

VANIKA SOK

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EDUCATION

LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Easton, PA

Bachelor's Degrees in Mathematics, Bachelor's Degrees in Economics; Cumulative GPA: 3.7

May 2026

- Honors thesis student; Excel Scholar Researcher; Teaching Assistant (Econometrics, Microeconomics, Mechanics)
- Orientation Leader & First-Year Mentor, guiding new students through academic and personal transitions
- Board Member, Lafayette Data Community; Active member, National Honor Society for Economics, Women in Computing, Investment Club, International Student Association; Math mentor, Lafayette Initiative for Malagasy Education

EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

Salt Lake City, UT

Researcher, Summer Program for Undergraduate Research

May - August 2025

- Led quantitative research analyzing 15+ years of library and childcare panel data, applying econometric methods (OLS, fixed effects, IV) in Python, R, and Stata to study community resilience during downturns
- Co-authored two research papers on how demographics, childcare costs, and poverty shape library use during recessions; applied causal inference methods to show libraries alleviate childcare gaps and guide resource allocation
- Collaborated with faculty and library partners to align research goals, manage datasets, and deliver timely insights, demonstrating project ownership and cross-functional teamwork
- Presented findings in academic and policy forums, translating complex results into clear, actionable insights that drove informed decisions from leadership
- Presented findings at multiple universities; scheduled to present at the International Confederation of Associations for Pluralism in Economics (ICAPE) and the Eastern Economic Association (EEA) Annual Conference

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT, LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Easton, PA

Research Assistant

May 2024 - May 2025

- Integrated longitudinal data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY97) with occupational descriptors from O*NET to examine the "price of conscience" in labor markets
- Applied fixed-effects panel regression models to quantify wage premiums in jobs requiring ethical tradeoffs, uncovering significant effects that increase with age and education. Designed a standardized job-risk rating system, enabling fairer compensation benchmarking by quantifying workplace hazards and moral compromises
- Identified and corrected methodological flaws in prior analyses, directly influencing publication trajectory. Presented results at Lafayette's Poster Symposium, demonstrating how markets internalize ethical and safety considerations in compensation
- Leveraged supervised learning algorithms in Python and R to identify predictive factors within health datasets, enhancing robustness of empirical results and shaping forthcoming publications on lead exposure in early childhood development
- Coauthored UK panel study on pollution (PM, O₃) and crime; engineered multi-source datasets and ran fixed-effects models in Python and Stata, finding stronger effects for economically motivated offenses.

ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT, LAFAYETTE COLLEGE

Easton, PA

Excel Scholar Program

May - August 2023

- Investigated the impact of crop diversification on household well-being in Nigeria using multi-wave World Bank Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) panel survey data
- Applied fixed-effects and instrumental variable regressions in Stata to isolate causal relationships between agricultural diversity and income stability, consumption smoothing, and food security
- Demonstrated that greater crop diversification correlates with increased resilience to economic shocks, producing policy-relevant results on how diversification can serve as a risk management strategy for rural households
- Delivered statistical visualizations and empirical results to the department head, contributing to the foundation of a forthcoming publication on agricultural resilience and development policy

SHE-CAN Organization

Mill Valley, CA

SHE-CAN Scholar Class of 2026

February 2021-present

- Selected from 200+ applicants to participate in international women's leadership program, proving high achievement across academics, philanthropy, and leadership skills, securing full-ride academic scholarship to Lafayette College
- Organized first-ever Higher Education Fair in rural high schools in Siem Reap, Cambodia, securing speakers from 10 scholarship programs and driving applications of 180 volunteers, educating 300 students on higher education opportunities
- Organized project to drive awareness of cyberbullying, planning and moderating expert panel for 100 students, publishing 3 articles, and coordinating social media campaign, raising awareness of critical student issue

SKILLS

- **Programming & Data:** Python, R, RStudio, Stata, MySQL, LaTeX, Git/GitHub, Tableau, Word, Excel, PowerPoint
- **Languages:** Khmer, English, Mandarin
- **Honors:** Selected to represent Lafayette at Grace Hopper Celebration (2023); Best Overall Hackathon Award, ACM Hackathon (2023); Omicron Delta Epsilon (International Economics Honors Society, 2025)
- **Community Service:** Community Service Chair, Cambodian Student Association in the USA (2024-2025)