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MIT PLACEMENT OFFICER

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MIT PLACEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

Mrs. Shannon Robinson
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DOCTORAL STUDIES

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)
 PhD, Economics, Expected completion June 2026
 DISSERTATION: "Essays in Education Economics"

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES

Joshua Angrist
 MIT Department of Economics
 77 Massachusetts Avenue, E52-436
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Dave Donaldson
 MIT Department of Economics
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PRIOR EDUCATION

University of Chicago
 B.A. Economics, B.S. Mathematics

2018

CITIZENSHIP

USA

GENDER Male**FIELDS**

Primary Fields: Labor Economics
 Secondary Fields: Economics of Education, Urban Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

14.32/320 Econometric Data Science (Undergraduate/Masters)
 Teaching Assistant to Professor Josh Angrist

2022

RELEVANT POSITIONS

Research Assistant to Professor Simon Jäger

2021

Pre-doctoral Research Fellow to Professors Joshua Angrist and

2018-2020

Parag Pathak

Research Assistant to Professor Leonardo Bursztyn 2016-2018

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS	William T. Grant Foundation Grant (\$537,914, co-PI)	2023
	Amazon Evaluating Scholarship Impacts Gift (\$100,000, co-PI)	2023
	MIT Integrated Learning Initiative Grant (\$50,000, PI)	2022
	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship	2020-2025
	David S. Hu Undergraduate Thesis Award in Economics	2018

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	Referee: Journal of the European Economic Association	
	Service: MIT Graduate Resident Assistant	2024-2025
	MIT Economics Labor Tea Organizer	2020-2021

RESEARCH PAPERS **“Equilibrium Effects of Neighborhood Schools” (Job Market Paper)**
(with Clemence Idoux)

Many public school districts allow families to enroll in schools outside their neighborhood. At the cost of higher transportation spending, choice programs aim to decouple educational opportunity from residential geography. This paper evaluates the impact of a return to neighborhood-based assignment following Seattle’s re-introduction of neighborhood schools in 2010. We quantify the aggregate and distributional consequences of neighborhood assignment using an equilibrium model of joint residential and enrollment choices. Residential relocation responses limit the welfare costs of neighborhood assignment, reducing aggregate losses by roughly half. Lower housing costs fully offset welfare losses from restricted choice for low-income renters. Neighborhood assignment does not increase racial segregation or reduce the quality of schools attended by low-income families.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS **“The Cost of Choice: Public School Choice and Segregation”**

Public school choice policies are often promoted as tools for integration, yet their effects on segregation are strongly debated. This project combines theory and evidence to show that choice can deepen segregation even when families prefer the same schools. Using a stylized model of residential and school choice I show that when attending a non-neighborhood school carries a cost, choice can exacerbate segregation despite uniform preferences. I corroborate this prediction using administrative student data on applications and enrollments from Seattle and New York City. In both cities, white and Asian families disproportionately opt out of neighborhood schools in areas zoned to predominantly minority schools. Counterfactual analysis suggests that a return to neighborhood assignment would integrate elementary schools in both cities. Leveraging variation across New York City’s 32 community school districts, I demonstrate that the effect of choice on segregation turns on the spatial configuration of residential segregation: choice integrates schools only in

districts where minority and majority households live in close geographic proximity.

“Private Scholarships: Access and Impact”

(with Joshua Angrist, Maggie Liu, Jack Mountjoy, and Andrew Whitten)

Private scholarship programs are a substantial source of college financial aid, but the impacts of these programs have not been rigorously evaluated. This project evaluates the impacts of over 100 unique programs that collectively awarded a total of over a quarter of a billion dollars through Scholarship America, the nation’s largest distributor of private scholarships. To identify causal impacts, we leverage detailed data on scholarship applications and qualification cutoffs used by Scholarship America to assign awards to applicants. By linking applicants to administrative data on college enrollments and tax returns, this work will provide the first large-scale causal evidence on whether private scholarships effectively expand college opportunity and economic mobility.