

Isaac M. Opper

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EDUCATION

- Stanford University** | Stanford, CA June 2016
Ph.D. in Economics
- Stanford University** | Stanford, CA June 2016
M.A. in Economics
- Colby College** | Waterville, ME May 2010
B.A. Majors: Economics and Mathematics; *Magna Cum Laude*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Full Economist** 2020 – Present
RAND Corporation | Santa Monica, CA
- Associate Economist** 2016 – 2020
RAND Corporation | Santa Monica, CA
- Professor of Economics at Pardee RAND Graduate School of Public Policy** 2017 – Present
RAND Corporation | Santa Monica, CA

PAPERS

PUBLISHED ARTICLES AND SELECT PEER-REVIEWED REPORTS

Johnston, William R., John Engberg, Isaac M. Opper, Lisa Sontag-Padilla, and Lea Xenakis. "Illustrating the Promise of Community Schools: An Assessment of the Impact of the New York City Community Schools Initiative," Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2020.

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR3245.html.

Selected Media: Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, Wall Street Journal, Education Week, Chalkbeat, The 74, RAND Policy Currents

Opper, Isaac M. 2019. "Does Helping John Help Sue? Evidence of Spillovers in Education," *American Economic Review*, 109(3): 1080-1115

Selected Media: AEA Research Highlight (#2 Most Viewed in 2019), RAND Policy Currents, RAND Review

PUBLISHED PEER-REVIEWED REPORTS

Opper, Isaac M. 2019. "Teachers Matter: Understanding teachers' impact on student achievement." Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2019.

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR4312.html.

Opper, Isaac M. 2019. "Value-Added Modeling 101: Using student test scores to help measure teaching effectiveness." Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2019.

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR4312z1.html.

Opper, Isaac M. 2019. "Teachers' Broad Impact: Understanding how teachers influence students they do not teach." Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2019.

https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR4312z3.html.

Gates, Susan M., Matthew D. Baird, Christopher Joseph Doss, Laura S. Hamilton, Isaac M. Opper, Benjamin K. Master, Andrea Prado Tuma, Mirka Vuollo, and Melanie A. Zaber. "Preparing School Leaders for Success: Evaluation of New Leaders' Aspiring Principals Program, 2012–2017." Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2019.
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2812.html.

McEachin, Andrew, Jonathan Schweig, Rachel Perera, and Isaac M. Opper. "Validation Study of the TNTP Core Teaching Rubric." Santa Monica, CA: RAND Corporation, 2018.
https://www.rand.org/pubs/research_reports/RR2623.html.

Mihaly, Kata, Heather L. Schwartz, Isaac M. Opper, Geoffrey Grimm, Luis Rodriguez, & Louis T. Mariano. "Impact of a checklist on principal-teacher feedback conferences following classroom observations." (REL 2018-285). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance, Regional Educational Laboratory Southwest, 2018

Kadry B, Press CD, Alesh H, Opper IM, Orsini J, Popov IA, Brodsky JB, Macario A. 2014. "Obesity increases operating room times in patients undergoing primary hip arthroplasty: a retrospective cohort analysis." *PeerJ* 2:e530

WORKING PAPERS

"Does Incentivizing Value Added Make the Measure More or Less Meaningful," with Michael Dinerstein

"Do Ineffective Teachers Know They Are Ineffective? Understanding Teacher Self-Efficacy," with Kata Mihaly

"The Dimensionality of Teacher Effectiveness: Measuring and Summarizing the Multiple Dimensions of Teacher Effects," with Christine Mulhern

"Improving Average Treatment Effect Estimates in Small Scale Randomized Control Trials"

"Who Should be Enrolled? Optimal Allocation of Scarce Seats in the Presence of Peer Effects," with Matthew Baird, John Engberg, and Italo A. Gutierrez

"Natural Disasters and Human Capital," with R. Jisung Park and Lucas Husted

"Assessing the Short-Term Impact of New York City Renewal School Program," with William R. Johnston, John Engberg, and Lea Xenakis

Selected Media: New York Times, Chalkbeat

GRANTS

Institute of Education Sciences, "Using Machine Learning Methods to Improve Regression Discontinuity Designs", PI, \$225,000

RAND-Initiated Research, "Improving Methods to Establish Causality", PI, \$125,000

Institute of Education Sciences, "Does Incentivizing Value-Added Make the Measure More or Less Meaningful", PI (co-PI: Michael Dinerstein), \$550,000

US Dept. of Education Investing in Innovation Fund (i3): "Chicago Common Core Collaborative – Leading Educators, Inc.", Co-PI (PI:Kata Mihaly); \$450,000

COURSES and TUTORIALS TAUGHT at PARDEE RAND GRADUATE SCHOOL:

2020-21: Introduction to Econometrics

2019-20: Introduction to Econometrics; Value-Added Modeling and Estimation Tutorial

2018-19: The Economic Analysis of Education Policy; Introduction to Econometrics

2017-18: Introduction to Econometrics

AWARDS

Medal Award Key Contributor RAND Corporation	2021
Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award Stanford University	2015
Stanford Economics Graduate Research Fellowship Stanford University	2010
Christian A. Johnson Award for top teaching assistant Colby College	2010
Phi Beta Kappa Colby College	2010
Faculty Prize in Economics Colby College	2009

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

2020: AEFP 45th Annual Conference

2019: Brown University; University of California – Irvine; APPAM Fall Research Conference; AEFP 44th Annual Conference

2017: APPAM Fall Research Conference; AEFP 42nd Annual Conference

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Cornerstone Research; RedPeak Economic Consulting; Google[X]

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Membership: American Economic Association (AEA); Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP); Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

Journal Referee: Econometrica; Education Finance and Policy; American Journal of Education; Education Policy Analysis Archives; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness; Economics of Education Review; AERA Open; Education Researcher; Journal of Education and Behavioral Statistics

Grant and Conference Reviewer: AEFP 45TH Annual Conference

RAND Service: Economics, Sociology, and Statistics Department Advisory Committee