C Adam Pfander

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Summary

I am an economist, statistician, and data scientist with 10+ years applying causal inference, forecasting, and simulation to real-world problems in academia and high-stakes litigation. Projects have ranged from estimating racial disparities in police use of force to labor impacts of U.S. trade policy, using a variety of reduced-form and structural methods. Comfortable owning end-to-end work, including data ingestion, model design, empirical estimation/validation, and communicating results to a variety of technical and non-technical audiences.

Skills

Software	R, Stata, SAS, Matlab, Python, SQL, QGIS, Gurobi, LaTeX
Statistics	regression/GLMs, discrete choice models, time-series analysis, causal inference
Optimization	convex optimization, gradient and simplex methods, Monte Carlo simulations
Tools	Git, Linux/Bash
Languages	English (native), German (working proficiency)

Education

2019 - 2024 PhD (Economics) at **University of Colorado, Boulder**
Research Fields: International Trade, Industrial Organization, Economic History
Dissertation Title: "Three Chapters on Market Concentration in Markets for Mobility"
Awards and Distinctions: Graduate Award for Public Policy Research (October, 2022); Award for Best Graduate Instructor (October, 2023)

2012- 2016 Bachelor's Degree at **Hamilton College** (GPA: 3.67/4.0)
Majors: Economics; *Minors*: Mathematics and Government
Thesis Title: "Currency Crises & Bank Flows: An Exploration of Contagion Effects"
Awards and Distinctions: *cum laude* and departmental honors; The Senior Prize in Economics for best economics thesis; Riffle Award for best male athlete in the graduating class

Work Experience

The Brattle Group, Associate July 2024 - present
- Lead teams of 10+ analysts and other associates to deliver econometric and simulation analyses for high-stakes litigation; owned modeling design, implementation, and client-facing delivery under tight deadlines and finite budget.
- Designed the firm's coding and R training for Summer 2025; mandatory for all new consultants.

University of Colorado, Boulder, Research Assistant May 2020 - July 2024
- Built reproducible data pipelines (SAS/Stata/R + Bash) for restricted-access Census microdata; produced estimates of employment/earnings impacts of U.S. trade policy; ideated and drafted exhibits to publish in reports and presentations. Results of this workstream led to three distinct academic papers.
- For this project, I have maintained **Special Sworn Status** with the US Census Bureau since 2021.

University of Colorado, Boulder, Teaching Assistant August 2019 - May 2020
- Teaching assistant for ECON 2010: Principles of Microeconomics. Prepared and gave recitations; acted as primary point of contact between students and the professor; drafted and proctored exams. Helped manage transition to remote instruction during the Pandemic.

The Brattle Group, Research Analyst July 2017 - July 2019

– Designed and implemented data ingestion methods for numerous case teams; interfaced directly with expert and client to plan and implement statistical models of consumer and firm behavior; independently planned and implemented model validation exercises, including unit-tests, full replications, and robustness checks.

– Authored and maintained an R module and Shiny App that modeled freight flows on the North American rail network (routing and counterfactual simulation) used in rate disputes and merger analysis.

EdLabs, Harvard University, Pre-Doctoral Fellow June 2016 - June 2017

– Assisted in education policy evaluations under the direction of Professor Roland Fryer.

– Primary responsibilities include data cleaning, management, and statistical analysis in Stata, preparation of exhibits to present findings, and working with program managers to identify appropriate controls.

Selected Consulting Engagements

Note that not all of my engagements are public. Please contact me for the most up-to-date list.

- Managed a team investigating the the impact of state regulations on the airline industry. Designed statistical models to estimate effects exploiting quasi-experimental variation; designed robustness tests.
- Supported Professor Joseph Stiglitz in testimony establishing Apple's liability for monopolizing the distribution of apps and in-app content on iOS devices.
- Generated feasible routes for hundreds of thousands of traffic records; result featured into financial model for fixed cost allocation.
- Authored R scripts that parsed over one million mortgage docs to verify sufficient assets and income.
- Built valuation model for a new drug that consolidated hundreds of financial and scientific reports prior to market entry.
- Supported Professor Daniel McFadden on evaluation of a damages model, which entailed estimation of demand for a defective product using both a conjoint survey and market data.

Selected Research Papers

- "Trade and the Competition for Transport: How (a Lack of) Competition for Freight Transport Affects Domestic Trade Outcomes" *Job Market Paper*. Available here.
  - Built a general equilibrium model of the transportation sector with a profit-maximizing intermediary.
  - Estimated the geographic distribution of "freight market power" using econometric analysis (OLS, IV, and non-linear regression).
  - Demonstrated that market power primarily impacts remote/rural areas, absorbing most of the gains from trade but also buffering exogenous trade shocks.
- "Railroad Barons and American Economic Growth: A Modified Market Access Approach" *Dissertation Chapter*. Available here.
  - Exploiting the same framework as in my job market paper, showed that American economic growth was severely hampered by the exercise of market power in the transportation sector.
- "Between-Establishment Mobility within Firms by U.S. Workers: Scope, Prevalence, and Effects on Worker Earnings" with Jeronimo Carballo and Richard Mansfield. 2nd Round Revise and Resubmit, *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*. Working Paper available here.