

# MARCELLA ALSAN

---

Kennedy School of Government  
Harvard University  
marcella\_alsan@hks.harvard.edu

## Faculty Positions

2019 – Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School  
2019 – Visiting Professor, UCSB  
2018 – Visiting Scholar Becker Friedman Institute, University of Chicago  
2018 – Associate Professor of Medicine (with tenure), Stanford University  
– Associate Professor, by courtesy, Economics  
– Associate Professor, by courtesy, Health Research and Policy  
2013 – Assistant Professor of Medicine, Stanford University

## Current Professional Activities and Services

2020 – Board of Editors, *AEJ Policy*  
2020 – Advisory Board, Social Science, *Science*  
2020 – Co-Editor, *Journal of Health Economics*  
2020 – Research Associate NBER  
– Development of the American Economy  
– Children, Political Economy  
– Development Economics, Health Care  
2020 – Arrow Award Committee  
2019 – Co-Director, Health Care Delivery Initiative JPAL North America

## Education

2013 – Fellowship in Infectious Diseases, Partners, BWH/MGH  
2012 – PhD in Economics, Harvard University  
2007 – Global Health Equity Residency in Internal Medicine, BWH  
2005 – MD, Loyola University *magna cum laude*  
2005 – MPH, Harvard School of Public Health  
2000 – Quest Volunteer, RJM Tecolote Orphanage, MX  
1999 – BA in Cognitive Neuroscience, Harvard College *magna cum laude*

## Working Papers

- Civil Liberties in Times of Crisis (with Luca Bragheri, Sarah Eichmeyer Joyce Kim, Stefanie Stantcheva and David Yang) NBER Working Paper No. 27972
- Messages on COVID-19 Prevention in India Increased Symptoms Reporting and Adherence to Preventive Behaviors Among 25 Million Recipients with Similar Effects on Non-recipient Members of Their Communities (with Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, Arun Chandrashekar, Ben Olken, Emily Breza, Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham) NBER Working Paper No. 27496
- Fear and the Safety Net: Evidence from Secure Communities (with Crystal Yang) NBER Working Paper No. 24731 (under review)
- Technological Progress and Health Convergence: The Case of Penicillin in Post-War Italy (with Vincenzo Atella, Jay Bhattacharya, Valentina Conti, Iván Mejía-Guevara, Grant Miller) NBER Working Paper No. 25541 → (forthcoming *Demography*)
- Understanding the Success of the Know Nothing Party in Massachusetts (with Katherine Eriksson and Greg Niemesh) NBER Working Paper No. 28078

## Work in Progress

- Improving Take-up of Flu Vaccination and Assessing Readiness for COVID Vaccination among African-American Men (with Sarah Eichmeyer)
- The Effect of Accreditation of Healthcare in Jails on Healthcare Processes and Inmate Health Outcomes (with Crystal Yang)
- Identifying and Addressing Structural Racism (with Crystal Yang and Damon Jones)

## Publications in Economics

- Does Diversity Matter for Health? Experimental Evidence from Oakland (with Owen Garrick and Grant Graziani) NBER Working Paper No. 24787  
→ *American Economic Review*, 2019 109:12, 4071-4111. (lead article)
- Religion and Sanitation Practices (with Anjali Adukia, Kim Babiarz, Lea Prince and Jeremy Goldhaber-Fiebert)  
→ *World Bank Economic Review* 2019, 116
- Watersheds in Child Mortality: The Role of Effective Water and Sewerage Infrastructure (with Claudia Goldin).  
→ NBER Working Paper No. 21263 *Journal of Political Economy*, 2019 127:2, 586-638
- Tuskegee and the Health of Black Men (with Marianne Wanamaker).  
→ NBER Working Paper No. 22323 *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2018 133(1): 407-455  
→ IPUMS Research Award and iHEA Arrow Award for best paper in Health Economics
- The Effect of the TseTse Fly on African Development  
→ *American Economic Review*, 2015 105(1): 382-410.
- Girls' Education and HIV Risk: Evidence from Uganda (with David Cutler).  
→ NBER Working Paper No. 16171 *Journal of Health Economics* 2013, 32(5): 863-872.
- The Effect of Population Health on Foreign Direct Investment Inflows to Low- and Middle-Income Countries (with David E. Bloom and David Canning).  
→ NBER Working Paper No. 10596 *World Development* 2006, 34(4): 613-630.

## Publications in Infectious Disease

- Comparison of Knowledge and Intended Behaviors following general COVID-19 Public Health Messages and Messages Tailored for African American and Latinx Communities: A Randomized Controlled Trial (with Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, Arun Chandrashekar, Fatima Stanford, Ben Olken, Emily Breza, Carlos Torres, Lucy Ogbu-Nwobodo, Anirudh Sankar, Pierre-Luc Vautrey, Sarah Eichmeyer and Paul Goldsmith-Pinkham)  
→ *Annals of Internal Medicine* [Epub ahead of print 21 December 2020]. doi:10.7326/M20-6141
- Disparities in COVID-19 Reported Incidence, Knowledge, and Behavior (with David Cutler, Stefanie Stantcheva and David Yang)  
→ *JAMA Open* 2020 3(6):e2012403 doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2020.12403.
- Plasmid-mediated antibiotic resistance among uropathogens in primigravid women: Hyderabad, India (with Nagamani Kammili, Manisha Rani, Ashley Styczynski, Madhavi Latha, Panduranga Rao Pavuluri and Vishnuvardhan Reddy)  
→ *PLOS One* 2020 15(5): e0232710.

- The Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis: Implications for Health Professionals (with Rachel Harde-  
man and Marianne Wanamaker)  
→ *Journal of General Internal Medicine* 2020 35(1):322-325.
- Sociodemographic Correlates of Medical Mistrust among African American Men Living in the East  
Bay (with Edna Idan, Anlu Xing, and Javarcia Ivory)  
→ *Journal of Health Care for the Poor and Underserved* 2020;31(1):115-127.
- Plasmid-mediated antibiotic resistance among uropathogens in primigravid women: Hyderabad, In-  
dia (with Nagamani Kammili, Manisha Rani, Ashley Styczynski, Madhavi Latha, Panduranga Rao  
Pavuluri and Vishnuvardhan Reddy)  
→ *PLOS One* 2020 15(5): e0232710.
- Typhoid conjugate vaccines: a new tool in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (with Jason  
Andrews et. al)  
→ *Lancet Infect Dis* 2019 Jan;19(1):e26-e30. doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099(18)30350-5.
- Poverty and Community-Acquired Antimicrobial Resistance with Extended-Spectrum -Lactamase-  
Producing Organisms, Hyderabad, India (with Nagamani Kammili, Jyothi Lakshmi, Anlu Xing, Afia  
Khan, Manisha Rani, Prasanthi Kolli, David A Relman, Douglas K Owens)  
→ *Emerg Infect Dis* 2018 Aug;24(8):1490-1496. doi: 10.3201/eid2408.171030.
- Evaluation of a Commitment Contract to Improve HIV Medication Adherence and Persistence (with  
John Beshears, Wendy Armstrong, Brigitte Madrian, James Choi, Mary Nguyen, Carlos del Rio,  
David Laibson and Vince Marconi)  
→ *AIDS* 2017, 31(12):1765-1769. PMID: 28514277
- Childhood Illness and the Gender Gap in Adolescent Education in Low- and Middle-Income Countries  
(with Anlu Xing, Paul Wise, Gary Darmstadt, Eran Bendavid)  
→ *Pediatrics* 2017, 140(1) e20163175; DOI: 10.1542/peds.2016-3175
- Beyond Infrastructure: Understanding Why Patients Decline Surgery in the Developing World (with  
Ben Lerman, Ngew Chia, James Brown and Sherry Wren).  
→ *Annals of Surgery* 2017, 266(6):975-980. PMID: 27849672.
- Out-of-pocket Health Expenditures and Antimicrobial Resistance in Low-income and Middle-income  
Countries: An Economic Analysis (with Lena Schoemaker, Karen Eggleston, Nagamani Kammili,  
Prasanthi Kolli, and Jay Bhattacharya).  
→ *Lancet Infectious Diseases* 2015, 15(10): 1203-1210.PMID: 266164481; PMCID: PMC4609169.
- Antibiotic Use in Cold and Flu Season and Prescribing Quality: A Retrospective Cohort Study (with  
Nancy Morden, Josh Gottlieb, Weiping Zhou and Jon Skinner).  
→ *Medical Care* 2015, 53(12):1066-1071. PMID: 26569644; PMCID: PMC4829738.
- Risk Factors for AIDS-defining Illnesses Among a Population of Poorly Adherent People Living with  
HIV/AIDS in Atlanta, GA (with James Chow, Wendy Armstrong, Carlos del Rio and Vince Marconi)  
→ *AIDS Care* 2015, 9:1-5. PMID: 25660100; PMCID: PMC4400213.
- Poverty, Global Health, and Infectious Diseases: Lessons from Haiti and Rwanda (with Michael West-  
erhaus, Michael Herce, Koji Nakashima and Paul Farmer).  
→ *Infectious Disease Clinics of North America* 2011, 25(3):611-622.PMID: 21896362; PMCID: PMC3168775

- *Candida albicans* Cervical Lymphadenitis in Patients Who Have Acute Myeloid Leukemia (with Nick Issa, Sarah Hammond, Dan Milner Jr., Dan DeAngelo and Lindsey Baden)  
→ *Clinical Lymphoma Myeloma and Leukemia* 2011, 11(4): 375-377. PMID: 21816377; PMCID: PMC4790077.
- Tularemia Presenting as a Cervical Abscess (with Harrison Lin).  
→ *Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery* 2010, 143(2): 311312.e1. PMID: 20647143; PMCID: PMC4780340.
- *Acinetobacter Baumannii*: An Emerging Pathogen (with Michael Klompas).  
→ *Journal of Clinical Outcomes Management* 2010, 17(8):363-369. PMID: 26966345; PMCID: PMC4782967

## Book Chapters

- The Economics of Womens Health and Healthcare: From Conception to Grave (with Patricia Foo, Afsan Bhadelia, Corinnah Haberland and Felicia Knaul). In Scheffler, R. (Ed.), *World Scientific Handbook on Global Health Economics and Public Policy*. 2016. World Scientific: Imperial College Press.
- The Consequences of Population Health for Economic Performance (with David E. Bloom, David Canning and Dean Jamison). In Sara B., Lucy G., and Anne M., (Ed.), *Health, Economic Development and Household Poverty: From Understanding to Action*. 2007. Oxford: Routledge.

## Invited Presentations

2021 – ASSA (1/2021) Cornell Med Grand Rounds (1/2021) University of Chicago Booth (2/2021) Brown School Public Health (2/2021) Washington St. Louis (3/2021) Harvard Economic History (3/2021) Harvard Health Economics (3/2021)

2020 – Harvard Public (4/2020), Wharton Health Economics (9/2020) Tulane Economics (9/2020) MIT Symposium (9/2020) Mass General Hospital Grand Rounds (10/2020) Princeton Economics (10/2020) London School of Economics (11/2020) NIH/NIDA Minority Health Interest Group (11/2020)

2019 – UCSB (1/2019) London School of Economics, Epstein Lecture (2/2019) Cornell (3/2019) University of Hawaii (3/2019) ASHE Econ Discussant (6/2019) CEGA-Nairobi (7/2019) Paris School of Economics (11/2019) Columbia (11/2019) Univ. of Toronto (12/2019)

2018 – Northwestern Economics (2/2018) University of British Columbia Economics (3/2018), UC Berkeley Economics (8/2018) All-UC Labor Economists Meeting (10/2018) Santa Clara University Economics (10/2018) Boston College Economics (10/2018) Brown Applied Micro Seminar (11/2018) HKS (11/2018) UCLA (12/2018) MIT Applied Micro Seminar (12/2018) IFPRI Applied Micro Seminar (12/2018)

2017 – AEA Discussant (1/2017) Highland Hospital Oakland Grand Rounds (2/2017) Dartmouth College Economics (2/2017) University of Michigan Pop Center (3/2017) Simon Fraser Economics (4/2017), UCLA Pop Center (5/2017), UC Merced Economics (5/2017), UC Berkeley Haas (4/2017), University of Colorado, Boulder Economics (10/2017), UC Irvine Economics (12/2017), UC Berkeley Demography (12/2017), UCSD Economics (12/2017)

2016 – AEA Presenter and Discussant (1/2016) IGC Cities Conference (1/2016), University of California Berkeley Pop Center (2/2016) University of Maryland Pop Center (3/2016) PACDEV (3/2015) University of Chicago, Harris (3/2016) NBER Cohort Studies (4/2016) University of Montreal Applied Economics (4/2016) University of California Davis (5/2016) UIUC Economics (12/2016)

2014-2015 – AEA Presenter (1/2014), All India Institute of Medical Science (3/2014), Gandhi Medical College and Hospital, Hyderabad (3/2014), ICCDR,B (3/2014), NBER SI DAE (7/2014), World

Bank - Quality in Healthcare in LMIC (9/2014), Google (9/2014), Northwestern Economics (10/2014), Williams College (10/2014), Stanford Demography (11/2014), Notre Dame Economics (11/2014), ID Grand Rounds, Stanford (11/2014), UCSF Medicine (11/2014), UCLA Luskin (12/2014), University of Chicago, Harris (1/2015), Harvard Economic History Seminar (2/2015), All-UC/Caltech Economic History (2/2015) Berkeley Workshop on Inequality in Health and Mortality (3/2015), Paris School of Economics (3/2015) Toulouse School of Economics (3/2015), PACDEV (3/2015) PAA - Discussant and Presenter (4/2015), Stellenbosch Economics (5/2015) NBER SI Childrens (7/2015) EHA (9/2015) Vanderbilt (9/2015) University of Copenhagen Economics (11/2015) Carnegie Mellon Economics (12/2015) University of Pennsylvania Health Policy (12/2015)

2012-2013 – Stanford Medicine (10/2012), MIT History of Poverty (11/2012), NEUDC (11/2012), Georgetown University Public Policy (11/2012), BU Health Policy (12/2012), UCLA-Anderson (1/2013), London School of Economics (1/2013), Dartmouth College (1/2013) Stanford Economic History Seminar (10/2013)

### **Courses (sole instructor unless noted)**

- 2020 – SUP 518 The Economics of Infectious Diseases
- 2020 – AP 101 Markets and Market Failures
- 2018 – The Economics of Health in Developing Countries (cross listed Econ/Med)
- 2018 – Graduate Health Economics Seminar (not sole instructor)
- 2017 – The Economics of Global Health Infectious Disease (cross listed Humbio/Med)
- 2017– Graduate Health Economics Seminar (not sole instructor)
- 2016 – The Economics of Health in Developing Countries (cross listed Econ/Med)
- 2014 – The Economics of Global Health Infectious Disease (cross listed Humbio/Med)

### **Placement (students and predocs)**

- 2014 – Samantha Madala - UCSD Medical School
- 2017 – Matt Tarduno - Berkeley Ag Resource Economics PhD Program
- 2017 – Afia Khan - University of Chicago Medical School MD/Harris Public Policy PhD Program
- 2018 – Jason Koo - Stanford Medical School
- 2019 – Muzz Shittu - Yale Medical School
- 2019 – Morgan Foy - Berkeley Haas Business Economics PhD Program
- 2020 – Akua Oduma Nyarko-Odoom - University of Virginia Medical School