

Sofoklis Goulas | Brookings

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Professional Experience

Research.....

The Brookings Institution

Washington, DC

Fellow in Economic Studies, The Hamilton Project

Feb. 2023–

- Design and implement research designs to answer policy-relevant questions using solid economic theory and statistical modeling.
- Deploy quantitative and mixed methods for public policy evaluation.
- Perform pre- and post-processing and analysis quality review of large-scale datasets.
- Manage work tasks and distribute resources across projects.
- Prepare publications and disseminate results through media interviews and presentations to policy-makers.

Aletheia Research Institution

Palo Alto, CA

Co-Founder, Board Member & Director of Public Policy Programs

Jul. 2021–

- Provide strategic vision and leadership for research on current policy challenges: Gender gaps in education outcomes; Female and minority access to labor markets; Learning losses and stress management of students during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Develop team cohesion and a culture of continuous improvement and open dialogue.
- Lead the production of policy briefs and give presentations to funders.
- Contribute to business development; the Institution raised \$205K in the first year to conduct policy-relevant research.

Stanford University, Hoover Institution

Stanford, CA

Senior Research Associate, Center for Research on Education Outcomes *Apr. 2017 – Jan. 2023*

- Designed and implemented research designs to answer policy-relevant questions using solid economic theory and statistical modeling.
- Built innovative mixed methods for public policy impact evaluation.
- Performed pre- and post-processing and analysis quality review of large-scale datasets.
- Managed work tasks and distribute resources across projects.
- Proposed research projects to funding organizations and negotiate agreements with data-sharing government departments.
- Prepared publications and deliver effective presentations to policymakers and at academic conferences.
- Testified before legislative bodies as expert witness on education public policies.

100Mentors, EdTech Company

Athens, Greece

Consultant on Research Design

Jun. 2022– Jun. 2023

- Designed impact evaluation frameworks for mentoring initiatives in public schools.
- Prepared methodological briefs for grant applications.

The World Bank

Washington, DC

Consultant on Impact Evaluation

Mar. 2022– Dec. 2022

- Conducted impact evaluation of the Afghanistan Strengthening Women's Economic Empowerment Project (SWEEP).

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill **Chapel Hill, NC**
Graduate Research Assistant, Center for Community Capital *Aug. 2013 – May 2015*

- Designed and implemented housing pricing micro-econometric analyses (hedonic pricing models) to measure housing market efficiency in the United States.
- Designed and implemented micro-econometric analyses to evaluate the impact of debt-relief programs on the housing decisions of low-income families in the USA.
- Prepared policy briefs and presentations.

Bank of Greece, Economic Research Division **Athens, Greece**
Visiting Researcher *May 2012 – Jul. 2012*

- Developed and implemented econometric analyses (times series and co-integration models) to evaluate the bank lending channel of monetary policy in the Eurozone and its impact on the credit rationing phenomenon in Greece.

Research Visits

Monash Business School, Department of Economics **Melbourne, Australia**
Apr. 2024

University of Essex, Institute for Economic and Social Research **Colchester, UK**
Mar. 2022 – May 2022

Affiliations

IZA Institute of Labor Economics *Apr 2024–*
Research Affiliate

Global Labor Organization *Jan 2018–*
GLO Fellow

Teaching

Twice Gifted, San Francisco, CA **Economics of Pandemics**
Instructor *Summer 2020*

Department of Economics, UNC-Chapel Hill **Principles of Economics**
Instructor *Summer 2014*

Department of Economics, UNC-Chapel Hill **Intermediate Macroeconomics**
Head Teaching Assistant *Fall 2015, Fall 2016*

Department of Economics, UNC-Chapel Hill **Principles of Economics**
Teaching Assistant *Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Spring 2016*

Undergraduate Thesis Mentoring

Dylan Polley **New York University, Stern School of Business**
External Advisor, Graduated in 2021

Ph.D. Mentoring

Clark Banach **Free University of Berlin**
External Advisor, Graduated in 2023

Industry

Lumsden and Partners, M & A Law Firm **Vienna, Austria**
Consultant on Business Analytics and Strategy *July 2017 – May 2019*

- Performed econometric modeling, cost-benefit analysis, and crypto-currencies

analytics to diversify the investment portfolio of the company.

Tsagogeorgas S.A., Trading Company

Staff Accountant

Athens, Greece

May 2007 – May 2010

- Preparation of financial statements, payroll, inventory reconciliation.

Ad-hoc Referee Service.....

The Economic Journal, Journal of Human Resources, American Economic Journal-Economic Policy, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Economic Inquiry, Applied Economics Letters, Applied Economics, International Journal of STEM Education, Housing Policy Debate

Expert Witness Testimonies.....

State Board of Education

Expert Witness

Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

June 2019

Standing Education Committee, The Senate

Expert Witness

Boise, Idaho

January 2019

Standing Education Committee, The House of Representatives

Expert Witness

Boise, Idaho

January 2019

Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D. in Economics, Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor; Highest Impact Dissertation Award 2017

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

MS in Economics 2013

Warwick Business School, University of Warwick, UK

MSc in Finance and Economics 2011

University of Piraeus, Greece

Ptychion in Economics, Class Valedictorian 2010

Fields of Expertise

Economics of Education and Human Capital, Gender and Race Inequalities, Public Economics, Econometrics, Program and Policy Evaluation, Valuation of Business Models in Education, Cost-Benefit Analysis for Public Policy Programs, Micro-Econometrics & Panel Data, Data Science and Machine Learning Applications, Game Theory, Public Speaking

Peer Reviewed Articles

Economics of Education

1. "Compulsory Class Attendance versus Autonomy", (with Silvia Griselda and Rigissa Megalokonomou), **Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, ABS: 3***, (2023)
Featured in: VoxEU.org, The Conversation
2. **Goulas, Sofoklis**, Silvia Griselda, and Rigissa Megalokonomou. "Comparative Advantage and Gender Gap in STEM", **Journal of Human Resources, ABS: 3***, (2022): 0320-10781
Best Paper Award, 32nd PhD Conference in Economics and Business, Australian National University, 2019
Best Paper Award, Australian Gender Economics Workshop, 2020
Best Paper Award, UniCredit & Universities, Gender Economics, 2020
Featured in: The Conversation

3. **Goulas, Sofoklis** and Rigissa Megalokonomou. "Knowing who you actually are: The effect of Feedback on Short- and Longer-Term Outcomes", **Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, ABS: 3***, 83 (2021): 589-615
Best Paper Award, UniCredit & Universities, 2016 Belgrade Young Economists Conference
4. **Goulas, Sofoklis** and Rigissa Megalokonomou. "School Attendance during a Pandemic", **Economics Letters, ABS: 3***, 193 (2020): 109275
Featured in: VoxEU.org
5. **Goulas, Sofoklis** and Rigissa Megalokonomou. "Marathon, Hurdling or Sprint? The Effects of Exam Scheduling on Academic Performance", **The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, ABS: 2***, 20, no. 2 (2020)
Featured in: VoxEU.org
6. **Goulas, Sofoklis** and Rigissa Megalokonomou. "Which degrees do students prefer during recessions?", **Empirical Economics, ABS: 2***, 56.6 (2019)
Featured inter alia in: *The Conversation, Kathimerini, Capital.gr, LSE EUROPP*

Higher Education

7. "Achievement in Secondary School Physics as Predictor for University Physics Studies Choice and Acceptance", (with Kalliopi Meli and Dimitris Pantazatos), **Proceedings, ESERA 2023—15th Biennial Conference of the European Science Education Researchf Association**

Learning Losses During COVID-19

8. "The Perceived Impact of COVID-19 on Graduate Medical Education and Recommendations for Bridging the Educational Gap" (with Georgios Karamitros) **Journal of Surgical Research, IF: 2.3**, (2024)
9. "The Impact of COVID-19 on Plastic Surgery Residents Across the World: A Country-, Region-, and Income-level Analysis" (with Georgios Karamitros, Maria Wiedner, and Vakis Kontoes), **Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, IF: 2.709**, (2023)
Best Paper Award, International Association for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, Annual Meeting 2023

Human Capital & Artificial Intelligence

10. "How to Harness the Power of Web-Scraping for Medical and Surgical Research: An Application in Estimating International Collaboration" (with Georgios Karamitros) **World Journal of Surgery, IF: 3.0**, (2024)
11. "Racial And Ethnic Disparities In The US Plastic Surgery Research: A Comparative, Web-scraping, Artificial Intelligence Assessment of Big Data", (with Georgios Karamitros and Heather Furnas), **Plastic Surgery Research—Global Open, IF: 1.5**, (2024)
12. "The Association Between Surgical Disease Burden and Research Productivity in Surgery Across the Globe: A Big Data Comparative Analysis Using Artificial Intelligence " (with Georgios Karamitros), **British Journal of Surgery, IF: 11.782**, (2023)
13. "Human Capital and Productivity in Surgery Research During a Pandemic: An Artificial Intelligence Approach" (with Georgios Karamitros), **British Journal of Surgery, IF: 11.782**, (2023)
14. "Women Representation in Plastic Surgery Across the Globe: A Cross-Sectional Study of Human Capital and Research Output Using Artificial Intelligence" (with Georgios Karamitros), **Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery, IF: 4.0**, (2023)
Best Poster Award, International Association for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery, Annual Meeting 2023

15. "Human Capital and Productivity in Plastic Surgery Research During COVID-19: An Artificial Intelligence Approach" (with Georgios Karamitros), **Journal of Plastic, Reconstructive & Aesthetic Surgery**, **IF: 4.0**, (2023)
16. "Human Capital and Productivity in Plastic Surgery Research Across Nations" (with Georgios Karamitros), **Aesthetic Plastic Surgery**, **IF: 2.709**, (2022)

Quality of Online Information

17. "Evaluating the Web as a Source of Information for Patients with Chest Wall Deformities: Insights Into Engagement and Disparities", (with Georgios Karamitros, Vasiliki Kakogeorgou, and Nicole Chandler), **Pediatric Surgery International**, **IF: 1.8**, (2024)
18. "Evaluating the Internet as a Source of Information for Patients With Hidradenitis Suppurativa: A Review of Websites' Content, Insights Into Engagement, and Access", (with Georgios Karamitros, Georgios-Antonios Vlachos, Charlene Kok, and Gregory Lamaris), **Dermatologic Surgery**, **IF: 2.4**, (2024)

Peer Reviewed Reports

19. "Twelve Facts about the Economics of Education" **The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution**, 2024
20. "Why did schools lose students after COVID-19?", (with Isabelle Pula), **The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution**, 2024
Featured in: Axios (1), Axios (2), EdSurge, District Administration, Evanston Now
Interview: Hearst TV
21. "Ten Economic Facts About Rental Housing", (with Lauren Bauer, Eloise Burtis, Wendy Edelberg, Noadia Steinmetz-Silber, Sarah Yu Wang), **The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution**, 2024
22. "Breaking Down Enrollment Declines in Public Schools", **The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution**, 2024
Featured in: Marketplace, WSJ, Yahoo!News
23. "Declining School Enrollment Since the Pandemic", (with Eloise Burtis), **The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution**, 2023
Featured in: The New York Times, The74Million, Fox News, KMUW, KJZZ, Kansas News Service
Interviews: 12News, WUSF, The74Million, Fort Worth Star Telegram, The Times of Northern Indiana
24. "Deteriorating Household Finances Will Not Support Strong Spending", (with Wendy Edelberg), **The Hamilton Project, Brookings Institution**, 2023
Featured in: Bloomberg (1), Bloomberg (2), Bloomberg (3)
25. "Estimating the Recovery Time from Learning Losses during the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Meta-Analysis of State Results", **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2023
Featured in: The74Million, Working Nation
26. "Estimating the Recovery Time from Learning Losses during the COVID-19 Pandemic (16 State Volumes)", **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2022
Featured in: Washington Times
27. "Building BLOCS and Stepping Stones: Combined Data for International Economic and Policy Analysis" (with Clark Banach, Ignacio Silva Neira, and Jennifer Pédussel Wu), **Aletheia Research Institution**, 2022

28. *"Vaccine reward - a potential way out of the pandemic"*, (with Robin Lumsden and Gregory P. La Blanc), **Lumsden and Partners**, 2021
Featured in: DerStandard
29. *"Alabama Broadband for Education"*, (with Chunping Han and Margaret E. Raymond), **Hoover Institution, Stanford University**, 2021
30. *"The Impact of Charter School Attendance on Student Performance in Washington State"*, **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2020
31. *"School Quality Management Report for 2018-19 (11 City Volumes)"*, (with Won Fy Lee), **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2020
32. *"COVID-19 Simulations: Predicting Student 2019-20 Achievement (20 State Volumes & Meta-Analysis Volume)"*, (with Chunping Han, Charla Waeiss, Won Fy Lee, and Margaret E. Raymond), **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2020
Featured in: The Wall Street Journal, CBS News, Forbes, EducationNC, LA School Report
33. *"The Impact of Charter School Attendance on Student Performance in South Carolina"*, **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2019
34. *"School Quality Management Report for 2017-18 (11 City Volumes)"*, (with Chunping Han and Payton Richardson), **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2019
35. *"The Impact of Charter School Attendance on Student Performance in Idaho"*, **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2019
Featured in: IdahoEDnews
36. *"School Quality Management Report for 2016-17 (11 City Volumes)"*, (with Justin Luu and Lynn Woodworth), **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2018
37. *"The Impact of Charter School Attendance on Student Performance in Washington State"*, **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2018
Featured in: The Seattle Times, The News Tribune
38. *"The Impact of Scaling the New Orleans Charter Restart Model on Student Performance"*, (with Margaret E. Raymond, Lauren Bierbaum, Lindsay Bell, Meghan Cotter Mazzola, and Will Snow), **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2017
Featured in: Forbes
39. *"School Quality Management Report for 2015-16 (11 City Volumes)"*, (with Payton Richardson and Lynn Woodworth), **Center for Research on Education Outcomes, Stanford University**, 2017
40. *"Do Low-income Homeowners Maintain Their Homes?"*, (with Sarah Riley), **Center for Community Capital, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill**, 2015

Working Papers

41. *"Human Capital and Productivity in Surgery Across the Globe: A Big Data Analysis Using AI"* (with Georgios Karamitros) **Revise & Resubmit, Journal of Surgical Research, IF: 2.3**
42. *"Neighbors, Test Scores, and Careers"* with Rigissa Megalokonomou (Monash) and Yi Zhang (Queensland) IZA Discussion Paper No. 11910 **Revise & Resubmit, Research Policy, IF: 7.2**
Featured in: To Vima (in Greek)

43. *"Female Top Performers are more Impactful Role Models than Males, Teachers Say"* with Panos Sotirakopoulos (Curtin) and Rigissa Megalokonomou (Monash) **Reject & Resubmit, *Proceeding of the National Academy of Science***
44. *"Females, Classroom Disruption, and STEM Careers"* with Rigissa Megalokonomou (Monash) and Yi Zhang (Queensland)
45. *"Optimal Cohort Partitions"* with Faidra Monachou (Yale)
Accepted at 25th ACM Conference in Economics & Computation 2024

Selected Work in Progress

46. *"Enrollment Changes of Low-performing Schools after COVID-19"* to be published by the Fordham Institute **Manuscript in preparation**
47. *"Same-gender Peer Role Models in Education"* with Bhagya Gunawardena (Queensland) and Rigissa Megalokonomou (Monash) **Manuscript in preparation**
Best Paper Award, 36th PhD Conference in Economics and Business, University of Western Australia, 2022
48. *"Protesting Austerity: The Effect of New Legislation on Riots and Strikes"* **Manuscript in preparation**
49. *"With a Little Help from My (Girl) Friends: An Experimental Test of Gender Homophily on a Major Online Career Training Platform"* with Julia Melin (Dartmouth) **Manuscript in preparation**
50. *"The Impact of Being Recognized as Top Performer on School and Career Outcomes"* with Won Fy Lee (Stanford) and Rigissa Megalokonomou (Monash) **Administrative and RCT data collected, analysis in progress**
51. *"Non-Cognitive Skills of Peers and STEM Study"* with Silvia Griselda (e61) and Rigissa Megalokonomou (Monash) **Administrative data collected, analysis in progress**
52. *"Gender and Race Representation in Economics Research: Past and Present"* **Data collected, analysis in progress**
53. *"In-person Wage Premium: Evidence from Tutors"* **RCT design in progress**

Research Funding

- Yale School of Management, The Broad Center, \$25,000 (with Faidra Monachou)
- Monash University, Early Career Grant, \$9,500 (with Rigissa Megalokonomou)
- Bill & Belinda Gates Foundation, "Washington State Charters Data and Evaluation," \$1,033,865 (with Macke Raymond)

Submitted Grant Applications:

- Spencer Foundation, \$30,000
- American Educational Research Association, \$25,000

Honors and Awards

UNC-Chapel Hill

Impact Award for Outstanding Dissertation Research 2014-2015

UNC-Chapel Hill

Williamson Family Excellence Research Grant 2014-2015

Gerondelis Foundation <i>Gerondelis Scholarship for Doctoral Studies</i>	2013-2014
UNC-Chapel Hill <i>Richard Brooke Scholarship for Doctoral Studies</i>	2013-2016
George & Victoria Karelias Foundation <i>Karelias Scholarship for Doctoral Studies</i>	2012-2015
UNC-Chapel Hill <i>Nominated for the Graduate Student Tanner Award for Excellence in Teaching</i>	2012-2013
UNC-Chapel Hill <i>Tuition Incentive Scholarship</i>	2011-2012
Harry D. Triantafillu Foundation <i>Triantafillu Doctoral Scholarship</i>	2011-2012
Fulbright Foundation <i>Fulbright Fellowship for Non-US Citizens</i>	2011-2012
Embassy of France in Greece (Declined) <i>VRIka Graduate Scholarship</i>	2010-2011
University of Piraeus <i>Valedictorian of the 2010 graduating class</i>	2009-2010
Hellenic Ministry of Education <i>Kyprianides Excellence Scholarship</i>	2008-2010
<i>2016 SAEe Conference, UNC Graduate School 2016, AEUB CRETE 2015</i>	Travel Awards

Short Training

Institute for Computational & Mathematical Engineering, Stanford University <i>Summer School in Data Science and Machine Learning</i>	Stanford, CA Summer 2019
American Enterprise Institute <i>Emerging Education Policy Scholars Program</i>	Washington, D.C. January and May 2018
IZA Institute of Labor <i>Summer School in Labor Economics</i>	Munich, Germany May 2015
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill <i>Teacher Training Program</i>	Chapel Hill, NC Fall 2012
Athens University of Economics and Business <i>Summer School in Stochastic Finance</i>	July 2012
University of Cambridge <i>Summer School in Micro-econometrics, Cambridge, UK</i>	Trinity Hall July 2011
Stanford Classes: STATISTICS FOR ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, MACHINE LEARNING AND DATA SCIENCE; GIS; NEGOTIATION TECHNIQUES; STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT; PROJECT MANAGEMENT; AGILE PROJECT MANAGEMENT	

Skills

Programming Languages: VISUAL BASIC, PYTHON, R

Software: MICROSOFT OFFICE, SAS, STATA, SPSS, EIEWS, MATLAB, ARCGIS

Typesetting: T_EX, L^AT_EX

Databases: MySQL, Oracle SQL

Systems: Linux, MacOS, Windows

Techniques: Time series analysis, Panel data methods, Bayesian methods, MCMC, Machine Learning, Text Analysis, Natural Language Processing, Spatial Econometrics, Geographical Information Analysis.

Languages: ENGLISH (CAMBRIDGE CERTIFICATE OF PROFICIENCY IN ENGLISH–C2),
FRENCH (DIPLÔME APPROFONDI DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE–C2),
ITALIAN (CERTIFICATO DI CONOSCENZA DELLA LINGUA ITALIANA–B2),
GREEK (NATIVE)

Presentations and Invited Talks

(excluding those by co-authors; also excluding over 50 presentations to research-funding philanthropic foundations, education policy-makers, and school associations at local and state level.)

- e61 Institute, Sydney, Australia, February 2024
- University of Piraeus, Department of Economics, Virtual, February 2024
- National Association of Charter School Authorizers Annual Conference, Minneapolis, MN, October 2022
- University of Chicago, Consortium of School Research, Chicago, IL, July 2022
- Tulane University, National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice, Virtual, April 2022
- Urban Economic Association North America Meeting, Virtual, October 2021
- 6th IZA Workshop on the Economics of Education, Virtual, September 2021
- American Economic Association Conference, Virtual, January 2021
- The Charter School Commission of Washington State, Seattle, WA, February 2019
- Bluum Foundation, Boise, ID, February 2019
- The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA, August and October 2018, May 2021
- National Charter Schools Conference, Austin, June 2018
- Alliance for Public Charter School Attorneys Conference, Atlanta, GA, April 2018
- Royal Economic Society (RES) Annual Conference, Brighton, UK, March 2018
- Royal Economic Society (RES) PhD Conference, London, UK, January 2017
- Simposio de la Asociacion Espanola de Economia (SAEe), Bilbao, Spain, December 2016
- 31st Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, Geneva, August 2016
- Conference in Economic Theory and Econometrics, AUEB, Tinos, Greece, July 2016
- 4th International PhD Meeting of Thessaloniki in Economics, Thessaloniki, Greece, July 2016
- 65th Annual Meeting of the French Economic Association, Nancy, France, June 2016
- Eastern Economic Association, Annual Conference, Washington DC, February 2016
- European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, Milan, Italy, December 2015
- 8th Doctoral Workshop in Empirical Economics, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin, December 2015
- University of Piraeus, Department of Economics, December 2015
- Southern Economic Association, Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA, November 2015
- Conference in Economic Theory and Econometrics, AUEB, Crete, Greece, July 2015
- 2nd Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics, Thessaloniki, June 2015
- 6th Annual Meeting of the French Economic Association, Rennes, France, June 2015
- 18th IZA European Summer School in Labor Economics, Munich, Germany, May 2015
- UNC-Chapel Hill, Graduate Student Research Recognition Ceremony, Chapel Hill, NC, April 2015
- University of Piraeus, Department of Economics, December 2014

- International Atlantic Economic Association, Annual Conference, Savannah, GA, October 2014
- University of Macedonia, Department of Economics, June 2014
- Eastern Economic Association, Annual Conference, Boston, MA, March 2014