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## **Sarah John Receives 2022 Larry D. Welch Award for Best External Publication**

**ALEXANDRIA, VA (November 2022)** – Sarah John, Ph.D., received the 2022 Larry D. Welch Award for Best External Publication for “Deterring Illegal Entry: Migrant Sanctions and Recidivism in Border Apprehensions.” The article was published in *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, Vol. 13, No. 3, August 2021. John is an assistant director in the Cost Analysis and Research Division (CARD) at one of the three federally funded research and development centers operated by IDA.

IDA established the award in 2011 in honor of retired U.S. Air Force General Larry D. Welch, who was IDA’s president from 1990 to 2003 and again from 2006 to 2009.

John’s fellow award recipient is co-author John Whitley, CARD adjunct research staff member. Other co-authors are Bryan Roberts, former CARD adjunct research staff member; Samuel Bazzi, University of California, San Diego; and Gordon Hanson, Harvard Kennedy School.

“The authors’ article exemplifies General Welch’s high standards of analytic excellence and relevance,” said IDA President Norty Schwartz.

The authors used previously unavailable records on Mexican nationals apprehended for illegally entering the U.S. to assess the effectiveness of U.S. Border Patrol sanctions imposed during 2008-2012. Estimates were derived from the authors’ adapted method of random variation in the rollout of new sanctions across different border sectors. Their findings imply that the U.S. sanctions accounted for 28% to 44% of the decline in recidivism as observed in the number of re-apprehensions. These findings suggest that sanctions may be a cost-effective strategy for deterring illegal entry, an important step in designing viable immigration policy.

“I’m honored to be a part of this team and to be recognized with such a prestigious award,” said John. “It’s a testament to the emphasis that IDA places on publishing in the open literature.”

John earned her bachelor’s degree in economics from Transylvania University in 2008. She earned her doctoral degree in economics from the University of Kentucky in 2013.

IDA is a nonprofit corporation that operates three federally funded research and development centers in the public interest. IDA answers the most challenging U.S. security and science policy questions with objective analysis leveraging extraordinary scientific, technical and analytic expertise.



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