MELINDA PETRE

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Dartmouth College
Department of Economics

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EXPERIENCE

Senior Lecturer of Economics — July 2025-present
Dartmouth Economic Research Scholars (DERs) Program Coordinator — July 2025-present
Lecturer of Economics — July 2019-June 2025
Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH
Courses Taught: The Price System: Analysis, Problems and Polices; Microeconomics; Topics in Public Economics

Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics
Williams College, Williamstown, MA — July 2018-June 2019

IES Postdoctoral Research Fellow
University of California, Irvine, School of Education — July 2015-June 2018

Instructor
University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Economics — July 2017-June 2018

National Poverty Fellow
University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty, Office of Planning, Research and Evaluation, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services
June 2014-July 2015

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, University of Texas at Austin — May 2014
Dissertation: Essays on the Impact of Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skills on Labor Market Outcomes
Committee Chair: Professor Sandra E. Black
M.S. Economics, University of Texas at Austin — May 2011
B.A. Mathematics & Statistics and Economics, Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA — May 2009

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Labor Economics, Economics of Education

PUBLISHED PAPERS

Petre, M. (2019). "Contributions of Skills to the Racial Wage Gap," *Journal of Human Capital.* 13(3): 479-518.
Petre, M. (2018). "Are Employers Omniscient? Employer Learning About Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skills." *Industrial Relations.* 57(3): 323-360.

WORKING PAPERS

Updated: August 20, 2025

"Funding, Investment, and Wealth Equalization Across Texas Public School Districts," with Parth Venkat, under review.
"The Impact of Mass Layoffs on Community College Enrollment: Evidence from the Great Recession," reject and resubmit, under review.

WORK IN PROGRESS

"Community Based Fitness and Health Outcomes" with Anahita Kodali.
"The Spillover Effects of Access to Healthcare: Evidence from the Medicaid Expansion" with Claire Kardesch, Elizabeth Laurencio, Lily Steckel, and Sarah Wolfolds.
"The Impact of Local Racially Motivated Violence on Students" with Alexis Reaves.
"Investment in Higher Quality PE Teachers" with Helen Liu and Naomi Valdez.
"Impact of Wildfires on Student Outcomes" with Patrick Gillis and Grace Lu.
"Technology and Student Outcomes: Evidence from Technology Grants" with Yizhen Zhen and Jason Luo.
"Can Smaller Classes Reduce Racial Achievement Gaps? Lessons from the LAUSD Desegregation Plan," with Ashley Harlow and Emily Penner.
"Understanding College Student Responses to Economic Shocks: Evidence from Texas."

POLICY BRIEFS

"Understanding College Student Responses to Economic Shocks: Evidence from Texas," forthcoming, the Texas Education Research Center

GRANTS

#201800053, Spencer Foundation Small Research Grant, "Understanding College Student Responses to Economic Shocks." CO-PI (Greg Duncan, PI) 09/2017-09/2019

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Richard Worley Endowed Fellowship in Economics Fall 2009-Spring 2011

PRESENTATIONS

2020: Norwich University Center for Global Resilience and Security Panel (Employment and Economics in Vermont)

2019: UC Irvine Economics

2018: Williams College

2017: SUNY Cortland, Marzano Research

2016: UC Davis, Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, University of Texas at Austin Labor Lunch

2015: University of Wisconsin Institute for Research on Poverty, UC Irvine School of Education, University of Oklahoma Department of Economics

CONFERENCES

2016: Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) International, European Society of Population Economics (ESPE), Western Economics Association (WEAI) Committee for the Status of Women in the Economics Profession (CSWEP) Session, European Association of Labor Economists (EALE), APPAM, Institute of Education Sciences (IES) PI Meeting

2015: Eastern Economics Association (EEA), Society of Labor Economists/European Association of Labor Economists (SOLE/EALE) (Poster), ESPE, APPAM, Southern Economics Association (SEA)

2013: STATA Texas Empirical Micro (Poster)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Dartmouth College	
The Price System: Analysis, Problems and Policies	Fall 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023 Winter 2022 Spring 2024, 2025
The Price System: Analysis, Problems and Polices, Online Version	Spring 2020, 2021 Fall 2020
Microeconomics	Winter 2020, 2023, 2024 Summer 2021, 2022 Fall 2024, 2025 Winter 2025
Microeconomics, Online Version	Summer 2020, Winter 2021
Topics in Public Economics	Winter 2020, Winter 2022
Instructor, Williams College	
Principles of Microeconomics	Fall 2018, Spring 2019
Economics of Education	Fall 2018
Econometrics	Spring 2019
Instructor, University of California, Los Angeles, Department of Economics	
Intermediate Microeconomics	Fall 2017
Labor Economics	Fall 2017, Winter 2018
Topics in Labor Economics	Winter 2018
Economics of Health and Healthcare	Spring 2018
Topics in Taxation and Social Insurance	Spring 2018
Instructor, University of Texas at Austin, Department of Economics	
Introduction to Macroeconomics	Summer 2012
Introduction to Microeconomics	Fall 2012, Summer 2013
Instructor, University of Texas at Austin, University Extension	
Introduction to Economics	Spring 2013, Summer 2013
Teaching Assistant, University of Texas at Austin, Department of Economics	
Introduction to Microeconomics	Fall 2009
Introduction to Macroeconomics, Head TA	Spring 2010
Economic Statistics, Head TA	Summer 2010-Fall 2011
Econometrics	Spring 2012, 2013, Fall 2013

Graduate Labor II	Spring 2014

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND ACTIVITIES

Referee for: *The Journal of Human Resources, Labour Economics, AERA Open*	
Swarthmore College Honors Examiner,	Econometrics 2015
	Public Finance 2019
AEA EDUCATE Workshop: Participant	Winter 2021
AEA EDUCATE Alumni Workshops: Participant	Summer 2024-present

UNDERGRADUATE MENTORSHIP

Dartmouth Economic Research Scholars (DERS) Mentorship:	
Julia Abbott	Spring 2025-present
Luke Wisniewski	Spring 2024-present
Toni Fabian and Vynateya Purimetla	Spring 2023-Spring 2025
Tejas (TJ) Parekh	Spring 2022-Spring 2024
Naomi Valdez and Helen Liu	Spring 2021-Spring 2023
Independent Study Supervisor:	
Toni Fabian	Fall 2024, Winter 2025
Tejas Parekh	Fall 2023, Winter 2024
Nathan Pucci	Fall 2020, Fall 2021
Thesis Advising:	
Supervisor: Toni Fabian	Spring 2025
Committee Member: Francina Kolluri	Spring 2025
Supervisor: Tejas (TJ) Parekh	Spring 2024
Supervisor: Nathan Pucci	Spring 2022
Committee Member: Claire McMahon	Spring 2022

NON-ECONOMICS PUBLICATIONS

Petre, M. (2008) "Comparison of Outputs for Variable Combinations Used in Cluster Analysis on Polarimetric Imagery," Army Research Laboratory Technical Report, No. 4364.

Videen, G., A. Wetmore, Y. Shkuratov, and M. Petre (2005). "Analytic description of enhanced backscattering and negative polarization from a cloud of dipoles." *Journal of Quantitative Spectroscopy & Radiative Transfer*, 100: 406-414.

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

Student Intern, US Army Research Lab, Computer Information Science Directorate (CISD), Battlefield Environment Division	June 2004-May 2009

PERSONAL INFORMATION

U.S. Citizen

Updated: August 20, 2025