Alison Cane

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Citizenship: Canadian

Research Interests: Applied Microeconomics; Labour Economics; Urban Economics

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Toronto — 2027 (Expected)
Committee: Michael Baker (supervisor), Nathaniel Baum-Snow, Fern Ramoutar

M.A. in Economics, University of Toronto — 2021

B.Sc. Honours in Mathematics and Economics, University of Ottawa — 2020

Working Papers

Immigration, Internal Migration, and the Rental Market (Job Market Paper)

Faculty Unionization and University Funding

Works in Progress

Memorial University Tuition Increase

Tenant Protections and Demovictions

Awards and Grants

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (Doctoral) ($10,000 × 3)	2021 - 2027
Department of Economics PhD Student Research Grant ($10,000)	2026
Department of Economics Graduate Program Award ($1,000 × 5)	2022 - 2026
University of Toronto Fellowship ($20,000 × 5)	2021 - 2026
Faculty of Arts and Sciences Graduate Admission Award ($5,000)	2020
uOttawa Faculty of Science Undergraduate Research Scholarship ($10,000)	2016 - 2017

Professional Experience

Course Instructor — 2024 - 2026

- ECO220: Introduction to Data Analysis and Applied Econometrics

Teaching Assistant 2020 - 2027

- ECO220: Introduction to Data Analysis and Applied Econometrics (Head Teaching Assistant)
- ECO334: The Political Economy of Media
- ECO317: Concepts of Fairness in Economics
- ECO358: Financial Economics I
- ECO340: Labour Economics: The Distribution of Earnings
- ECO102: Principles of Macroeconomics
- ECO320: Economic Analysis of Law
- ECO403: Topics in Development Economics and Policy
- ECO422: Special Topics in Economics: Competition Policy

Research Assistant 2016 - 2026

- Karen Ugarte-Bravo
- Eva Vivalt
- Michael Baker
- Atlantic Provinces Economic Council
- Lora Ramunno

Non-Academic Experience

- Education Project Officer, Jokkolabs Banjul (The Gambia) 2020
- Business Data Analyst, PeopleInsight 2019
- Junior Data Analyst, Global Affairs Canada (Mission Support) 2018 - 2019
- Analyst, Statistics Canada (National Economic Accounts Division) 2018

Academic Service

Graduate Student Mentor 2023 - 2026
Graduate Committee, Department of Economics 2024 - 2025
Co-President, Graduate Economics Union 2024 - 2025
Empirical Microeconomics Brown Bag Seminar Organizer 2024 - 2025
Graduate Student Support Working Group 2024

Languages

English (native), French (fluent)
Programming: Stata, R

References

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Abstracts

Immigration, Internal Migration, and the Rental Market

(Job Market Paper)

This paper investigates the effect of immigration on the housing market and how internal migration can amplify or offset these effects. I extend existing decompositions of the total effect of immigration by allowing natives' location choices to depend on immigration shocks in both their current locations and their prospective destinations. Even in the absence of a native response to immigration in other locations, the model shows that regions will still be affected by other regions' immigration shocks. Importantly, the magnitude of the response depends on the regional population size relative to the national population. I study this question empirically in the context of the Canadian rental market during a period of high immigration from 2015 to 2024. Using linked Canadian administrative data, I construct an instrument exploiting the rapid increase in international student arrivals in Canada following national-level policy changes. This work highlights the difficulty of designing place-based immigration policies in the presence of free mobility.

Faculty Unionization and University Funding

This paper studies the impact of faculty unionization in Canada on the university's funding. Using an event-study framework with staggered treatment timing, I consider the effects of unionization at 21 schools between 1981 and 2017 on sponsored research funding, contributions to the endowment, and revenue collected from fees. I find no effect following faculty unionization for primarily undergraduate universities (typically smaller schools with lower levels of research activity and few graduate programs). For comprehensive universities (which offer graduate programs and have some level of research activity), I find no effect on sponsored research funding, an increase in contributions to the endowment by 2% per year after ten years, and some evidence that revenue collected from fees decreases, although pre-trends prevent the proper identification of this effect. Finally, for medical doctoral universities (the largest, most research-intensive schools) I see no effect in their sponsored research funding, a decrease in contributions to their endowment, and an increase in the revenue they collect from fees. These results highlight the importance of allowing for heterogeneity by both institution type and funding source.