Caylee O'Connor

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EDUCATION
Ph.D. in Economics, Stanford University — 2020–2025 (expected)
B.S. in Mathematics, University of Alabama — 2018
B.A. in Economics

RESEARCH FIELDS   Public, Labor, Development

REFERENCES
Professor Caroline Hoxby	Professor Melanie Morten	Professor Nicholas Bloom
choxby@stanford.edu	memorten@stanford.edu	nbloom@stanford.edu

WORKING PAPERS

Merging neighborhood schools to reduce socioeconomic segregation: Evidence from Charlotte, North Carolina (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: Since the end of court-mandated desegregation, many U.S. school districts have re-segregated along racial and economic lines. This paper examines the impacts of a 2018 policy in Charlotte, North Carolina which merged student populations from neighboring schools with differing socioeconomic statuses (SES). I find that the policy significantly reduced economic segregation at merged schools. However, it also led to a sharp decline in enrollment as families, primarily low-SES ones, opted out of attending these schools. I also find that students from predominantly low-SES neighborhoods (who would have likely attended the low-SES school in absence of the merging) experienced declines in standardized test performance and increased short-term out of school suspension rates, whereas those from predominantly high-SES neighborhoods showed modest gains in test scores and no change in suspension likelihood. Teacher retention increased at the merged schools. Finally, neighborhoods that were previously zoned to majority low-SES schools experienced an increase in house prices after the policy was implemented.

Can Unconditional Teacher Salary Increases Improve Education Quality? Evidence from the Dominican Republic

Transportation, Gentrification & Urban Mobility: The Inequality Effects of Place-Based Policies
with Gharad Bryan, Melanie Morten, Clare Balboni, Bilal Siddiqi

TEACHING EXPERIENCE
Stanford University
TA for Caroline Hoxby, ECON 146 (Economics of Education) — 2024
TA for John Taylor, ECON 1 (Principles of Economics) — 2023
TA for Melanie Morten, ECON 118 (Development Economics) — 2023

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS
B.F. Haley and E.S. Shaw Fellowship for Economics, SIEPR — 2024
Stanford King Center on Global Development Graduate Student Fellowship — 2024
Outstanding TA Award, Stanford University Economics Department — 2023, 2024
The University of Alabama Murray Havens Award *(top senior in economics)* — 2018
The University of Alabama Presidential Scholarship — 2014-2018
Carol Sloan and Ernest Adams Fite Endowed Scholarship in Mathematics — 2015

RELEVANT POSITIONS
Stanford University
Research Assistant for Prof. Melanie Morten — 2023, 2024
Research Assistant for Prof. Pascaline Dupas — 2021 - 2022

Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research
Predoctoral Research Fellow — 2018 - 2020

SKILLS
Software: R, LaTeX, QGIS, MATLAB, Stata, SurveyCTO
Languages: English (native), Spanish (basic), Swahili (basic)