

# ALBERTO ABADIE

## Office Address

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## Academic Positions

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Cambridge, MA  
Professor of Economics, 2016-present  
IDSS Associate Director, 2016-present

HARVARD UNIVERSITY Cambridge, MA  
Professor of Public Policy, 2005-2016  
Visiting Professor of Economics, 2013-2014  
Associate Professor of Public Policy, 2004-2005  
Assistant Professor of Public Policy, 1999-2004

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO Chicago, IL  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, 2002-2003

NATIONAL BUREAU OF ECONOMIC RESEARCH (NBER) Cambridge, MA  
Research Associate (Labor Studies), 2009-present  
Faculty Research Fellow (Labor Studies), 2002-2009

**Education** MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Cambridge, MA  
Ph.D. in Economics, 1995-1999  
Thesis title: “Semiparametric Instrumental Variable Methods for Causal Response Models.”

CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS MONETARIOS Y FINANCIEROS (CEMFI) Madrid, Spain  
M.A. in Economics, 1993-1995  
Masters Thesis title: “Changes in Spanish Labor Income Structure during the 1980’s: A Quantile Regression Approach.”

UNIVERSIDAD DEL PAÍS VASCO Bilbao, Spain  
B.A. in Economics, 1987-1992  
Specialization Areas: Mathematical Economics and Econometrics.

## Honors and Awards

Elected Fellow of the Econometric Society, 2016.

NSF grant SES-1756692, “A General Synthetic Control Framework of Estimation and Inference,” 2018-2021.

NSF grant SES-0961707, “A General Theory of Matching Estimation,” with G. Imbens, 2010-2012.

NSF grant SES-0617810, “The Economic Impact of Terrorism: Lessons from the Real Estate Office Markets of New York and Chicago,” with S. Dermisi, 2006-2008.

NSF grant SES-0350645, “Econometric Methods to Study the Effects of Public Interventions and Terrorism,” 2004-2006.

Gosnell Prize for the best work in methods presented at any political science conference during the preceding year, 2007.

Keynote Speaker at Fifth IZA Conference on Labor Market Policy Evaluation, 2009 (Georgetown, USA)

Keynote Speaker at 2010 Hong Kong Economic Association Conference (Tianjin, China)

Zellner Thesis Award in Business and Economic Statistics. Honorable Mention, 2000.

Robert M. Solow Endowment Prize for excellence in teaching and research, 1999.

Bank of Spain Graduate Studies Fellowship, 1995-1999.

Centro de Estudios Monetarios y Financieros Fellowship, 1993-1995.

## Journal Articles

“Sampling-based *vs.* Design-based Uncertainty in Regression Analysis,” with S. Athey, G.W. Imbens, and J.M. Wooldridge, June 2019. *Econometrica*, forthcoming.

“Choosing among Regularized Estimators in Empirical Economics: The Risk of Machine Learning,” with M. Kasy. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, forthcoming.

“Endogenous Stratification in Randomized Experiments,” with M. Chingos and M. West. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, vol. 100(4), 567-580, 2018.

“Econometric Methods for Program Evaluation,” with M. Cattaneo. *Annual Review of Economics*, vol. 10(1), 465-503, 2018.

“Matching on the Estimated Propensity Score,” with G. Imbens. *Econometrica*, vol. 84(2), 781-807, 2016.

“Comparative Politics and the Synthetic Control Method,” with A. Diamond and J. Hainmueller. *American Journal of Political Science*, vol. 59(2), 495-510, 2015.

“Inference for Misspecified Models with Fixed Regressors,” with G.W. Imbens and F. Zheng. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, vol. 109(508), 1602-1614, 2014.

- “A Martingale Representation for Matching Estimators,” with G. Imbens. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, vol. 107(498), 833-843, 2012.
- “Bias Corrected Matching Estimators for Average Treatment Effects,” with G. Imbens. *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, vol. 29(1), 1-11, 2011. (Lead Article.)
- “Synthetic Control Methods for Comparative Case Studies: Estimating the Effect of California’s Tobacco Control Program,” with A. Diamond and J. Hainmueller. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, vol. 105, 493-505, 2010. Awarded the 2007 Gosnell Prize for the best work in methods presented at any political science conference during the preceding year.
- “Estimation of the Conditional Variance in Paired Experiments,” with G. Imbens. *Annales d’Économie et de Statistique*, vol. 91 (special issue on “Econometric Evaluation of Public Policies: Methods and Applications”), 175-187, 2010.
- “On the Failure of the Bootstrap for Matching Estimators,” with G. Imbens. *Econometrica*, vol. 76(6), 1537-1557, 2008.
- “Is Terrorism Eroding Agglomeration Economies in Central Business Districts? Lessons from the Office Real Estate Market in Downtown Chicago,” with S. Dermisi. *Journal of Urban Economics*, vol. 64, 451-463, 2008.
- “Terrorism and the World Economy,” with J. Gardeazabal. *European Economic Review*, vol. 52, 1-27, 2008. (Lead Article.)
- “The Impact of Presumed Consent Legislation on Cadaveric Organ Donation: A Cross-Country Study,” with S. Gay. *Journal of Health Economics*, vol. 25, 599-620, 2006. (Lead Article.)
- “Poverty, Political Freedom, and the Roots of Terrorism.” *American Economic Review* (Papers and Proceedings), vol. 96(2), 50-56, 2006.
- “Large Sample Properties of Matching Estimators for Average Treatment Effects,” with G. Imbens. *Econometrica*, vol. 74(1), 235-267, 2006.
- “Semiparametric Difference-in-Differences Estimators,” *Review of Economic Studies*, vol. 72(1), 1-19, 2005.
- “Causal Inference,” 2005. In the *Encyclopedia of Social Measurement*. Elsevier Academic Press, New York.
- “The Economic Costs of Conflict: A Case Study of the Basque Country,” with J. Gardeazabal. *American Economic Review*, vol. 93(1), 113-132, 2003.
- “Semiparametric Instrumental Variable Estimation of Treatment Response Models,” *Journal of Econometrics*, vol. 113(2), 231-263, 2003.

“Instrumental Variables Estimates of the Effect of Subsidized Training on the Quantiles of Trainee Earnings,” with J. Angrist and G. Imbens. *Econometrica*, vol. 70(1), 91-117, 2002.

“Bootstrap Tests for Distributional Treatment Effects in Instrumental Variable Models,” *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, vol. 97, 284-292, 2002.

“Changes in Spanish Labor Income Structure during the 1980’s: A Quantile Regression Approach,” *Investigaciones Económicas*, vol. 21(2), 253-272, 1997.

## Other Publications

“Synth: An R Package for Synthetic Control Methods in Comparative Case Studies,” with Alexis Diamond and Jens Hainmueller. *Journal of Statistical Software*, vol. 42(13), 2011.

“Difference-in-Differences Estimators.” In *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*. Palgrave Macmillan; 2nd edition, 2008.

“Implementing Matching Estimators for Average Treatment Effects in Stata,” with D. Drukker, J. Herr, and G. Imbens. *The Stata Journal*, vol. 4(3), 290-311, 2004.

Review of “Nonlinear Statistical Modeling. Proceedings of the Thirteen International Symposium in Economic Theory and Econometrics: Essays in Honor of Takeshi Amemiya. Edited by C. Hsiao, K. Morimune, and J.L. Powell,” *Journal of Economic Literature* (Book Reviews), vol. XL(1), 165-166, 2002.

“Breeding Terror,” Op-ed, *New York Post*, December 22, 2004.

## Working Papers

“When Should You Adjust Standard Errors for Clustering?” with S. Athey, G.W. Imbens, and J.M. Wooldridge, October 2017. Revise and resubmit at the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*. (Formerly titled “Clustering as a Design Problem”)

“Robust Post-Matching Inference,” with J. Spiess, January 2019. Revise and resubmit at the *Journal of the American Statistical Association*.

“Instrumental Variable Estimation with First Stage Heterogeneity,” with J. Gu and S. Shen, February 2019.

“A Penalized Synthetic Control Estimator for Disaggregated Data,” with Jérémy L’Hour, January 2019.

“Statistical Non-Significance in Empirical Economics,” December 2018.

“The Impact of the War on Drugs on Coca Production and Violence: The Case of Plan Colombia,” with M.C. Acevedo, M. Kugler, and J.F. Vargas, April 2015.

## Other Professional Activities

Associate Editor of *Econometrica*, *AER: Insights*, and *Journal of Causal Inference*.

Co-editor of the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2007-2011.

Former Associate Editor of *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, *Investigaciones Económicas*, *Moneda y Crédito*, and *Spanish Economic Review*.

Member of the the *Review of Economics and Statistics* Advisory Board.

Member of the Program Committee for the 9th World Congress of the Econometric Society (London, 2005).

Member of the Program Committee for the 10th World Congress of the Econometric Society (Shanghai, 2010).

Member of the Program Committee for the 2012 North American Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (Chicago, 2012).

Member of the Program Committee for the 2015 North American Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (Boston, 2015).

Member of the Program Committee for the 2019 Meeting of the American Economic Association (Atlanta, 2019).

Co-organizer of the 7th IZA Conference on Labor Market Policy Evaluation (Cambridge, 2011).

Consultant to the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank. Member of the Steering Committee for the evaluation of “Red de Apoyo Social – Colombia” social programs. Consultant to the Independent Evaluation Group.

Consultant to the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC).

Co-organizer (with M. Arellano) of the Madrid Conference on Evaluation of Social Policies, 2002.

Faculty Associate and Member of the Steering Committee of the Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences (IQSS) at Harvard University.

## Referee Service (selected list)

*American Economic Review*, *Biometrika*, *Econometrica*, *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, *Journal of Econometrics*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, National Science Foundation, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Review of Economics Studies*.

## Press Coverage (selected list)

*The Wall Street Journal*. “Economy Likely Won’t See Gain From War Against Terrorism,” by Gregory Ip and John D. McKinnon, Sept. 25, 2001.

*BusinessWeek*. “Will Investors Shun The US?,” by Kathleen Madigan, Oct. 1, 2001.

*Chicago Tribune*. “Economy will recover eventually, experts say,” by William Neikirk, Nov9, 2001.

CNNfn Television. *Dolans Unscripted*. Interview. Nov. 18, 2004.

*The Times* (London, UK). “Basque Country Pays for ETA’s Terror,” by Graham Keeley, May 31, 2006.

*Chicago Tribune*. “Sept. 11 shadow lingers over downtown rentals,” by Susan Dienes-house, Sept. 13, 2006.

*The Washington Post*. “5 Myths about who becomes a terrorist,” by Jessica Stern, Jan. 10, 2010.

*The Christian Science Monitor*. “The New Economy Moscow subway explosions: a blip of terrorism or long-term economic drag?” by Laurent Belsie, Mar. 29, 2010.

*The New York Times*. “The Opt-Out Solution,” by Tina Rosenberg, Nov. 1, 2010 (online edition).

*The Washington Post (Wonkblog)*. “Seriously, here’s one amazing math trick to learn what can’t be known,” by Jeff Guo, Oct. 10, 2015.

*The Wall Street Journal (Real Time Economics)*. “How an Analysis of Basque Terrorism Helps Economists Understand Brexit,” by Jason Douglas, Nov. 7, 2018.