

MELISSA DELL

Contact Information

Department of Economics
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Employment

2020 – present: Andrew E. Furer Professor of Economics, Harvard University
2018 – 2020: Professor, Harvard University, Department of Economics

Past employment

2014 – 2018: Assistant Professor, Harvard University, Department of Economics
2016 – 2017: Visiting Assistant Professor, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research
2012 – 2014: Junior Fellow, Harvard Society of Fellows

Affiliations

Fellow, Econometric Society
National Bureau of Economic Research, Faculty Research Fellow
Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), Fellow
Institute for Quantitative Social Science Scientific Program Director and Faculty Affiliate
Harvard University Academy for International and Area Studies, Senior Scholar
Harvard University Center for the Environment, Faculty Associate
Harvard University Center for International Development, Faculty Affiliate
Harvard University Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Faculty Associate

Education

2012: PhD Economics, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2007: MPhil Economics, Oxford University, with Distinction
2005: AB Economics, Harvard University, *summa cum laude*

Awards and Grants

2020	John Bates Clark Medal, American Economic Association
2018	Named by the <i>Economist</i> as one of the decade's top eight young economists
2018	Elaine Bennett Research Prize
2018	National Science Foundation Grant #1823616: "Management and Economic Performance" (\$336,360)
2017	Calvó-Armengol International Prize
2017	Andrew Carnegie Fellowship
2016	National Science Foundation Grant #1628867: "Military and Civic Action" (\$364,407)
2016	Alfred Sloan Fellowship
2014	Named by the IMF as the youngest of 25 economists under the age of 45 shaping thought about the global economy

2012	Review of Economic Studies Tour
2007	Castle Krob Fellowship, MIT Economics
2007	National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship
2005	Rhodes Scholarship
2005	John Williams Prize – Best Undergraduate Harvard Student in Economics
2005	Seymour Harris Prize – Best Undergraduate Harvard Thesis in Economics
2004	Harry S. Truman Scholarship

Publications

Abhishek Arora, Emily Silcock, Leander Heldring, Melissa Dell. “Contrastive Entity Coreference and Disambiguation for Historical Texts.” *Empirical Methods in Natural Language Processing*, forthcoming Paper.

Melissa Dell. “Deep Learning for Economists.” *Journal of Economic Literature*, forthcoming Paper.

Oscar Sainz, Iker García-Ferrero, Alon Jacovi, Jon Ander Campos, Yanai Elazar, Eneko Agirre, Yoav Goldberg, Emily Silcock, Luca D’Amico-Wong, Melissa Dell, et al. “Data Contamination Report from the 2024 CONDA Shared Task.” *The 1st Workshop on Data Contamination, ACL*, forthcoming [Paper](#).

Brevin Franklin, Emily Silcock, Abhishek Arora, Tom Bryan, Melissa Dell. “News Deja Vu: Connecting Past and Present with Semantic Search.” *NACCL NLP and Computational Social Science Workshop*, 2024.

Tom Bryan, Jacob Carlson, Abhishek Arora, and Melissa Dell. “EfficientOCR: An Extensible, Open-Source Package for Efficiently Digitizing World Knowledge.” *EMNLP (Systems Demonstrations Track)*, 2024.

Carlson, Jacob, Tom Bryan, and Melissa Dell. “Efficient OCR for Building a Diverse Digital History.” *ACL* 2024.

Xinmei Yang, Abhishek Arora, Shao-Yu Jheng, and Melissa Dell. “Quantifying Character Similarity with Vision Transformers.” *Empirical Methods on Natural Language Processing*, 2023.

Abhishek Arora and Melissa Dell. “LinkTransformer: A Unified Package for Record Linkage with Transformer Language Models.” *ACL (Systems Demonstration Track)* 2023.

Emily Silcock and Melissa Dell. “A Massive Scale Semantic Similarity Dataset of Historical English.” *NeurIPS (Benchmarks and Datasets Track)* (2023).

Melissa Dell, Jacob Carlson, Tom Bryan, Emily Silcock, Abhishek Arora, Zejiang Shen, Luca D’Amico-Wong, Quan Le, Pablo Querubin, Leander Heldring. “American Stories: A Large-Scale Structured Text Dataset of Historical U.S. Newspapers.” *NeurIPS* (Benchmarks and Datasets Track), 2023.

Silcock, Emily, Luca D’Amico-Wong, Jinglin Yang, and Melissa Dell. “Noise-Robust De-Duplication at Scale.” *International Conference on Learning Representations*, vol. 332 (2023).

Shen, Zejiang, Jian Zhao, Yaoliang Yu, Weining Li, and Melissa Dell. “OLALA: Object-Level Active Learning Based Layout Annotation.” *EMNLP Computational Social Science Workshop* (2023).

Shen, Zejiang, Ruochen Zhang, Melissa Dell, Benjamin Lee, Jacob Carlson, and Weining Li. “LayoutParser: A Unified Toolkit for Deep Learning Based Document Image Analysis.” *International Conference on Document Analysis and Recognition* (2021), 131-146.

Shen, Zejiang, Kaixuan Zhang, and Melissa Dell. “A Large Dataset of Historical Japanese Documents with Complex Layouts.” *IEEE/CVF Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition Workshops* (2020): 548-559.

Dell, Melissa, and Benjamin Olken. “The Development Effects of the Extractive Colonial Economy: The Dutch Cultivation System in Java.” *Review of Economic Studies* 87, no. 1 (2020): 164-203.

Zhang, Kaixuan, Zejiang Shen, Jie Zhou, and Melissa Dell. “Information Extraction from Text Regions with Complex Tabular Structure.” *NeurIPS Document Intelligence Workshop* (2019).

Dell, Melissa, Benjamin Feigenberg, and Kensuke Teshima. “The Violent Consequences of Trade-Induced Worker Displacement in Mexico.” *American Economic Review: Insights* 1, no. 1 (2019): 43-58.

Dell, Melissa, and Pablo Querubin. “Nation Building Through Foreign Intervention: Evidence from Discontinuities in Military Strategies.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 133, no. 2 (2018): 701-764.

Dell, Melissa, Nathan Lane, and Pablo Querubin. “The Historical State, Local Collective Action, and Economic Development in Vietnam.” *Econometrica* 86, no. 6 (2018): 2083-2121.

Dell, Melissa. “Trafficking Networks and the Mexican Drug War.” *American Economic Review* 105, no. 6 (2015): 1738-1779.

Dell, Melissa, Benjamin Jones, Benjamin Olken. “What Do We Learn from the Weather? The New Climate-Economy Literature.” *Journal of Economic Literature* (2014).

Dell, Melissa, Benjamin Jones, and Benjamin Olken. “Temperature Shocks and Economic Growth: Evidence from the Last Half Century.” *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 4, no. 3 (2012): 66-95.

Dell, Melissa, and Daron Acemoglu. “Productivity Differences Between and Within Countries.” *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 2, no. 1 (2010): 169–188.

Dell, Melissa. “The Persistent Effects of Peru's Mining Mita.” *Econometrica* 78, no. 6 (2010): 1863-1903.

Dell, Melissa, Benjamin Jones, and Benjamin Olken. “Temperature and Income: Reconciling New Cross-Sectional and Panel Estimates.” *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings* 99, no. 2 (2009): 198-204.

Working Papers

Emily Silcock, Abhishek Arora, Luca D’Amico-Wong, Melissa Dell. “Newswire: A Large-Scale Structured Database of a Century of Historical News.”

Arora, Abhishek, Xinmei Yang, Shao-Yu Jheng, and Melissa Dell. “Linking Representations with Multimodal Contrastive Learning.”

Dell, Melissa. “Path Dependence in Development: Evidence from the Mexican Revolution,” Working Paper.

Professional Activities

Co-editor: *Journal of Political Economy*. Editorial Board: *AEJ: Applied*; Editorial Board: *Journal of Economic Literature*