

Victor Kilanko

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Education

Ph.D., Economics — Claremont Graduate University	2025
M.Sc., Economics — Claremont Graduate University	2022
MBA, Marketing — La Sierra University	2019
M.A., Educational Leadership and Administration — La Sierra University	2014
B.Sc., Microbiology — Obafemi Awolowo University	2010

Research Interests

Causal Inference, Econometrics, Public Safety, Criminal Justice Policy, Healthcare Policy, Housing Policy, Development Economics, Machine Learning for Causal Analysis

Experience

Research Fellow, Cicero Institute 2025–Present

Conduct applied empirical research at the intersection of public safety, healthcare, and housing policy, with a focus on identifying causal effects of institutional reforms. Manage three active research projects: (1) a difference-in-differences study of HUD’s HEARTH Act low-barrier shelter requirement on crime around Chicago emergency shelters, building an original geocoded shelter-crime panel (53 shelters, 2001–2023) from CPD, IRS Form 990, and ACS data; (2) a synthetic control and staggered DiD analysis of private prison entry on state prison populations using a Mississippi case study and national panel; and (3) a DDD and staggered DiD analysis of Medicaid expansion effects on nonprofit hospital charity care.

Research Assistant, Computational Justice Lab 2022–2024

Led empirical analysis of education and justice datasets, co-authored policy reports, and developed interactive dashboards for practitioner and policymaker audiences.

Research Assistant, Claremont Graduate University 2020–2022

Conducted difference-in-differences and synthetic control analyses, managed large-scale datasets, and visualized results using Python and Tableau.

Teaching Assistant, Claremont Graduate University 2020–2022

Supported graduate-level instruction in Modern Macroeconomics and Econometrics II. Designed and delivered hands-on coding demonstrations using R and Stata, held weekly discussion sessions, and coached students through empirical project development.

Publications and Book Chapters

“Government Response and Perspective on Autonomous Vehicles,” *IGI Global*, 2022. DOI: 10.4018/978-1-6684-6429-8.ch008.

“Turning Point: Policymaking in the Era of AI,” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, January 2022 (book review).

Working Papers

Does Low-Barrier Housing Policy Increase Crime? Evidence from Chicago Emergency Shelters

Exploits the sharp 2013 implementation of HUD's HEARTH Act low-barrier requirement as a natural experiment. Uses a difference-in-differences design comparing federally-funded shelters (required to comply) to non-federally-funded shelters (exempt) across Chicago emergency shelters. Constructs an original geocoded shelter-crime panel by spatially matching CPD incident records within 100m and 250–500m (placebo) of each shelter. (Cicero Institute)

The Effect of Privatization on Prison Populations: Evidence from a Mississippi Case Study

Studies whether private prison company entry causally increases state prison populations using a national staggered DiD panel (1980–2020) and a focused Mississippi case study. Applies three complementary methods — Callaway–Sant'Anna DiD, Partially Pooled Synthetic Control (PPSCM), and Augmented Synthetic Control (ASCM) — finding null-to-negative national effects and a precisely estimated positive effect in Mississippi. (with Ryan Quandt and Cameron Milani, Cicero Institute)

Mission or Margin?: An Empirical Analysis of Medicaid Expansion on Hospital Expenditures

Estimates the causal effect of Medicaid expansion on government grant receipts and charity care provision by nonprofit hospitals relative to for-profit hospitals using DDD and CSDiD design. (with Ryan Quandt and Elena Gonzalez, Cicero Institute)

The Impact of Psychedelic Reforms on Crime Rates in California: A Quasi-Experimental Approach using Partially Pooled Synthetic Control Method (PPSCM).

Risk-Adjusted Premiums, Liability Insurance, and Gun Harm Reduction Policies:

Evaluating San Jose's firearm insurance mandate with Augmented Synthetic Control Method.

Criminal Justice without Cash: Estimating the effect of zero-bail policy on property crimes using generalized synthetic control and DiD estimators.

Visualizing Counterfactuals: The Causal Assignment Tree Framework for Modern Difference-in-Differences Analysis

Introduces the Causal Assignment Tree (CAT), a visualization framework for DiD, DDD, and related designs, implemented as the R package `catviz`.

Data Projects

Chicago Shelter–Crime Panel (2001–2023): Constructed an original geocoded panel linking 53 Chicago emergency shelters (IRS Form 990) to CPD crime incidents via Haversine spatial matching, with ACS tract-level controls and HUD Continuum of Care funding records. Covers 570 shelter-years with 68 variables including crime rates within 100m and 250–500m buffers.

CA UCR Data Project: Created a city-level crime dataset for California (2017–2023) addressing overlapping jurisdictions and incomplete entries to ensure data transparency and reproducibility.

Service and Professional Activities

Advisor — Pan-African Innovation City

Reviewer — Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; African Journal of Business Management

Technical Skills

Languages: R, Python, Stata, SQL

Tools: Tableau, Git, L^AT_EX