# Aaron Morton

130 Crouse Dr • Syracuse, NY 13244 • Room 446C
(702) 334-1787 • aamorton@syr.edu
Website: aaronmortonecon.com

Updated: November 19, 2026

## Education

**Doctor of Philosophy in Economics** 2021 to Expected 2027
*Syracuse University*
Primary Fields: Urban Economics, Public Economics
Advisors: Gary Engelhardt & Alexander Rothenberg

**Bachelor of Arts in Economics, Minor in Mathematics** 2018 to 2021
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas*

## Research Interests

Urban Economics, Public Economics, Spatial Equilibrium, Discrete Choice

## Job Market Paper

Project Title: *Zoning Reform and Urban Commuting and Employment*
Authors: Aaron Morton
Abstract: How do changes in zoning constraints affect the spatial distribution of employment and commuting? This paper examines Buffalo's 2017 zoning reform by translating pre- and post-reform regulations into parcel-level measures of allowable development capacity, aggregated to census block groups. Using variation in changes in commercial and residential floor-area ratios (FAR), the analysis examines corresponding changes in employment and commuting patterns. Increases in commercial FAR are positively but imprecisely associated with employment, with estimated changes concentrated among commuters rather than local workers. Sectoral estimates suggest offsetting responses between goods-producing and non-goods-producing employment. In contrast, increases in residential FAR are associated with relatively small increases in employed residents and the number of workplace destinations to which they commute.

## Work In Progress

Project Title: *Firm Location Choices in Spatial Equilibrium*
Authors: Aaron Morton
Topic: Using techniques from quantitative spatial models, a partial equilibrium is developed treating firms as discrete units with locations endogenously determined by competing firm locations and household choices. To test this model, it is applied to grocery store locations to better understand the formation of food deserts.

Project Title: *Housing Space Constraints and Spatial Equilibrium*
Authors: Aaron Morton
Topic: By developing a spatial equilibrium model, household housing size preferences and regulatory housing space minimums are considered in how they restrict household choices and location choice affordability.

## Teaching Experience

**Lecturer** 2024 to 2025
*Syracuse University, Department of Economics*
ECN 203: Economic Ideas and Issues Summer 2024, Summer 2025

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** 2022 to Present
*Syracuse University, Department of Economics*
ECN 310: Economics of Risky Behaviors, John Cawley Spring 2026
ECN 310: Health Economics, Yulya Truskinovsky Fall 2025
ECN 102: Introductory Macroeconomics, Michael Lorenzo Fall 2022, Spring 2023

## Research Experience and Affiliations

**Graduate Research Associate** 2026 to Present
*Syracuse University, Center for Policy Research*

**Graduate Research Assistant** 2023 to 2025
*Syracuse University, Department of Economics*
Supervisor/Advisor: Alexander Rothenberg

**Undergraduate Research Assistant** 2020 to 2021
*University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Department of Economics*
Mentor: Nicholas Irwin

## Presentations

Morton, A., (2025, November). *Spatial Equilibrium and Health Outcomes.* Guest Lecture slides presented in ECN 310: Health Economics

Morton, A., (2025, May). *Parking Requirements and City Productivity.* Slides presented at the Syracuse Economics Department HELP Seminar

Morton, A., (2024, April). *Food Deserts: A Spatial Equilibrium Proposal.* Slides presented at the Syracuse Economics Department Trade Breakfast

Morton, A., Irwin, J. N. (2020, September). *How Changes in Land Values Impact Property Capital Investment in Las Vegas and Henderson, Nevada.* Poster presented at the UNLV 21st Annual Virtual Undergraduate Research Symposium.

## Professional Memberships

**McNair Scholars Institute** 2020 to Present

## Grants and Scholarships

**McNair Fellowship Grant** 2021
**McNair Summer Research Institute Grant,** 2020
**Bank Of America NV Scholarship,** 2020
**S J Hall Fellowship** 2020

## Skills

Coding: Matlab (Preferred), Stata, Latex, ArcGIS, Python