

# Lily Fesler

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- EDUCATION** **Stanford University**, Stanford, CA  
PhD Candidate, Economics of Education (expected: June 2020)  
MA, Economics (2018)  
*Committee:* Thomas Dee, Eric Bettinger, sean reardon & Justin Grimmer
- Wesleyan University**, Middletown, CT  
BA, Economics (2011)
- FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS** **National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship** (2019-20)  
[\$27,500] (35 recipients out of 420 applicants)  
**Stanford Graduate Fellowship** (2015-20) [\$120,000/3 years]  
**Summer Institute in Computational Social Science**, Duke (2018) [\$14,816]  
(30 recipients out of 220 applicants)  
**SPICE Grant for Intellectual Community Enhancement**, Stanford (2018-19) [\$3,000]  
**Outstanding Article Award**, Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness (2017)  
**Predoctoral Training Program in Quantitative Education Policy Analysis**  
(2016-18) [\$60,000/2 years]  
**Karr Family Fellowship**, Stanford University (2017-18) [\$4,800]
- PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS** **Fesler, L.**, Dee, T., Baker, R., & Evans, B. (Forthcoming). "Text as Data Methods for Education Research." *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*.  
Clements, D., Sarama, J., Layzer, C., Unlu, F., Germeroth, C. & **Fesler, L.** (Forthcoming). "Effects on Mathematics and Executive Function of a Mathematics and Play Intervention Versus Mathematics Alone." *Journal for Research in Mathematics Education*.  
Edmunds, J., Unlu, F., Glennie, E., Bernstein, L., **Fesler, L.**, Furey, J. & Arshavsky, N. (2017). "Smoothing the Transition to Postsecondary Education: The Impact of the Early College Model." *Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness*, 10(2), 297-325. [*Winner of JREE's Outstanding Article Award.*]
- CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS** **Fesler, L.** & Pender, M. "Impacts of Promise Programs on Enrollment, Graduation and Debt."
  - Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Denver, CO. November 2019.
  - PromiseNet, Berkeley, CA. November 2019.**Fesler, L.**, Dee, T., Baker, R. & Evans, B. "Language and Gender Equity in Online Classrooms."
  - American Educational Research Association, Toronto, ON. April 2019.
  - Association for Education Finance and Policy, Portland, OR. March 2018.**Fesler, L.** "Understanding Student Questions about the College Application Process to Improve Program Design."
  - Association for Education Finance and Policy, Kansas City, MO. March 2019.
  - Society for Research in Educational Effectiveness. March 2019.

Bello-Pardo, E., **Fesler, L.**, Gallagher, N. Law, T., & Pozzana, I. "Medium is the Message? Understanding the Effects of Different Communication Mediums on Political Behavior and Public Opinion in the Digital Age." Midwest Political Science Association. April 2019.

Dee, T. & **Fesler, L.** "Can Machine Learning Improve Early Warning Indicators for High School Dropouts?" Poster Presentation at Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington, DC. November 2018.

Bettinger, E., **Fesler, L.**, Fox, L., Loeb, S., & Taylor, E. "Instruction in Virtual Classrooms: How Faculty Affect Student Performance in Online College Classes."

- Association for Education Finance and Policy, Washington, DC. March 2017.
- Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Washington, DC. March 2017.

Unlu, F., **Fesler, L.**, Edmunds, J., Schwartz, G. & Glennie, B. "Design Parameters for Commonly Used Outcome Measures in Research on High Schools and Postsecondary Institutions." Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Albuquerque, NM. November 2014.

Unlu, F., Edmunds, J.A., **Fesler, L.**, & Glennie, E. "Costs and Benefits of the Early College High School Model." Association for Education Finance and Policy, San Antonio, TX. March 2014.

Unlu, F., Smith, A., **Fesler, L.**, Bernstein, L., & Edmunds, J. "Structural Equation Modeling and Principal Stratification for Mediation Analysis." Welfare Research and Evaluation Conference, Washington, DC. May 2013.

Edmunds, J. A., Unlu, F., Smith, A. V., **Fesler, L.**, Glennie, E., & Bernstein, L. "The Impact of Early College High Schools on Low-Income Students."

- Society for Research on Educational Effectiveness, Washington, DC. March 2014.
- American Educational Research Association Conference, Washington, DC. April 2013.

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**College Board**, Remote Position, *Policy Research Intern* (2017-present)

- Using supervised machine learning to analyze how remote college counselors can support 15,000 low- and middle-income high school seniors through a text messaging program
- Using synthetic control methods to study the causal effect of living in a school district that provides tuition subsidies on college enrollment and graduation

**Stanford Graduate School of Education**, *Research Assistant* (2015-present)

- Developed and implemented a survey of juniors in Atlanta Public Schools to study how student preferences for college characteristics shape students' choice sets
- Analyzed how San Francisco Unified School District's (SFUSD's) early warning indicator system affected student graduation rates (using a regression discontinuity design) and presented findings to 120 participants at an annual partnership meeting
- Applied supervised machine learning methods to improve SFUSD's early warning indicator system
- Analyzed a field experiment to determine how participants in Massive Open Online Courses provide different types of responses when interacting with posters they think are male versus female (using text-as-data methods)

**Abt Associates – Social and Economic Policy Division**, Cambridge, MA (2012-2015)  
*Programmer Analyst, Analyst, and Associate Analyst*

- Evaluated the impacts of Early College High Schools on high school graduation and college enrollment (won the Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness' outstanding article award for this work)
- Led and implemented survey sample selection process (using stratified random sampling) for a statewide survey in Massachusetts to understand how teachers experienced a new evaluation system
- Used Mahalanobis distance matching to estimate the impact of Citizen Schools
- Evaluated the Building Blocks pre-k mathematics curriculum (paper forthcoming in the Journal for Research in Mathematics Education)

**Compass Lexecon**, Boston, MA, *Analyst* (2011-2012)

Conducted economic analysis in SAS and Stata to support Joseph P. Kalt's expert testimony in international arbitration cases.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Stanford Graduate School of Education

**Causal Inference in Quantitative Educational and Social Science Research**,  
*Teaching Assistant* (2018) with Thomas Dee (evaluations = 4.9/5.0)

**Workshops**, *Instructor* (2017 – 2019)

Taught workshops on text-as-data methods and LaTeX.

**Math Camp**, *Instructor* (2017)

Taught five three-hour classes to help incoming doctoral students review/learn pre-calculus, calculus, and linear algebra, as well as learn Stata.

**Applied Quasi-Experimental Research in Education**, *Teaching Assistant* (2017) with Sean Reardon (evaluations = 4.4/5.0)

**Statistical Analysis in Education: Regression**, *Teaching Assistant* (2017) with Michelle Reininger (evaluations = 4.4/5.0)

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

**Discussant**: Text as Data Conference, invited by Justin Grimmer (2019)

### Stanford University

**Computational Text Analysis in the Social Sciences**, *President* (2017-2019):

- Initiated and led a group for faculty, postdocs, students and staff to share their research and share their computational expertise
- Brought together a leadership team that represented four academic disciplines and set up a collaboration with staff data scientists at Stanford
- Secured funding for the group from a Stanford institute and from a competitive Stanford grant and built the group to over 100 members

**Education Policy Search Committee**, *Member* (2018-19)

**Institute for Research in the Social Sciences**, *Liaison for the Graduate School of Education* (2018-19)

**GSE Mentor** (2016-present): Serve as a mentor for new graduate students.

**Graduate School of Education (GSE) Student Guild**, *Academic Chair* (2017-2018): Collaborate with students to build an academic community by organizing academic workshops, dialogues, and other initiatives.

**Student-Led Workshops in Methods and Strategies, Organizer (2015-2018):**  
Organize workshops on various analysis methods and on navigating graduate school.

**Stanford Graduate Life Office, Community Associate (2016-18)**  
Serve as a resource and plan events for graduate students living in studio apartments on campus.

**Reviewer:** Journal of Research on Educational Effectiveness, American Educational Research Journal, Journal of Human Capital

**SKILLS**

**Programming Languages:** R (advanced), Stata (advanced), Python (intermediate), SAS (intermediate), SQL (intermediate), C++ (beginner), Java (beginner)

**Foreign Languages:** Spanish (proficient)