegian School of Economics; SITE - Stockholm School of Economics; Georgia State University; Washington State University; American Economic Association (ASSA) Annual Conference; Texas Experimental Symposium; Norms and Behavioral Change Workshop; Economic Science Association (ESA) North-America Conference.
- 2017-2019 UCLA, Anderson School of Management; University of Wisconsin-Madison, Dept. of Agricultural and Applied Economics; University of Pennsylvania Behavioral Ethics Lab; Nova University of Lisbon Texas A&M, Department of Agricultural Economics; Methods in Experimental Economics Research (MEER) at Texas A&M; AEA annual meeting; Texas Experimental Symposium; Economic Science Association (ESA) North-America and World Conferences; ASSA and SEA annual conferences.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- 2022 Best Provider of Feedback to Graduate Students, Texas A&M University, Department of Economics.
- 2017 *Inaugural recipient of the Vernon L. Smith Ascending Scholar Prize.*
The \$50,000 prize is presented by the International Foundation for Research in Experimental Economics (IFREE) to an exceptional scholar in the field of experimental economics.
- 2017 Journal of the European Economic Association *Excellence in Refereeing Award*.
- 2017 Editor's prize for best paper published in *Experimental Economics* in the year 2014 ("Intermediaries in Corruption: An Experiment").

- 2016 Inaugural recipient of the Barbara and James Mangum Teaching Award, SMU Economics.
- 2012 *Economic Journal* Annual Referee Prize.
- 2010 *Edgeworth Prize* for outstanding doctoral thesis – Department of Economics, University of Oxford.

DOCTORAL STUDENTS

*Expected graduation year.

Chair

- 2027* Kennedy Johnston.
- 2026* Miranda Lambert (Co-Chair).
- 2025 Daniel Gomez Vasquez. Placement: Assistant Professor, College of the Holy Cross.
- 2023 Andy Cao. Placement: Research Analyst, Center for Naval Analyses (CNA).

Committee Member

- 2025 Andre'nay Harris.
- 2024 Nanyin Yang. Placement: Postdoctoral fellow, University of Sydney.

At SMU

- 2020 Priyanka Chakraborty. Placement: Assistant Professor, Allegheny College.
- 2019 Kuangli Xie. Placement: Data scientist, Square.

TEACHING

Courses taught at TAMU

Undergraduate: Policy Economics.

Graduate: Experimental Economics (PhD); Development Economics (MSc).

Courses taught at FSU and SMU:

Undergraduate: Behavioral and Experimental Economics; Economics of Corruption; Intermediate Microeconomics.

Graduate: Development Economics.

Summer Schools (invited lecturer)

- 2023: Bogota' Summer School in Economics, Universidad del Rosario, Colombia. Lectures on "The Economics of Public Service Delivery."
- 2017: Nova School of Business and Economics, Universidad Nova de Lisboa. PhD lectures on "Topics in Behavioral Development Economics."

SERVICE

Mentoring Initiatives and Outreach Activities

- 2020 - 2024 ■ Co-founder and co-organizer, [Adopt a Paper](#) mentoring program.
- 2024 & 2025 ■ Co-organizer, Texas Development Economics Workshop.
- 2023 ■ Co-organizer and panelist, Texas A&M Workshop for High School Counselors;
- 2022 ■ Co-organizer and panelist, Texas A&M Workshop for High School Counselors;
 ■ Member, Department of Economics Climate and Inclusion Committee.

- 2021
 - Co-organizer, Texas A&M Pre-Doc Pipeline Conference for URM students;
 - Co-organizer, CSWEP mentorship program for female/non-binary PhD students at the SEA annual meeting;
 - Mentor, CSWEP Mentoring Breakfast for Junior Economists;
 - Panelist, CSWEP, CSMGEP and CEE joint webinar on “Helping faculty help students get into PhD students in Economics.”
- 2020
 - Co-organizer, ASHE & Texas A&M Pre-Doc Pipeline Conference for Hispanic students;
 - Co-organizer and panelist, Texas A&M Workshop for High School Counselors;
 - Mentor, CSWEP mentorship program for female/non-binary PhD students;
 - Faculty sponsor, Women in Economics club.

Other Recent Service

- 2024 - 2025
 - Placement Director, Department of Economics.
- May 2025
 - Co-organizer, Texas Development Economics Workshop.
- 2023 - 2024
 - Placement Director, Department of Economics.
- April 2024
 - Co-organizer, Texas Development Economics Workshop.
- 2024 - 2025
 - Executive Committee (elected), Department of Economics.
- 2022 - 2023
 - Hiring committee, Bush School - economist search.
- 2021 - 2022
 - Executive Committee (elected), Department of Economics.
- 2021 - 2023
 - Seminar organizer, Behavioral and Experimental group, Department of Economics.

Editorial Roles

- 2021 - Co-Editor, *Economic Inquiry*.
- 2020 - 2023 Associate Editor, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*.

Referee for:

American Economic Review ♦ American Economic Review: Insights ♦ American Economic Journal: Applied ♦ American Economic Journal: Policy ♦ American Economic Journal: Micro ♦ American Journal of Political Science ♦ American Political Science Review ♦ Economic Development and Cultural Change ♦ Economic Inquiry ♦ Economic Journal ♦ Economics of Education Review ♦ Economics Letters ♦ European Economic Review ♦ Experimental Economics ♦ Games and Economic Behavior ♦ IZA World of Labor ♦ Journal of Development Economics ♦ Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization ♦ Journal of Human Resources ♦ Journal of the European Economic Association ♦ Journal of Labor Economics ♦ Journal of Law, Economics and Organization ♦ Journal of Political Economy ♦ Journal of Public Economics ♦ Quarterly Journal of Economics ♦ Management Science ♦ Review of Economics and Statistics ♦ World Development.

Reviewer for: National Science Foundation ♦ European Commission ♦ Russell Sage Foundation ♦ JPAL.