Sharon G. Harrison
Professor of Economics
sh411@columbia.edu
sharongharrison.blogspot.com
unintendedconsequenceslab.com
September 2026

Address

Office: Department of Economics
Barnard College
3009 Broadway
New York, NY 10027
212-854-3333
fax: 212-854-8947

Degrees in Higher Education

Ph.D., Northwestern University, Economics, 1992-1997
Dissertation: "Indeterminacy in Models with Production Externalities: Theory and Evidence"
M.A., Northwestern University, Economics, 1995
B.S., Tufts University, magna cum laude, Mathematics and Quantitative Economics, 1985-1989

Professional Experience in Higher Education

Professor, Barnard College, April 2012-present
Visiting Professor, University of Pisa, Fall 2023
Department Chair, Barnard College, July 2011-July 2018 (on leave AY 2015-16)
Associate Professor, Barnard College, July 2006-April 2012
Assistant Professor, Barnard College, August 1997-July 2006
Instructor, Northwestern University, Part-time, Summers 1995, 1996

Academic and Professional Honors and Awards

Phi Beta Kappa, Tufts University, 1989
Barnard College Internal grant: 2003, 2009, 2011, 2017, 2019, 2021,2024

Gladys Brooks Junior Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award, Barnard College, 2004
Outstanding Referee Award, 2009, *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*

Current Membership in Professional Societies

American Economic Association

Publications in Refereed Journals

How does Marijuana legislation Affect Crime? Medical and Recreational Laws Across 50 States, with Lorán Chollete, Ching-Chih Lu, and Khawaja Mamun*, Economic Modelling*, Volume 159, June 2026.

"Believe it or Not: Experimental Evidence on Sunspot Equilibria with Social Networks," with Pietro Battiston, *Games and Economic Behavior* 143, January 2024, 223-247.

"Unintended Consequences: Ambiguity Neglect and Policy Ineffectiveness," with Loran Chollete, *Eastern Economic Journal* 47, April 2021, 206-226.

"Indeterminacy with Progressive Taxation and Sector-Specific Externalities," with Jang-Ting Guo, *Pacific Economic Review*, 20:2, May 2015, 268–281.

"Sunspots and Credit Frictions," with Mark Weder, *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, Sept 2012, 1-15.

"Indeterminacy with No-Income-Effect Preferences and Sector-Specific Externalities," with Jang-Ting Guo, *Journal of Economic Theory* 145, 2010, 287-300.

"Technological Change and the Roaring Twenties: A Neoclassical Perspective," with Mark Weder, *Journal of Macroeconomics* 31:3, September 2009, 363-375.

"Useful Government Spending and Macroeconomic (In)stability Under Balanced-Budget Rules." with Jang-Ting Guo, *Journal of Public Economic Theory 10(3),* 2008, 383-397.

"Asset Pricing in Dynamic Stochastic General Equilibrium Models with Indeterminacy," with Natalia Gershun, *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, vol. 12:1, 2008, 50-71.

"Did Sunspot Forces Cause the Great Depression?" with Mark Weder, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, vol. 53: 7, 2006, 1327-1339.

"Government Size and Macroeconomic Stability: A Comment," with Jang-Ting Guo, *European Economic Review* 50:5, July 2006, 1339-1346.

"Do Sunspots Reflect Consumer Confidence? An Empirical Investigation," *Eastern Economic Journal 31:1,* Winter 2005, 55-73.

"Balanced Budget Rules and Macroeconomic Instability," with Jang-Ting Guo, *Journal of Economic Theor*y 119:2, December 2004, 357-363, 2005.

"Returns to Scale and Externalities in the Consumption and Investment Sectors," *Review of Economic Dynamics* 6(4), October 2003, 963-976.

"Tracing Externalities as Sources of Indeterminacy," with Mark Weder*, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control* 26(5), May 2002, 851-867.

"Indeterminacy with Capital Utilization and Sector-Specific Externalities," with Jang-Ting Guo, *Economics Letters* 72(3), September 2001, 355-360.

"Tax Policy and Stability in a Model with Sector-Specific Externalities," with Jang-Ting Guo, *Review of Economic Dynamics* 4(1), January 2001, 75-89.

"Indeterminacy in a Model with Sector-Specific Externalities," *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control* 25(5), January 2001, 747-764.

"Indeterminacy in a Model with Aggregate and Sector-Specific Externalities," with Mark Weder, *Economics Letters 69:2,* October 2000, 173-179.

"Chaos, Sunspots and Automatic Stabilizers," with Lawrence J. Christiano, *Journal of Monetary Economics 44*, August 1999, 3-31.

Working Papers

"My Poor(er) Friend: (Non-)Economic Integration in Public Good Games," with Pietro Battiston and Simona Gamba. Submitted to *Journal of the Economic Science Association*.

"Unintended Consequences: Policy Effects when the Policymaker is Unaware," with Loran Chollete, submitted to *Eastern Economic Journal*.

"Climate Policy with Strategic Unawareness," with Loran Chollete.

"May The Forcing Be With You: Experimental Evidence on Mandatory Contributions to Public Goods," with Loran Chollete and Pietro Battiston.

Work in Progress

"Unintended Consequences: Who Wants their Peer to be a Millionaire?," with Pietro Battiston, Loran Chollete, and Jeffrey Guo.

"Policymaker Behavior under Uncertainty: A Survey and an Experiment," with Loran Chollete.

"Unintended Consequences of Covid Policies: A Sector-Specific Approach," with Loran Chollete and Ching-Chih Lu.

"Unintended Consequences: Sector-Specific Effects of Policy under Uncertainty," with Loran Chollete.

Wisdom of the Crowd: Crowd Analysis Project: (WOCCAP) with Pietro Battiston: submitted algorithms to compete in this project which is "recruit[ing] a large panel of gender-balanced, US-based participants. . . and administer[ing] monthly prediction surveys to them for six consecutive months. The goal is to "determine which aggregation mechanisms best harnesses the [WOC] . . . to predict future outcomes.

Courses Taught

Introduction to Economic Reasoning (Fall 2018)

Mathematical Methods for Economics (Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Fall 2010, Spring 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026)

Business Cycles (Fall 2003, Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Fall 2006, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, Fall 2010)

Senior Thesis Seminar (Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Fall 2004, Spring 2005, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026)

Statistics for Economics (Fall 2001, Fall 2002)

First Year Seminar: Chaos (Fall 1999, Spring 2005, Spring 2006, Spring 2007, Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011)

Senior Seminar (Fall 1998, Fall 2002, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)

Introduction to Macroeconomics (Fall 1997, Fall 1998, Fall 1999)

Intermediate Macroeconomics (Fall 1997, Spring 1998, Spring 1999, Spring 2000, Fall 2004, Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Fall 2006, Spring 2007)

Econometrics, Summer 1995 (Northwestern), Summer 1996 (Northwestern), Spring 1998, Spring 1999, Spring 2000, Spring 2002, Spring 2003, Spring 2004)

Graduate Dissertation Committees

2024	Jeffrey Guo	Columbia University	Economics
2022	Suneil Parimoo	Columbia University	Economics
2008	Frank Zhang	Columbia University	Finance
	Siddhartha Dastidar	Columbia University	Finance
2007	Binu Balachandran	Columbia University	Finance
	Olga Gorbachev	Columbia University	Economics
	Paul Po-Hsuan Hsu	Columbia University	Finance
2004	Min Wei	Columbia University	Finance
2003	Natalia Gershun	Columbia University	Finance
	Jae Hoon Hahn	Columbia University	Finance
	Anton Granik	Columbia University	Economics
2002	Rong Qi	Columbia University	Finance
	Tania Reif	Columbia University	Economics
1998	Jorge Chan-Lau	Columbia University	Economics

Undergraduate Advising

Pre-major advising:	2025-2026:	10 students
	2024-2025:	10 students
	2022-2023:	12 students
	2021-2022:	12 students
	2020-2021:	15 students
	2019-2020:	7 students
	2018-2019:	10 students
	2017-2018:	20 students
	2016-2017:	9 students
	2014-2015:	9 students
	2013-2014:	10 students

	2012-2013:	10 students
	2011-2012	9 students
	2010-2011	7 students
	2009-2010	10 students
	2008-2009	10 students
	2006-2007	9 students
	2004-2005:	8 students
	2003-2004:	8 students
	2002-2003:	10 students
	1998-1999:	10 students
	1997-1998:	10 students
Major advising:	2025-2026:	50 students
	2024-2025:	63 students
	2022-2023:	40 students
	2021-2022:	46 students
	2020-2021:	21 students
	2019-2020:	30 students
	2018-2019:	50 students
	2017-2018:	62 students
	2016-2017:	54 students
	2014-2015:	69 students
	2013-2014:	56 students
	2012-2013:	60 students
	2011-2012:	40 students
	2010-2011:	31 students
	2009-2010:	24 students
	2008-2009:	25 students
	2005-2006:	18 students
	2004-2005:	29 students
	2003-2004:	28 students
	2002-2003:	24 students
	2001-2002:	33 students
	1999-2000:	38 students
	1998-1999:	31 students

Conferences and Seminars

Organized Conferences:

Co-organized (virtual) Conference on Unawareness and Unintended Consequences, January 2021, with Loran Chollete and Pietro Battiston: Conference Program included "Unintended Consequences of State Policies: Evidence from Marijuana Legislation," with Loran Chollete and Khawaja A. Mamun; and "Unintended Consequences: Sector-Specific Effects of Policy under Uncertainty," with Loran Chollete

Chaired Sessions:

Eastern Economic Association, Annual Conference, Co-organizer, with Loran Chollete, and Chair of Session entitled "Climate Finance: Policy and Empirical Applications," March, 2024. Session included my paper "Climate Policy with Unintended Consequences and Strategic Unawareness," co-authored with Loran Chollete.

American Economic Association, Annual Conference, January 2009, Chair of session entitled "Social Networks, Coordination, and Herd Behavior"

American Economic Association, Annual Conference, January 2008, Chair of session entitled "Prosperity and Depression: the 1920s and 1930s."

American Economic Association, Annual Conference, January 2005, Co-chair (with Lawrence Christiano) of session entitled "The Role of Information in Macroeconomics.

American Economic Association, Annual Conference, January 1999, Chair of Roundtable session entitled "Research and Teaching as Complementary Inputs in Undergraduate Education."

Invited Presentations:

"Unintended Consequences: Ambiguous Welfare Effects when the Policymaker is Unaware,"
Seminar at University of Pisa, October 2023.

"Believe it or Not: Experimental Evidence on Sunspot Equilibria with Social Networks,"
Seminar at UC Riverside, October 2022.

Served on a panel on "Research and Publication Strategies" at the "Macroeconomic Research at Liberal Arts Colleges" conference, in August of 2008.

"Useful Government Spending and Macroeconomic Stability,"
Seminar at Vassar College, March 2006.
Seminar at Williams College, April 2007.
Seminar at University of Delaware, November 2007.

"Did Sunspot Forces Cause the Roaring Twenties?"
Seminar at Gettysburg College, November 2005.

"Did Sunspot Forces Cause the Great Depression?"
NBER Summer Institute, July 2003.
UCLA Monetary and Macroeconomics Workshop, March 2003.

"Do Sunspots Reflect Consumer Confidence? An Empirical Investigation." Conference on Macroeconomic Coordination Failures, Middlebury College, May 2001. (Published in conference volume, as noted above.)

"Indeterminacy in a Model with Sector-Specific Externalities." Conference on Extrinsic Uncertainty at New York University, May 2000.

"Tax Policy and Stability in a Model with Sector-Specific Externalities."
Macroeconomics Seminar at University of Delaware, April 2000. Macroeconomics Seminar at the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, March 2000.
Macroeconomics Seminar at University of Connecticut, April, 1999.

"Indeterminacy and Sector Specific Externalities: Theory and Evidence."
Faculty Workshop at Middlebury College, May 1998.
Monetary Economics Workshop at UCLA, April 1998.
Economic Theory Workshop at UC-Riverside, April 1998.

"Evidence on the Empirical Plausibility of Externalities and Indeterminacy in a Two Sector Model."
Macroeconomics Workshop at the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, November 4, 1997.
Macroeconomics Workshop at Rice University, November 3, 1997.

Other Presentations:

"My Poor(er) Friend: (Non-)Economic Integration in Public Good Games,"
Midwest Economic Association Meetings, March 2024.

"Unintended Consequences: Ambiguous Welfare Effects when the Policymaker is Unaware,"
Seminar at Aarhus University, October 2023.

"Believe it or Not: Experimental Evidence on Sunspot Equilibria with Social Networks,"
Economic Science Association North American Meetings, October, 2019.

"Ambiguity Neglect and Policy Ineffectiveness when Agents have Constructed Preferences,"
Workshop on Perceptions of Probability in Statistics, Economics and Politics, Columbia University, June, 2019

"Indeterminacy and Progressive Taxation with Sector-Specific Externalities,"
SAET Conference, July, 2013
Midwest Economic Association, March, 2014

"Sunspots and Credit Constraints,"
Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting, March 2010.

"Indeterminacy with No-Income-Effect Preferences and Sector-Specific Externalities,"
Conference on "Macroeconomic Research at Liberal Arts Colleges," August 2008.

"Technology, Credit and Confidence during the Roaring Twenties"
Annual Meeting of the American Economic Association, January 2008.
NBER Summer Workshop on "Development of the American Economy," July 2008.

"Did Sunspot Forces Cause the Roaring Twenties?"
Macroeconomic Research at Liberal Arts Colleges Conference, August 2006

"Useful Government Spending and Macroeconomic Stability,"
Annual ASSA meetings (Econometric Society), January 2007.

"Real Business Cycles and Automatic Stabilizers," (now "Government Size and Macroeconomic Stability: A Comment")
CoFail Conference, June 2004.
Econometric Society Meetings, June 2004.
"Macro Lunch" at the Columbia University Business School, April 2004. Midwest Economics Association, March 2004.

"Did Sunspot Forces Cause the Great Depression?"
Australasian Macroeconomics Workshop, March 2005.
Berlin Colloquium in Quantitative Economic History, September, 2004.
CoFail Conference, June 2004.
Cliometrics Conference, May 2003.
NBER Summer Institute, July 2002.
Midwest Economics Association, March 2002.
Verein fur Socialpolitiak, September, 2002
Columbia University Seminar in Economic History, December 2001.
Columbia Business School Macro Lunch, November 2001.
"Tracing Externalities as Sources of Indeterminacy."

Midwest Economics Association, March 2000.
Econometric Society European Winter Meeting, January, 2000

"Tax Policy and Stability in a Model with Sector-Specific Externalities."
World Congress of the Econometric Society, August, 2000.
Canadian Economic Association, June, 2000.
Midwest Economics Association, March 2000.
Western Economics Association, July, 1999.
Society for Economic Dynamics, June, 1999.
Midwest Macroeconomics Annual Conference, April, 1999.

"The Role of Consumer Expectations in the Macroeconomy."
"Macro lunch" at the Columbia Business School, November, 1999.

"Indeterminacy in a Model with Sector-Specific Externalities."
Society for Economic Dynamics, Annual Conference, June, 1998.
Summer meetings of the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), July 1997.

"Evidence on the Empirical Plausibility of Externalities and Indeterminacy in a Two Sector Model."
Columbia Business School Macro lunch, November 1997.

Service to the College/University

Economics Department ByLaws Committee, October-December 2025
Program Director, New Pathways Powered by Bridgewater Scholars Program, October 2021-present
Medalist Committee, 2022-23
Phi Beta Kappa Committee, various executive positions, 2019-present
Chair of Economics Junior Search Committee, 2024-25
Co-chair of Economics Junior Search Committee, Spring 2023
403(b) Plan Investment Review Committee, December 2020-present
Faculty Advisor for Barnard QMSS 4+1 Program, January 2019-2023
Search Committee, Postdoctoral Fellow in First Year Writing, Spring 2022
Emergency Management Committee, 2019-2022
Co-Chair of Working Group 2 for Middle States Self Study, 2019-2022
Institutional Review Board, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-2022
First-year Seminar Oversight Committee, 2018-19, 2019-20
Interim Faculty Chair of Institutional Research and Assessment Committee, 2018-19
Faculty Adviser for Student Club Up to Us, 2017-18, 2018-19

Panel Member of "Pro Tips from Profs: Making the Most of Your Coursework" during New Student Orientation, Spring 2019, Fall 2018, Fall 2017
Shvidler Fellows Selection Committee Member, 2017-18,
Panel Member of "Pathway to the PhD," during Grad School Week, October, 2017.
Chair of First-Year Foundations Sub-committee for College-wide Curriculum Review, 2013-14, 2014-15
President's Campaign Advisory Committee, 2013-14
IT TCB Portal Committee, 2013
Assisted with search for Director of Institutional Research, 2012-13
Member of Admissions Panel on "Academic Life at Barnard," Fall 2012, Fall 2013
Dean of Studies Search Committee, 2012-13
Space Planning Working Group, 2012
Institutional Assessment Committee, 2011-2012
Faculty Finance and Resources Committee, 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-14
Joint Faculty and Administrative Benefits Committee, 2011-2012, 2012-13, 2013-14
Panel Member at meeting for new faculty, September 2011
Ad-Hoc Tenure Committee, 2010-2011
Guest Lecturer in Dusa McDuff's "Perspectives in Mathematics," September 2010.
Academic Services and Enrichment Program Committee, 2010-2012
Search Committee for Assistant Director of the Writing Center, 2009-2010.
External member of Search Committee for Cognitive Psychology, 2008-2009.
Parking Committee, 2007-2009
Honor Board, 2006-2007, 2005-2006
Panel Member for "Charting the Course" for incoming first year students, September, 2006.
Faculty Reporter (at monthly full faculty meetings) 2004-2005.
Member of Search Committees in Economics, 2004-2005, 2002-2003.
Panel Member for "Academic Areas of Study" for incoming first year students,
April 2003.
Advisor for Barnard/Columbia "College Fed Challenge" Team, 2006, 2004, 2003.
Judicial Council, 2003-2005.
External Member of Search Committee for Position in Asian and Middle Eastern Cultures, 2002-2003.
Guest Lecturer at HEOP workshop, October 2002.
Guest Lecturer in "Introduction to the Social Sciences," January 2002.
Office of Career Development, Faculty-in-Residence, 1999-2000.
Office of Career Development, Tripartite Committee, 1998-2000.
Barnard Department of Economics:
Senior Thesis Coordinator, 1998-2000.
Principles Coordinator, Student-Faculty Interaction Committee and Undergraduate Economics Society, 1997-2000.
Public Relations, 2006-2007.
Department Secretary, in charge of taking minutes, 2009-2010.
Chief Advisor for Economics and Mathematics Track, 2008-2011.

Service to the Profession

Editorial Board of *Economic Modelling*, March 2020-present
Served as a mentor at the CSWEP CeMENT conference: February 2007, January 2020.

Referee for

Manchester School, 2010.
Southern Economic Journal, 2010.
B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics, 2009, 2014.
Economic Theory, 2008, 2009, 2010.
Economics of Governance, 2007.
International Review of Economics and Finance, 2006, 2007.
International Journal of Economic Theory, 2006, 2007, 2020
Macroeconomic Dynamics, 2006, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019.
Journal of Public Economic Theory, 2005, 2006, 2014.
Eastern Economic Journal, 2006.
Journal of Economic Surveys, 2005
International Economic Review, 2004
Economics Letters, 2004, 2006.
Journal of Economic Education, 2004, 2005, 2006.
Resource and Energy Economics, 2003
Journal of Economics, 2003-2004
Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, 2003, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2013.
European Economic Review, 2003.
Review of Economic Dynamics, 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009.
National Science Foundation Grants Committee, 2002, 2006, 2009.
Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, 2002, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013.
Journal of Economic Theory, 2000, 2004, 2005, 2007, 2012, 2015.
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, 1999, 2000, 2012, 2013.
Metroeconomica, 1999, 2004.
Journal of Macroeconomics, 1999, 2001, 2006, 2014.
Journal of Quantitative Economics, 1998.
American Economic Review, 1996, 2006, 2007, 2011.
Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, 2011.
Journal of International Economics, 2012, 2013.
American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics: 2015.
Economic Modelling, 2019.

Other Related Activities

Advisor for Production of Video to Teach Macroeconomics, University Access, 1997.

Reviewer for Introductory Econometrics, by Ramu Ramanathan, 2002.

Pitzer College Economics Field Group External Review, Claremont, CA, April, 2008.