WILLIAM M. COCKRIEL

(913)653-6304 ⋄ wcockri0@chicagobooth.edu

EDUCATION

University of Chicago **August 2019 - Present**
Ph.D. in Business Economics
Booth School of Business

Brigham Young University **June 2017**
Bachelor of Science, Mathematics GPA: 3.9, Cum Laude
Bachelor of Arts, Economics
Brigham Young University Presidential Scholar, Graduated with Honors

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

Research Professional, Booth School of Business, Chicago **July 2017 - August 2019**

Research Assistant, Brigham Young University, Provo **April 2016 - July 2017**

FELLOWSHIPS AND HONORS

Economic History Association Dissertation Fellowship **2023 - 2024**

Katherine-Dusak-Miller Fellowship **2019 - 2021**

PRESENTATIONS

Utah State University (2023, planned), Southern Economic Association Meeting (2023, planned), Economic History Association Graduate Student Poster Session (2023), National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute: Development of the American Economy Graduate Student Seminar (2023), Mountain West Economic History Conference (2023)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Research Interests: Economic History, Labor Economics

Teaching Interests: Economic and Business History, Applied Microeconomics, Trade and Spatial Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

"Machines Eating Men: Shoemakers and their Children After the McKay Stitcher"

Abstract: I examine the long-run impacts of a deskilling technology on workers and their children. The McKay stitcher dramatically changed shoe production in the late 19th century by replacing skilled artisans with machines and less-skilled workers. It was licensed in only a few counties and impacted workers across counties unevenly through the transportation network. More-exposed shoemakers left traditional shoemaking for lower wages and did not migrate. The transfer of occupation from father to son was disrupted, and the children of shoemakers entered lower income occupations. New entrants to shoe factories came from poorer and less educated families. Using a model of occupation selection,

I infer the change in life-time earnings implied by the impact of the technology on occupation exit. I find that the most exposed shoemakers and their children lost 2.2 and 2.5 years of wages, respectively.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

"Futures Contracts and the Spot Market Response," with Martin Rotemberg and Anne Krahn

Abstract. How do futures markets affect prices? We study an important historical event in order to shed light on this question: in 1865, the Chicago Board of Trade suddenly set up formal futures markets. We digitize weekly information on spot prices and storage for traded commodities. Futures markets lead both prices and storage to fall in the short run, but prices recover within a year. We develop a model of forward-looking buyers and sellers with access to storage that can fit this pattern.

"Occupation Destruction," with Joseph Price.

Abstract. The proliferation of automobiles in the early 20th century led to the rapid decline of occupations related to horse-driven transportation, including teamsters and drivers of wagons and buggies. Using newly digitized data on state highways in this period and data on motor vehicle registrations, we create a measure of exposure to automobiles to examine the long-run consequences for incumbent horse-related workers. We characterize the workers who adjusted best and who bore the largest burden.

"Manufacturing Establishments and Market Access," with Richard Hornbeck, Anders Humlum, and Martin Rotemberg.

Abstract. We examine economic adjustments at the establishment level caused by the rapid expansion of the railroad system in the 19th century United States. Using recently digitized establishment level data from the Census of Manufacturers in 1850, 1860, 1870, and 1880, we find that greater market access did not lead to industry specialization but did lead to establishment-level specialization at the product level. Establishments produced fewer products and used correspondingly fewer inputs in production.

PUBLICATIONS

"The influence of dispersion on journal impact measures," with James McDonald. *Scientometrics* 116 no. 1 (2018): 609-622. (Undergraduate)

"Two multivariate generalized beta families," with James B. McDonald. *Communications in Statistics-Theory and Methods* 47, no. 23 (2018): 5688-5701. (Undergraduate)

TEACHING

Microeconomics (MBA), Teaching Assistant	Fall 2024
Business in the Historical Perspective (MBA), Teaching Assistant	Winter 2023
Introduction to Economics (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant	Fall 2015 - Winter 2016