

Christopher Severen

Economic Advisor and Economist, Research Department

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APPOINTMENTS

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia	Philadelphia, PA
<i>Economic Advisor and Economist</i>	2023–
<i>Senior Economist</i>	2020–2022
<i>Economist</i>	2017–2019
London School of Economics	London, England
<i>Visiting Professor, Dept. of Geography and Environment</i>	2026
The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania	Philadelphia, PA
<i>Adjunct Assistant Professor of Real Estate</i>	2025
The Brookings Institution	Washington, DC
<i>Nonresident Senior Fellow</i>	2021–

EDUCATION

University of California, Santa Barbara	Santa Barbara, CA
<i>Ph.D., Economics</i>	2017
<i>“Three Essays on the Valuation of the Environment, Regulation, and Transportation Infrastructure”</i>	
<i>M.A., Economics</i>	2012
Institut Henri Poincaré	Paris, France
<i>Visiting Graduate Student</i>	2013
University of Texas at Austin	Austin, TX
<i>B.A. (High Honors), Economics and Latin American Studies (Special Honors)</i>	2009
<i>Minors in Mathematics and History</i>	

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

Berkes, Enrico, Olivier Deschênes, Ruben Gaetani, Jeffrey Lin, & Christopher Severen. 2025. [“Lockdowns and Innovation: Evidence from the 1918 Flu Pandemic.”](#) *Review of Economics and Statistics* 107(3): 853–863.

bunten, devin michelle, Ellen Fu, Lyndsey Rolheiser, & Christopher Severen. 2024. [“The Problem Has Existed over Endless Years: Racialized Difference in Commuting, 1980–2019.”](#) *Journal of Urban Economics* 141, 103542.

Severen, Christopher. 2023. [“Commuting, Labor, and Housing Market Effects of Mass Transportation: Welfare and Identification.”](#) *Review of Economics and Statistics* 105(5): 1073–1091.

Dee, Laura, Paul Ferraro, Christopher Severen, Kaitlin Kimmel, Elizabeth Borer, & Nutrient Network. 2023. [“Clarifying the effect of biodiversity on productivity in natural ecosystems with longitudinal data and methods for causal inference.”](#) *Nature Communications* 14, 2607.

Severen, Christopher & Arthur van Benthem. 2022. [“Formative Experiences and the Price of Gasoline.”](#) *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 14(2): 256–284.

Oliva, Paulina, Kelsey Jack, Samuel Bell, Elizabeth Mettetal, & Christopher Severen. 2020. [“Technology Adoption Under Uncertainty: Take-Up and Subsequent Investment in Zambia.”](#) *Review of Economics and Statistics* 102(3): 617–632

Martin, J., S. Gray, E. Aceves-Bueno, P. Alagona, T. Elwell, A. Garcia, Z. Horton, D. Lopez-Carr, J. Marter-Kenyon, K. Marie Miller, C. Severen, T. Shewry, & B. Twohey. 2019. [“What is Marine Justice?”](#) *Journal of Environmental Studies and Sciences* 9(2): 234–243.

Severen, Christopher & Andrew Plantinga. 2018. [“Land-Use Regulations, Property Values, and Rents: Decomposing the Effects of the California Coastal Act.”](#) *Journal of Urban Economics* 107: 65–78.

Severen, Christopher, Christopher Costello, & Olivier Deschênes. 2018. [“A Forward-Looking Ricardian Approach: Do Land Markets Capitalize Climate Change Forecasts?”](#) *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management* 89: 235–254.

Severen, Christopher. 2009. [“Rural Entrepreneurial Education: An Innovative Piece of Practical Development in Latin America.”](#) *Student Journal of Latin American Studies* 1: 26–51.

Working Papers (see website for Works in Progress)

Severen, Christopher. 2025. [“Evaluating Transportation Improvements Within Cities Using Quantitative Spatial Models.”](#) R&R at *Regional Science and Urban Economics*.

Bäcker-Peral, Verónica, Vitaly Meursault, & Christopher Severen. 2025. [“Can LLMs Credibly Transform the Creation of Panel Data from Diverse Historical Tables?”](#) R&R at *Historical Methods*.

Bostwick, Valerie & Christopher Severen. 2024. [“Driving, Dropouts, and Drive-throughs: Mobility Restrictions and Teen Human Capital.”](#) IZA Discussion Paper No. 16183 & FRBP WP 22-22R.

Chapters, Essays, Research Briefs, and Reports

Moulton, Dan & Christopher Severen. 2025. [“Harvesting Historical Data with LLMs.”](#) *Economic Insights* 10(4): 1–6.

Severen, Christopher. 2025. [“Delayed Sampling of Recent Immigrants in the Current Population Survey.”](#) *FRBP Research Brief*.

Holden, Nassir, & Christopher Severen. 2023. [“Not All Rush Hours Are the Same.”](#) *Economic Insights* 8(3): 16–25.

Severen, Christopher. March 24, 2023. [“Why are young people driving less? Evidence points to economics, not preferences.”](#) *Brookings Research Report*.

Severen, Christopher. 2020. [“A Ticket to Ride: Estimating the Costs and Benefits of Rail Transit.”](#) *Economic Insights* 5(2): 1–9.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Refereeing

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Econometrica, Economics Letters, International Economic Review,

Japanese Economic Review, Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Housing Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Land Economics, Land Use Policy, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Quarterly Journal of Economics, PNAS Nexus, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Research Policy, Resource and Energy Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Southern Economic Journal, Urban Studies

Seminar and Conference Organization

Federal Reserve System Climate Meeting (Summer 2024)
Co-Organizer, 2020 Virtual Meeting of the Urban Economics Association
Founding Co-Organizer, Online Spatial and Urban Seminar (Summer 2020)
Organizer, Online Urban Economics Seminar (Spring 2020)

Mentoring and Service

Philadelphia Fed Mentoring & Advancing PhDs Program (Co-Founder, 2023–)
AEA/CSWEP Summer Economics Fellow Program (Philadelphia Fed Coordinator, 2020–)
CSWEP Liaison (Philadelphia Fed, 2019–)
FRB Philadelphia RA Mentor

Program Committees

AERE (2018–2024); AREUEA (2019–2021); AREUEA/ASSA Meetings (2019, 2026); Occasional Workshop in Environmental and Resource Economics (2017); UEA (2020–2022), EMUEA (2026)

Grant Review

Ad hoc: National Science Foundation, METTRANS, Swiss National Science Foundation

PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PANELS

Seminars, Conference Presentations & Discussions (* *virtual*, † *discussed*, ‡ *presented & discussed*)

2026 AEA (Philadelphia)†, London School of Econ., EMUEA (Barcelona)
2025 FRB Boston, ITEA (Northwestern), Ohio State U, SEA
2024 Cities & Development Workshop (Boston), FRS System Regional (Atlanta)†, Georgia State U, NBER Econ. of Transportation*, Syracuse U, UEA (Washington DC)‡, U of Georgia
2023 AEA (New Orleans)‡, Cornell, FRB Kansas City, SEA (New Orleans), UEA (Toronto)‡, U Penn (Wharton), U of West Virginia
2022 FRS System Regional (Kansas City), LACEA LAUrban (Santiago), NARSC (Montréal), UEA (Washington DC)‡, U of Southern California, U of Toronto*
2021 ASSA*, FRS System Regional*, UEA‡*
2020 FRS Applied Micro*, NBER SI EEE Egg Timer*, Tobin Center (Yale)*, TREE (Duke/NCSU)*, UCSB Alumni Conf.*

- 2019 AERE (Tahoe), ASSA/Econometric Society (Atlanta)‡, FRB Dallas, FRS Energy (Denver), Michigan State, Migration & Mobility Workshop (Rome), NBER Econ. of Infrastructure, SEA (Fort Lauderdale)‡, U of New Hamp., UEA (Philadelphia)‡, U Penn (Wharton)
- 2018 AREUEA (Washington DC), FRS Applied Micro (Washington DC), FRS System Regional (Boston)†, Penn State, SMU CURE (Singapore), UEA (NYC)‡, WCERE (Göteborg)
- 2017 EMUEA (Copenhagen), FRB Philadelphia, FRS System Regional (NYC), Fordham, NYU, NARSC (Vancouver)‡, Tilburg, UEA (Vancouver)‡, UMass Amherst, Ottawa, WEAI (San Diego)‡
- 2013-6 AERE Summer Conf. (San Diego), ASSA (Philadelphia), NARSC (Minneapolis)‡, NBER SI (EEE), Occasional Workshop in Envi. and Resource Econ. (UCSB)†, SOCCAM, WEAI (Portland)‡, Workshop on Envi. Econ. and Dev. (UCSB)†, WUSTL Gradu. Student Conf.

Panels and Outreach

Guest Panelist – Online Spatial and Urban Seminar, March 2021

Guest Co-Host – *Densely Speaking* (podcast), January 2021

TEACHING

Instructor

Quantitative Spatial Models for Urban Economics (REAL9440, Wharton PhD Class, Fall 2025)
PhD Math Camp (UCSB, 2013–15)

Teaching Assistant

PhD Econometrics 241A/B/C (UCSB 2013–14), Master’s Applied Econometrics (UCSB Bren 2014), Climate Change Economics (UCSB 2014–15), Intermediate Microeconomics (UCSB 2016), Introduction to Econometrics (UCSB 2017)

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CLEARResult	Austin, TX
<i>Analyst</i>	2009–2011
Inter-Cooperative Council of Austin	Austin, TX
<i>Board of Directors</i>	2007–2011
<i>Executive Committee</i>	2008–2009

GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Excellence in Refereeing Award, JAERE (2026)
Finalist, NARSC Graduate Student Paper Award (2017)
Regents Special Fellowship, UCSB (2011–15)
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program, Honorable Mention (2013)
Andron Fellowship, UCSB Economics (2011–12)
Distinction, Macroeconomics and Econometrics PhD Preliminary Exams (2011)
Liberal Arts Competitive/Honors Research Fellowship, UT Austin (2008)
Joe R. and Teresa Lozano Long Undergraduate Scholarship, UT Austin (2007)
National Merit Scholar (2004)