

# WAYNE SANDHOLTZ

## NOVA SCHOOL OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

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### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### EDUCATION

University of California San Diego  
Brigham Young University

PhD Economics, 2020  
B.A. Economics (Magna Cum Laude), 2012

### MAIN ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Nova School of Business and Economics

Assistant Professor, 2020 - present

### AFFILIATIONS

Affiliate, CESifo Research Network

2023 - present

Resident member, NOVAFRICA Research Center

2020 - present

### PUBLICATIONS

[“Outsourcing Education: Experimental Evidence from Liberia,”](#) with Mauricio Romero and Justin Sandefur. *American Economic Review* 110.2 (2020): 364-400

**Abstract:** In 2016, the Liberian government delegated management of 93 randomly-selected public schools to private providers. Providers received USD 50 per pupil, on top of USD 50 per pupil annual expenditure in control schools. After one academic year, students in outsourced schools scored  $0.18\sigma$  higher in English and mathematics. We do not find heterogeneity in learning gains or enrollment by student characteristics, but there is significant heterogeneity across providers. While outsourcing appears to be a cost-effective way to use new resources to improve test scores, some providers engaged in unforeseen and potentially harmful behavior, complicating any assessment of welfare gains.

### WORKING PAPERS

[“The politics of public service reform: Experimental evidence from Liberia”](#)

**Abstract:** This paper provides experimental evidence on the electoral effect of a large education reform in a developing democracy. Despite significantly improving school quality, the policy reduced the incumbent party's presidential vote share by 3 percentage points (10%). This does not imply that voters oppose service improvements: household surveys showed strong support for the policy, and effects on vote share were positively correlated with effects on test scores. However, the reform also alienated teachers, reducing their job satisfaction, their support for the incumbent government, and their political engagement. Evidence suggests that teachers' persuasive efforts were instrumental: the more the reform disengaged teachers, the more it reduced incumbent vote share. Counterfactual simulations suggest that relatively small improvements in effectiveness and/or teacher engagement could have made the policy a net vote winner. This paper empirically demonstrates the importance of political feasibility in the design of public service reforms.

[“Secondary school access raises primary school achievement”](#)

**Abstract:**

*I study the effect of secondary school access on primary school achievement, using Tanzania's implementation of a Free Secondary Education (FSE) reform. Drawing on the universe of standardized test scores as well as household survey data, I confirm that the reform increased secondary school access: secondary enrollments rose, household secondary education spending fell, high-scoring primary students were more likely to transition to secondary school, and the transition gap for the children of local elites disappeared. To estimate the causal effect of increased secondary access on primary student achievement, I compare the difference in outcomes for primary students from families who did vs. didn't pay secondary school exam fees on time (ex-ante), before vs. after FSE's implementation. The reform increased primary pass rates and on-time secondary transition rates by about 3 percentage points each (from bases of 62% and 21%, respectively). Effects along the distribution of test scores for each exam subject suggest that students responded by optimally reallocating effort to clear the passing threshold. Results are not driven by supply-side changes to inputs at the school level, nor by changes to the size of student cohorts.*

"Learning in Catholic Schools: Evidence from Lesotho, Tanzania, and Uganda"  
with Clark Gibson and Lee Crawford

"Infrastructure for Votes? Experimental and Quasi-experimental Evidence from Mexico"  
with Francisco Garfias and Bruno Lopez-Videla

"The Road to Reelection: Political returns to Highway Construction"  
with Daniel Leff-Yaffe and Alejandro Nakab

"Priming the pump: Can paying interest upfront increase savings?"  
with Peter Carroll, Flora Myamba, Dan Nielson, Joe Price, and Phillip Roessler

## SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"Integrating Rural Migrants in a Mozambican City," with Alex Armand, Frederica Mendonça, and Pedro Vicente

"Raising Educational Aspirations," with Cátia Batista, Pedro Freitas, Ana Balcão Reis, and José Tavares

"The value of friends: Experimental evidence on secondary schooling decisions," with Cátia Batista, Pedro Freitas, and Ana Balcão Reis

"Tax compliance and local government autonomy: Experimental evidence from Mozambique," with Pedro Vicente and Manuel de Araújo

"Returns to College in Uganda," with Lenka Fiala and Kizito Omala

"Political impacts of federal procurement spending in the US," with Elizabeth Roer

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Assistant Professor, NovaSBE

Principles of Microeconomics  
Microeconomic Analysis

Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2022  
Fall 2022

### Teaching assistant, UC San Diego

Intermediate Microeconomics  
Economics of Discrimination  
Introductory Macroeconomics  
Intermediate Macroeconomics A  
Economics of the Environment

Fall 2018 & 2019 (Prof. Melissa Famulari)  
Spring 2019 (Prof. Prashant Bharadwaj)  
Winter 2019 (Prof. Valerie Ramey)  
Spring 2018 (Prof. Giacomo Rondina)  
Fall 2015 (Prof. Mark Jacobsen)

### Teaching assistant, Brigham Young University

Principles of Economics

Fall 2009 (Prof. Matthew Butler)

## GRANTS

2023	International Growth Center MOZ-23094 <i>with Manuel de Araújo and Pedro Vicente</i>	£ 19,473
	La Caixa Foundation, "Raising Educational Aspirations" <i>with Cátia Batista, Pedro Freitas, Ana Balcão Reis, and José Tavares</i>	€ 65,000
	STEG Larger Research Grant <i>with Alex Armand and Pedro Vicente</i>	£ 68,688
	International Growth Center MOZ-23032 <i>with Alex Armand and Pedro Vicente</i>	£ 59,673
2022	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia 2022.08998.PTDC <i>with Lenka Fiala and Kizito Omala</i>	€ 48,689
	International Growth Center MOZ-22067	£ 19,008
2021	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia PTDC/EGE-ECO/6744/2020 <i>with Cátia Batista, Pedro Freitas, Ana Balcão Reis, and José Tavares</i>	€ 249,840
	International Growth Center MOZ-21101 <i>with Alex Armand and Pedro Vicente</i>	£ 20,000
	European Commission Widening Fellowship MSCA-IF-EF-ST 101032788	€ 159,815
2020	Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia PTDC/EGE-ECO/6003/2020 <i>with Alex Armand and Pedro Vicente</i>	€ 249,900
2018	Indira Foundation	\$ 3,000
2017	ESRC ES/P006043/1 <i>with Mauricio Romero and Justin Sandefur</i>	£ 555,541
	Indira Foundation	\$ 5,000
	Innovations for Poverty Action Financial Inclusion Program <i>with Peter Carroll, Flora Myamba, Dan Nielson, Joe Price, and Philip Roessler</i>	
2016	Policy Design and Evaluation Lab, UCSD - <i>with Sam Krumholz</i> Yankelovich Center, UCSD - <i>with Eli Berman</i>	
2012	Office of Research and Creative Activities, BYU - <i>with Joe Price</i>	
2010	Office of Research and Creative Activities, BYU - <i>with Brandie Siegfried</i>	
2010	Library Research Grant, BYU	

## HONORS AND AWARDS

Finalist, Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Award, 2023  
Humane Studies Fellowship, IHS, 2017-2019  
Gordon B. Hinckley Presidential Scholarship, BYU, 2004-2010.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

### Conference talks and invited seminars (\* *scheduled*)

- 2024 UC Davis\*
- 2023 Oxford Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), Brigham Young University, Nottingham Interdisciplinary Centre for Economic and Political Research (NICEP) Conference, IEB Workshop on Political Economy, CESifo Venice Summer Institute, European Economic Association, CESifo Area Conference on Economics of Education, World Bank/IFS/ODI Tax Conference, NBER Political Economy Fall Program Meeting, Economic and Social Research Foundation TZ\*, Catholic University of Milan\*, Bocconi\*, IFPRI\*, Zurich Conference on Public Finance in Developing Countries\*
- 2022 Lisbon Economics and Statistics of Education (LESE), Oxford Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), Nordic Conference in Development Economics (NCDE), International Institute of Public Finance (IIPF), Navarra Center for International Development, NOVAFRICA Conference on Economic Development, Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC), Northeastern University, Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), Tufts University, University of Connecticut, CESifo Workshop on Political Economy, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Universidad de Chile
- 2021 Pacific Development Conference (PacDev), Oxford Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE), Lahore School/CREB/IGC Applied Development Economics (ADE), American Political Science Association (APSA), Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), National Tax Association (NTA), National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies (GRIPS Tokyo), Zurich Conference on Public Finance in Developing Countries
- 2020 American University, Nova School of Business and Economics, University of Stavanger, Insper, Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE), Southern Economic Association (SEA), Oxford Centre for the Study of African Economies (CSAE)<sup>†</sup>, Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)<sup>†</sup>
- <sup>†</sup> *canceled due to Covid-19 pandemic*
- 2019 Comparative and International Education Society (CIES), Western Economics Association International (WEAI), Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE), Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA)
- 2018 Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPU UBC), Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC), Western Economics Association International (WEAI), Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE), BYU Graduate Student Conference, Development and Political Economics Conference (DEVPEC), Southern California Conference in Applied Microeconomics (SoCCAM), Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC), Pacific Development Conference (PacDev)
- 2017 Southern Economic Association (SEA), Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPU NYU Abu Dhabi)
- 2016 BYU Graduate Student Conference

### Media coverage

A report card for Liberia's charter schools, [The Economist](#), 9 Sept 2017

### Guest lectures

- 2021 Princeton (SPIA 562B Economic Analysis of Development: Basic)

### Journal Refereeing

*Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, Journal of Development Economics, National Tax Journal, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economics of Education Review, Education Economics, International Journal of Health Economics and Management, African Development Review*

**Grant and Conference Refereeing**

*Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness (SREE)*  
*Mercury Project, Social Science Research Council (SSRC)*

**OTHER INFORMATION**

Citizenship: United States  
Date of birth: 1 August, 1986  
Languages: English (native), Spanish (proficient), Portuguese (intermediate), French (basic), Indonesian (basic)