

Matthew Goodkin-Gold

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Education

Harvard University (Graduate School) – Cambridge, MA
PhD, Economics

Expected May 2026

Harvard University (Undergraduate) – Cambridge, MA

May 2019

A.B., Magna Cum Laude with Highest Honors,
Economics with secondary in Mathematical Sciences. GPA 3.92. Phi Beta Kappa.

Experience

Harvard University Department of Economics – Cambridge, MA

Sep 2016 – Current

Research Assistant to Professor Michael Kremer

- Contribute, including as coauthor, to several research papers in economics
- Determine data analysis strategy, code data analysis, construct theoretical mathematical models, code and analyze simulations, and write/edit for multiple projects.
- Details of contributions in “papers” section.

Precision Agriculture for Development – Nairobi/Kakamega, Kenya **Summer Research Intern** June – August 2018

- Headed implementation of field research on information sharing among Kenyan farmers, managing team of experienced field researchers and designing sampling strategy for 70+ in-person interviews and focus groups
- Wrote and implemented several rounds of surveys/focus group discussions, accompanying field team for 20+ interviews/focus groups in homes of farmers across three counties

Harvard Institute of Politics Economic Policy Group – Cambridge, MA **Researcher**

Feb – May 2016

- Researched and wrote about proper implementation of vehicle-miles-traveled tax for policy paper commissioned by MA state senator

Demand Progress – Washington, DC **Campaigns Fellow**

Jun – Aug 2016

Activist organization focusing on internet rights and campaign finance reform

- Researched, drafted, and delivered petition campaign asking Judicial Conference (policy-making body of federal courts) to end corporate-funded vacations for federal judges, gathering 12,000+ signers
- Tracked and reported on metrics measuring campaign engagement and social media influence

Mixteco/Indígena Community Organizing Project -- Oxnard, CA **Intern**

Jan – Aug 2015

Nonprofit dedicated to aiding, organizing and empowering Mixteco immigrant community

- Managed and streamlined use of database of 5,000 clients, donors, and volunteers
- Managed donor outreach and logistics planning for fundraiser, which raised more than \$46,000
- Wrote as advocate on behalf of organization in Spanish and English

Papers Contributed To

“There’s No Place Like Home: Theory and Evidence on Politician Preferences and Decentralization”

Vivian Hoffmann, Pamela Jakiela, Michael Kremer, Ryan Sheely, and Matthew Goodkin-Gold, in progress

Coauthor

- Construct mathematical model of politician home bias in provision of local public goods
- Formulate empirical specification to estimate key model parameters based on field experiment on politician preferences in Kenya
- Help determine analysis strategy for and code analysis of follow-up survey data
- Oversee coding and analysis of simulation of theoretical model based on empirical data
- Write sections of paper

“Borrowing Requirements, Credit Access, and Adverse Selection: Evidence from Kenya”

William Jack, Michael Kremer, Joost de Laat and Tavneet Suri, in progress

Research Assistant

- Completed proofs for mathematical model of asset collateralized loans in developing world
- Coded simulation of borrower behavior
- Edited sections of paper

“Preventives Versus Treatments Redux”

Chris Snyder and Michael Kremer, *Review of Industrial Organization* (August 2018)

Research Assistant

- Edited/verified proofs
- Provided comments

Honors and Awards

- **Hoopes Prize for Outstanding Research** May 2019
Awarded Hoopes Prize—given annually to the ~60 Harvard undergraduates who have produced the most outstanding independent research—for my senior thesis.
- **Harvard BLISS Social Science Research Fellow** Jun – Aug 2017
One of fifteen selected for competitive summer research fellowship

Skills

Stata: intermediate; **Matlab:** basic/intermediate; **Python:** basic; **Java:** basic; Spanish: conversational; **LaTeX:** intermediate; **Non-Profit CRMs:** intermediate in ActionKit and CiviCRM

Improv 10+ years of improv comedy experience 2005 – Current

- Accepted into, trained and performed in Second City Hollywood Conservatory Program
- Perform with Harvard’s Immediate Gratification Players, including “player of the year shows” performing alongside Nick Offerman (*Parks & Rec*) and Colin Mochrie (*Whose Line is it Anyway?*)