

## Honoring Sara



With very heavy hearts, we are writing to share that Sara Johns passed away on the afternoon of September 20, 2024. Sara was an ARE graduate student and a beloved member of our Berkeley community.

Sara was a PhD student in Agricultural and Resource Economics at the University of California, Berkeley, where she held a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Her research focused on renewable energy and climate policy. Previously, Sara was a Research Fellow at Stanford Graduate School of Business and graduated from Northwestern University in 2017 with a BA in Economics and Environmental Science.

Sara was diagnosed with stage 4 adrenal cortical carcinoma last October. With the support of her partner, Ren, her family, and her friends, she had been relentlessly pursuing all possible treatment options. She fought so hard to the very end. Sara leaves behind many ARE friends and colleagues.

She made a lasting impression on all who knew her. We miss her terribly and we will never forget her.

Meredith, Sofia, and Jeremy

Please add your words honoring and remembering Sara in any order below. Thank you.



Sara and Ren





Ren, Sara, Cody and Janet, December 23, 2023

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Sara was a good person and a thoughtful researcher. Her premature passing is the world's loss.  
Jeff

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Since the first time I met Sara in Giannini in 2019, she made a lasting impression on me and her peers. I was honored to have Sara in class and then have her teach Econometrics with me. She had a grasp of the material and was super intuitive and clear in explaining complicated concepts to students. They praised Sara's availability, enthusiasm, and effective teaching as well as her kindness. Sara touched many lives of our undergrads, and I thank her for that. She was distinguished with the University of California, Berkeley Graduate Student Teaching Award in 2024 for her outstanding teaching and mentoring of undergraduate students at Cal in the Spring of 2023.

I also enjoyed learning about Sara's research and how cool turbines are. On a personal level, Sara touched me and made a difference in my life. I was blessed to get to know her dedicated mother, Janet, who tirelessly supported and fought right alongside Sara. It is an honor to know Sara. And I pray that Sara knows how many people like me love her and are inspired by her kindness, spirit, and courage. I send much love and strength to Ren, her mom Janet, and husband Chris, her brother Cody, and Sara's family and friends.

Sofia



November 2023









Acrylic on canvas, October, 2024.

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Thank you, Sarah, Sung, and Sofia.

Spring 2023 EEP 118 Econometrics teaching team

It was an honor to have taught undergraduate students alongside Sara as a co-GSI.

Sara had a remarkable ability to explain difficult concepts with clear intuition in a way that resonated with students. I frequently referred to recordings of her teaching to guide my teaching



and to improve my approach. She consistently showed kindness and consideration for her students and offered me calm, composed advice whenever challenges arose. Our class in Spring 2023 could not have been as successful without her. I learned so much from Sara.

Sara and the impact she had on all of us will be deeply missed and remembered.

- Sung -

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Sara's calmness was contagious in the department. Sending her family love and hoping they find patience. :(  
Yazen

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I worked with Sara in diverse faculty recruiting efforts with Berkeley Economists for Equity. Sara had such a heart for service, even early on in her PhD (when time was especially precious). I always loved running into her at events and conferences after graduation. She was a light.

Molly Sears

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Sara and I started our PhDs together and she was always a thoughtful and giving friend and colleague. She patiently taught me how to code in R and was a coveted problem set partner. She has always been such a bright light and mind. I'm grateful for all the board game nights, swapping plant parenting tips, hikes, and dinners. When she received her diagnosis, she met it and every step after with unbelievable strength and courage, and above all grace. I love her and admire her and draw strength from her strength. She is missed so very much but I know she is at peace now. May we always remember her and carry forward her strong spirit, full of curiosity, intelligence, compassion, and courage.

Yuen Ho

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Sara constantly radiated calm and kindness and I will always appreciate the generous and insightful feedback she gave me. She will be missed and I hope she and her loved ones find peace.

Jed Silver

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Sara was an exceptional friend, classmate, and coauthor. She was always so focused, sharp, and intelligent in her research, and in everyday life, she carried herself with such elegance and calm. I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to work and study alongside her. Although the pandemic limited our chances to attend the Industrial Organization class together, I'm grateful

that we later decided to co-author a paper. From then on, we met and worked together every week. I cherished those discussions and learned a lot from her. She was always reading, thinking, and engaging in conversations about research ideas. She was also an incredible mentor to our undergraduate research assistants, always patient and supportive. I greatly admired her passion and dedication to research. Her talent and contributions will always stay with me. Even after her diagnosis, she remained incredibly strong, optimistic, and full of courage. We will never forget her. My deepest condolences go out to her family and loved ones during this difficult time.

Shuo Yu

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Sara will be really missed around here. She was really a beloved member of our community but she was also a real community builder for us in ARE and the wider econ community generally. Among other things, from the very first year, she and Becky hosted us for board games, she also got the whole cohort to play mini golf in SF that one time, she was invested in efforts to diversify economics with Berkeley Economists for Equity, she mentored many undergraduate students and even as recently as last year, had us over for homemade pizzas at her and Ren's apartment, in our first cohort event in a really long time. This is the type of person she was: invested in efforts for the greater good, thoughtful and dedicated. Mere days before her diagnosis, she and Ren were offering me support. I am very sad we will be deprived of her, her presence here at ARE, of where her research could have gone. I know I will always remember her, I am glad I got to meet and know her for the time she was here. My deepest condolences to her family and loved ones, may time bring them peace and healing.

Leila Njee

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