

ALBERTO ABADIE

Office Address

Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Department of Economics
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Building E52, Room 546
Cambridge, MA 02142

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Academic Positions

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY Cambridge, MA
Professor of Economics, 2016-present
IDSS Associate Director, 2016-2024

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

Non-Academic Positions

AMAZON.COM, INC. Seattle, WA
Academic Research Consultant, 2020-present

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
B.A. in Economics, 1987-1992

Bilbao, Spain

Specialization Areas: Mathematical Economics and Econometrics.

Honors, Awards, and Research Funding

Elected Member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, 2022.

Elected Fellow of the Econometric Society, 2016.

ONR grant N00014-24-1-2687, MURI: Evaluating, Predicting, Optimizing, and Monitoring Interventions in Large Networked Systems, 2024-2027.

NSF grant SES-1756692, “A General Synthetic Control Framework of Estimation and Inference,” 2018-2023.

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.

Amazon.com research gift, 2022.

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

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

“Synthetic Controls for Experimental Design,” with J. Zhao. Accepted for publication at *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2026.

“Synthetic Controls in Action,” with J. Vives-i-Bastida. In: Chernozhukov V., Hörner J., La Ferrara E., Werning I., eds. *Advances in Economics and Econometrics: Twelfth World Congress. Econometric Society Monographs*. Cambridge University Press; 195-224, 2026.

“Instrumental Variable Estimation with First Stage Heterogeneity,” with J. Gu and S. Shen. *Journal of Econometrics*, 240(2), 2024.

- “When Should You Adjust Standard Errors for Clustering?” with S. Athey, G. Imbens, and J.M. Wooldridge. *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 138(1), 1-35, 2023. (Lead article.)
- “Robust Post-Matching Inference,” with J. Spiess. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 117(538), 983-995, 2022.
- “A Penalized Synthetic Control Estimator for Disaggregated Data,” with J. L’Hour. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 116(536), 1817-1834, 2021.
- “Using Synthetic Controls: Feasibility, Data Requirements, and Methodological Aspects,” *Journal of Economic Literature*, 59(2), 391-425, 2021.
- “Sampling-based *vs.* Design-based Uncertainty in Regression Analysis,” with S. Athey, G. Imbens, and J.M. Wooldridge. *Econometrica*, 88(1), 265-296, 2020.
- “Statistical Non-Significance in Empirical Economics,” *American Economic Review: Insights*, 2(2): 193-208, 2020.
- “Choosing among Regularized Estimators in Empirical Economics: The Risk of Machine Learning,” with M. Kasy. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 101(5), 743-762, 2019.
- “Endogenous Stratification in Randomized Experiments,” with M. Chingos and M. West. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 100(4), 567-580, 2018.
- “Econometric Methods for Program Evaluation,” with M. Cattaneo. *Annual Review of Economics*, 10(1), 465-503, 2018.
- “Matching on the Estimated Propensity Score,” with G. Imbens. *Econometrica*, 84(2), 781-807, 2016.
- “Comparative Politics and the Synthetic Control Method,” with A. Diamond and J. Hainmueller. *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(2), 495-510, 2015.
- “Inference for Misspecified Models with Fixed Regressors,” with G. Imbens and F. Zheng. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 109(508), 1602-1614, 2014.
- “A Martingale Representation for Matching Estimators,” with G. Imbens. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 107(498), 833-843, 2012.
- “Bias Corrected Matching Estimators for Average Treatment Effects,” with G. Imbens. *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, 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*, 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*, 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*, 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*, 64, 451-463, 2008.
- “Terrorism and the World Economy,” with J. Gardeazabal. *European Economic Review*, 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*, 25, 599-620, 2006. (Lead Article.)
- “Poverty, Political Freedom, and the Roots of Terrorism.” *American Economic Review* (Papers and Proceedings), 96(2), 50-56, 2006.
- “Large Sample Properties of Matching Estimators for Average Treatment Effects,” with G. Imbens. *Econometrica*, 74(1), 235-267, 2006.
- “Semiparametric Difference-in-Differences Estimators,” *Review of Economic Studies*, 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*, 93(1), 113-132, 2003.
- “Semiparametric Instrumental Variable Estimation of Treatment Response Models,” *Journal of Econometrics*, 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*, 70(1), 91-117, 2002.
- “Bootstrap Tests for Distributional Treatment Effects in Instrumental Variable Models,” *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 97, 284-292, 2002.
- “Changes in Spanish Labor Income Structure during the 1980’s: A Quantile Regression Approach,” *Investigaciones Económicas*, 21(2), 253-272, 1997.

Other Publications

- “Introduction to the Special Section on Synthetic Control Methods,” with M. Cattaneo. *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 116(536), 1713-1715, 2021.
- “Synth: An R Package for Synthetic Control Methods in Comparative Case Studies,” with A. Diamond and J. Hainmueller. *Journal of Statistical Software*, 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*, 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), *XL*(1), 165-166, 2002.
- “Breeding Terror,” Op-ed, *New York Post*, December 22, 2004.

Active Working Papers

- “Estimating the Value of Evidence-Based Decision Making,” with A. Agarwal, G. Imbens, S. Jia, J. McQueen, S. Stephanians, and S. Torres, February 2026.
- “Time-Aware Synthetic Control,” with S. Rho, C. Illick, S. Narasipura, D. Hsu, and V. Misra, January 2026.
- “Doubly Robust Inference in Causal Latent Factor Models,” with A. Agarwal, R. Dwivedi, and A. Shah, January 2026.
- “Harvesting Differences-in-Differences and Event-Study Evidence,” with J. Angrist, B. Frandsen, and J.S. Pischke, December 2025.
- “Unbiased Regression-Adjusted Estimation of Average Treatment Effects in Randomized Controlled Trials,” with M. Ghadiri, A. Jadbabaie, and M. JafariNodeh, November 2025.
- “Efficiently Learning Synthetic Control Models for High-dimensional Disaggregated Data,” with Y. Shen and R. Song, October 2025.
- “A Causal Inference Framework for Data-Rich Environments,” with A. Agarwal and D. Shah, February 2023.

Other Professional Activities

Associate Editor of *Journal of Causal Inference*.

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

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

Guest editor of *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, 2021.

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 2022 Synthetic Controls Conference (Princeton, 2022).

Organizer of 2019 Synthetic Controls Conference (Cambridge, 2019).

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

Organizer of Madrid Policy Evaluation Conference. 2002.

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.