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Education

Harvard University

Ph.D. Public Policy, Economics Track, 2020 to 2026 (expected)

Yale University

M.A. International and Development Economics, 2019

Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico

B.A. in Economics, Highest Honors, 2016

Fields

Primary: Urban Economics

Secondary: Labor Economics, International Trade

References

Prof. Gordon Hanson
Harvard Kennedy School
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Prof. Edward L. Glaeser
Harvard University
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Prof. Gabriel Kreindler
Harvard University
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Gregory A. Bruich, Ph.D.
Harvard University
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Teaching

Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems, Harvard University
Teaching fellow for Raj Chetty (Undergraduate level), Spring 2024 and Spring 2023

Econometrics I, Harvard University
Teaching fellow for Gregory Bruich (Ph.D. level), Fall 2023 and Fall 2022

Intermediate Microeconomics, Universidad Iberoamericana
Instructor (Undergraduate level), Summer 2021

International Trade I, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM)
Instructor (Undergraduate level), Summer 2020

Relevant Experience

Research Associate, Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, Gordon Hanson, 2020-2025
Predoctoral Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Simon Jaeger, 2019-2020
Research Assistant, Banco de México, 2016-2018
Short Term Consultant, World Bank, 2016

Job Market Paper

Local Taxes and Suburbanization: Evidence from Philadelphia's Wage Tax
with Matthew Jacob

Taxes shape individual location decisions, but their impact on the spatial distribution of economic activity remains unclear. We study the wage tax, a local tax on labor earnings that applies to residents and to non-residents working within city limits. The wage tax has long been argued to have driven firms and workers to relocate from large cities to the suburbs. Guided by a quantitative spatial model, we test this hypothesis using granular data on residence, workplace, and commuting in the Philadelphia metropolitan area from 1940 to 2018. We show that the elasticity of commuting flows to the net-of-tax rate can be identified from changes in neighborhood commuting shares at the city boundary with a spatial regression discontinuity design. Our preferred estimate of this elasticity is 6.39, which we validate with complementary estimates from a gravity equation and from the structure of the model. In a

model counterfactual that eliminates the wage tax, we estimate a stock elasticity of the tax base of 0.86. Finally, we use counterfactuals to show that the wage tax raises substantial revenue despite distorting the location of economic activity and acting as a fiscal externality that reduces other tax revenues.

Working Papers

The Rise of the South and the Deindustrialization of the North with Gordon Hanson

During the middle of the 20th century, U.S. manufacturing reorganized itself. A substantial share of industrial jobs was reallocated from the U.S. North to the U.S. South, presaging the exodus of manufacturing from the global North to the global South that would occur several decades later. We study how the rise of the South affected labor market outcomes in the North after 1940, instrumenting for the South's industrial growth using insights from the literature on the region's structural transformation. Northern regions more exposed to the rise of the South saw larger declines in manufacturing employment, small offsetting gains in service employment, and decreases in overall employment rates that persisted to 1980. These changes were accompanied by reductions in wage and salary income among low-wage workers, which reached their peak impact in 1960. Impacts on earnings may have been offset by reductions in the cost of housing, whose impact peaked in 1960 but remained depressed through 1980. Consistent with the hypothesis of Wilson (1987) on the origins of urban decline in former industrial cities after 1960, adverse changes in Northern labor markets were followed by more intense rioting during the social upheaval of the late 1960s, increased uptake of government transfers, and reduced economic mobility of children born to low-income parents in the 1980 birth cohort relative to the 1940 birth cohort.

Automation Technologies and Employment at Risk (resting working paper) with Alfonso Cebreros, Aldo Heffner, and Daniela Puggioni

Papers in Progress

The Emergence of Public Transit and the Transformation of the American Downtown with Prottoy Akbar and Allison Shertzer

Commuting technologies transformed American urban form in the half-century before 1930. Yet those transformations remain largely unmeasured because data on commuting began only in the 1960 Census. Using Philadelphia's city directories over 1887-1930, we use large language models to extract name, occupation, industry, employer, home address, and work address for roughly one million directory entries. We then study the response of establishment location and individual commuting to changes in transportation technologies over that period. In preliminary work, we find that the electrification of streetcars 1) *centralized* service establishments downtown, 2) had no effect on the location of manufacturing establishments, and 3) decentralized residences of workers regardless of industry or occupation.

Seminars & Conferences

Southern Economic Association 95th Annual Meeting, November 2025
Harvard Kennedy School Economics and Social Policy Seminar, September 2025

Academic Service

Referee, Journal of Urban Economics (x2)
Organizer, Harvard Urban Economics Reading Group, 2023-2024
Member, Technical Board, Universidad Iberoamericana Department of Economics, 2022-2025

Research Grants

Harvard Mellon Urban Initiative Doctoral Fellowship (\$3,250), 2025
Taubman Center for Local and State Government Fellowship (\$6,000), 2024

Fellowships & Awards

Victor L. Urquidi Prize (Honorable Mention), 2020
Harvard University Graduate Prize Fellowship, 2020
Universidad Iberoamericana Academic Scholarship, 2012-2016

Languages

English (native); Spanish (native)

Software skills

Stata, Matlab, ArcGIS, Python, R, LaTeX

Personal information

Dual citizen of the U.S. and Mexico