

Robert Walatka

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago, Booth School of Business Ph.D., Behavioral Science Advisors: Stephanie Smith, Dan Bartels	Chicago, IL June 2029
The University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy MPP, Public Policy	Chicago, IL June 2022
The University of Washington - Michael G. Foster School of Business B.A.B.A., Marketing and Finance	Seattle, WA June 2019

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy <i>Predoctoral Fellow, Energy Policy Institute at the University of Chicago</i>	Chicago, IL Sept 2022 – July 2024
The University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy <i>Graduate Research Fellow to Dr. Kim Wolske</i>	Chicago, IL Sept 2021 – Sept 2022

PAPERS

Banki, Daniel, Uri Simonsohn, Robert Walatka, and George Wu. “Decisions under Risk Are Decisions under Complexity: Comment”. (*Under Review at AER*)

Zhang, Grace, Robert Walatka, Stephanie Chen, Oleg Urminksy, Kianté Fernandez, Andrea Lowe, Jonathan E. Bogard, and Craig R. Fox. “Decisions under Risk Are Decisions under Complexity: Comment”. (*Under Review at PNAS*)

PRESENTATIONS

2026. Kellogg-Booth Symposium. “Estimating the threat of AI-agent responding across online survey platforms”

2025. Poster presentation at SPSP: Sustainability pre-conference. “Green from the Get-Go? Homebuilders’ beliefs about incorporating solar on new homes”

GRANTS

2026. Becker-Friedman Institute Program in Behavioral Economics (\$10,000)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Save the Children - Center for Utilizing Behavioral Insights for Children

June 2021 – Mar 2022

Data Analyst

Conducted applied research with global collaborators on school enrollment frictions, analyzed vaccine hesitancy survey data from Facebook, and conducted analysis for RCT of a reminders intervention in the Philippines.

The University of Chicago - Behavioral Insights and Parenting Lab

Jan 2021 – June 2021

Data Analyst Research Assistant

Prepared ongoing statistical summaries to inform project managers about balance, attrition, and participant engagement.

KPMG, LLP

Apr 2019 – Apr 2020

Economic and Valuation Services Associate

Performed financial modeling and sensitivity analysis to value intangible assets in healthcare, technology, and financial services companies.