

Maddison Erbabian

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Department of Economics, University of California San Diego, La Jolla, CA 92093

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of California San Diego 2022 - present
Fields: Development, Macroeconomics, and Labor
Advisors: Gaurav Khanna (co-chair), Tom Vogl (co-chair), Titan Alon, Gordon Dahl, Munseob Lee

B.A., Economics, High Honors, Mount Holyoke College 2020
Honors Thesis: “Educational Spillovers of Higher Education Institutions in the Developing World: Case Studies in Sub-Saharan Africa”

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“Higher Education Expansion, Human Capital Formation, and Structural Transformation”
“Gender Gaps and Cross-Country Heterogeneity in the Effects of Higher Education Expansion”
“Risky Moves: Labor Market Risk & Migratory Decisions”
with Steven Brownstone and Marina Perrupato Mendonca

WORKING PAPERS

“Love in the Time of Zika”
with C. Austin Davis, Gaurav Khanna, and Margaret J. Lay
Presented at NBER Summer Institute: Children and Families 2026

RESEARCH ON PAUSE

“General Equilibrium Effects of a Positive Return to Schooling Shock”
“The Effects of Migration Frictions and School Locations on Intergenerational Mobility”
with Idaliya Grigoryeva
“Intergenerational Spillovers of Pension Receipt in Rural China: Labor Supply & Migration Responses”
with Margaret J. Lay and Savana Wang

FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

Women’s Work in Markets of the 21st Century Small Research Grant, STEG & G ² LM LIC	2025-2026
NBER Doctoral Fellowship Runner Up, NBER Gender in the Economy Working Group	2026
Virginia Galbraith Graduate Fellowship for Excellence in Economics, Mount Holyoke College	2025
Excellence in Graduate Teaching Award as a Top 5 TA, UC San Diego Economics Department	2024-2025
Summer Research Fellowship, UC San Diego Economics Department	2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
Research & Travel Grant, UC San Diego Economics Department	2025, 2026
Regents Fellowship, UC San Diego	2022-2023
Diversity Research Fellowship, UC San Diego Economics Department	2022
Phoebe Tulman Perlman Prize for the Best Thesis, Mount Holyoke College Economics Department	2020
Mary Lyon Scholar Award for an Exceptional Thesis, Mount Holyoke College	2020
Fiscal Policy Fellowship, Peter G. Peterson Foundation	2019
Economics & Public Policy Fellowship, The Fund for American Studies	2019
California Seal of Biliteracy (French), State of California	2015

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Gaurav Khanna, Margaret J. Lay, and C. Austin Davis, UC San Diego	2024
Research Associate at Penn Wharton Budget Model (PWB), University of Pennsylvania	2020-2022
Research Assistant for Douglas Holtz-Eakin and Gordon Gray, American Action Forum	2019

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Instructor for Intermediate Macroeconomics: Long-Run Growth, UC San Diego	2026
Teaching Assistant for Macroeconomics, Econometrics, and Thesis courses, UC San Diego	2023-Present

SERVICE & ACTIVITIES

Undergraduate-Graduate Economics Research Lab, Graduate Student Advisor, UC San Diego	2024-Present
Backstory Podcast: How Research Papers in Economics Get Made, Co-host, UC San Diego	2024-Present
Economics PhD Peer Mentorship Program (COMRADES), Peer Mentor, UC San Diego	2023-2025

POLICY WRITING

Labor and Education

“Total Cost of Universal Pre-K, Including New Facilities,” <i>PWBM</i> with Efraim Berkovich, Daniela Viana Costa, & Youran Wu	2022
“The Decline in Fertility: The Role of Marriage and Education,” <i>PWBM</i> with Austin Herrick and Victoria Osorio	2022
“Covid-19 Learning Loss: Long-run Macroeconomic Effects Update,” <i>PWBM</i> with Efraim Berkovich, Daniela Viana Costa, & Youran Wu	2021
“Economic Effects from Preschool and Childcare Programs,” <i>PWBM</i> with Efraim Berkovich, Daniela Viana Costa, & Youran Wu	2021
“COVID-19 School Closures: Long-run Macroeconomic Effects,” <i>PWBM</i> with Efraim Berkovich, Daniela Viana Costa, & Youran Wu	2021
“COVID-19: Cost of Virtual Schooling by Race and Income,” <i>PWBM</i> with Efraim Berkovich & Youran Wu	2021
“School Reopening During COVID-19: A Cost-Benefit Analysis for Philadelphia Suburbs,” <i>PWBM</i> with Efraim Berkovich & Youran Wu	2021
“COVID: Trade-Offs in School Reopening,” <i>PWBM</i> with Efraim Berkovich & Youran Wu	2020

Fiscal Policy

“H.R. 5376, Build Back Better Act: Budget and Macroeconomic Effects,” <i>PWBM</i> with Jon Huntley & John Ricco	2022
“Macroeconomic Effects of the White House Build Back Better Budget Reconciliation Framework,” <i>PWBM</i> with Jon Huntley & John Ricco	2021
“Senators Manchin and Schumer’s 2021 Senate Budget Reconciliation Agreement: Macroeconomic and Distributional Effects,” <i>PWBM</i> with Jon Huntley & John Ricco	2021
“The Macroeconomic Effects of the August 2021 Budget Reconciliation Package,” <i>PWBM</i> with Jon Huntley & John Ricco	2021
“President Biden’s FY2022 Budget Proposal: Budgetary and Economic Effects,” <i>PWBM</i> with Efraim Berkovich, Richard Prisinzano, Alexander Arnon, Marcos Dinerstein, John Ricco, & Youran Wu	2021
“PWBM Analysis of the Biden Platform,” <i>PWBM</i> with Kent Smetters, Efraim Berkovich, Richard Prisinzano, Felix Reichling, Alexander Arnon, Marcos Dinerstein, Jagadeesh Gokhale, Yan He, Zheli He, Austin Herrick, Jon Huntley, Victoria Osorio, Minh Quach, John Ricco, Seul Ki (Sophie) Shin, Xiaoyue Sun, Daniela Viana Costa, Youran Wu, & Kody Carmody	2020
“What If the Federal Government Hits the Debt Limit?” <i>American Action Forum</i> with Gordon Gray	2019