# Aaron Morton

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Updated: November 18, 2026

## Education

**Doctor of Philosophy in Economics** 2021 to Present
*Syracuse University*
Primary Fields: Urban Economics, Public Economics

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

## Research Experience

**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

Project Title: *How Changes in Land Values Impact Property Capital Investment in Las Vegas and Henderson, Nevada*

Authors: Nicholas Irwin, Aaron Morton

## Teaching Experience

**Lecturer** 2024 to 2025
*Syracuse University, Department of Economics*

Courses: ECN 203: Economic Ideas and Issues

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** 2022 to Present
*Syracuse University, Department of Economics*
Supervisor: Michael Lorenzo

Courses: ECN 102: Introductory Macroeconomics Fall 2022, ECN 102: Introductory Macroeconomics Spring 2023

Supervisor: Yulya Truskinovsky

Courses: ECN 310: Health Economics Fall 2025

Supervisor: John Cawley

Courses: ECN 310: Economics of Risky Behaviors Spring 2026

## 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 does the spatial distribution of employment and commuting within cities change when development constraints are relaxed? In 2017, Buffalo, NY, passed the Unified Development Ordinance, replacing the city's prior zoning framework. This paper analyzes the effects of this reform by translating pre- and post-reform zoning rules into parcel-level estimates of maximum allowable floor area and aggregating the resulting changes to the block-group level as changes in maximum allowable floor-area ratio. The empirical design exploits spatial variation in changes in allowable commercial and residential FAR and relates these changes to differences in mean employment and commuting outcomes before and after the reform. The results provide evidence of changes in the spatial organization of employment and commuting following the reform. Increases in commercial FAR are positively associated with employment and a wider set of worker origins, although the estimates are imprecise, while increases in residential FAR are associated with more employed residents and a broader set of workplace destinations. Decomposing total employment shows that the estimated changes are overwhelmingly concentrated among workers commuting from other block groups rather than workers who reside and work locally. Finally, separating employment by sector reveals offsetting responses: goods-producing employment declines with increases in commercial FAR, while non-goods-producing employment increases, with the latter accounting for nearly all of the positive aggregate commercial-FAR estimate.

## Work In Progress

Project Title: *Firm Location Choices in Spatial Equilibrium*

Authors: Aaron Morton

Topic: Using techniques common in Quantitative Spatial Modeling, a unique spatial equilibrium model is being developed that treats firms as discrete units with locations endogenously determined by competing firm locations and household shopping 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.

## Presentations

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.

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

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

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

## Professional Memberships

**McNair Scholars Institute** 2020 to Present
**Phi Theta Kappa** 2015 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