Christopher Severen

Economic Advisor and Economist, Research Department
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Appointments

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia — Philadelphia, PA
Economic Advisor and Economist — *2023–*
Senior Economist — *2020–2022*
Economist — *2017–2019*

London School of Economics — London, UK
Visiting Professor, Dept. of Geography and Environment — *2026*

The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania — Philadelphia, PA
Adjunct Assistant Professor of Real Estate — *2025*

The Brookings Institution — Washington, DC
Nonresident Senior Fellow — *2021–2026*

Education

University of California, Santa Barbara — Santa Barbara, CA
Ph.D., Economics — *2017*
"Three Essays on the Valuation of the Environment, Regulation, and Transportation Infrastructure"
M.A., Economics — *2012*

Institut Henri Poincaré — Paris, France
Visiting Graduate Student — *2013*

University of Texas at Austin — Austin, TX
B.A. (High Honors), Economics and Latin American Studies (Special Honors) — *2009*
Minors in Mathematics and History

Publications

Journal Articles

Severen, C. 2026. "Evaluating Transportation Improvements Within Cities Using Quantitative Spatial Models." Accepted at *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 104272.

Berkes, Enrico, Olivier Deschênes, Ruben Gaetani, Jeffrey Lin, & C. 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, & C. Severen. 2024. "The Problem Has Existed over Endless Years: Racialized Difference in Commuting, 1980–2019." *Journal of Urban Economics* 141, 103542.

Severen, C. 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, C. 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, C. & 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, & C. 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, C. & 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, C., 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, C. 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)

Bostwick, Valerie & C. Severen. 2026. "Driving, Dropouts, and Drive-throughs: Mobility Restrictions and Teen Human Capital." Revisions requested at *Journal of Human Resources*.

Bäcker-Peral, Verónica, Vitaly Meursault, & C. Severen. 2025. "Can LLMs Credibly Transform the Creation of Panel Data from Diverse Historical Tables?" Resubmitted at *Historical Methods*.

Chapters, Essays, Research Briefs, and Reports

Moulton, Dan & C. Severen. 2025."Harvesting Historical Data with LLMs." *Economic Insights* 10(4): 1–6.

Severen, C. 2025. "Delayed Sampling of Recent Immigrants in the Current Population Survey." *FRBP Research Brief*.

Holden, Nassir, & C. Severen. 2023. "Not All Rush Hours Are the Same." *Economic Insights* 8(3): 16–25.

Severen, C. March 24, 2023. "Why are young people driving less? Evidence points to economics, not preferences." *Brookings Research Report*.

Severen, C. 2020. "A Ticket to Ride: Estimating the Costs and Benefits of Rail Transit." *Economic Insights* 5(2): 1–9.

Professional Service

Editorial Positions

Associate Editor, *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 2027–

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

Conference and Seminar Organization

Co-Organizer, Junior Spatial at the SEA (with Simon Fuchs)	2021–
Program Committee, UEA, North American & European Meetings	2020–2022, 2026
Program Committee, AREUEA, National Conference & ASSA Meetings	2019–2021, 2026
Co-Organizer, Federal Reserve System Climate Meeting	2024
Program Committee, AERE, Summer Conference	2018–2024
Co-Organizer, Virtual Meeting of the UEA	2020
Founding Co-Organizer, Online Spatial and Urban Seminar	2020
Organizer, Online Urban Economics Seminar	2020
Program Committee, Occasional Workshop in Environmental and Resource Economics	2017

Mentoring and Service

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

Grant Review

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

Presentations, Discussions, and Panels

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

2026	AEA (Philadelphia)†, UEA European Meeting (Barcelona)‡, London School of Economics, SEA (Houston), UEA North American Meeting (Chicago)‡
2025	FRB Boston, ITEA (Northwestern), Ohio State University, SEA (Tampa)
2024	Cities & Development Workshop (Boston), FRS System Regional (Atlanta)†, Georgia State University, NBER Econ. of Transportation*, Syracuse University, UEA North American Meeting (Washington DC)‡, University of Georgia
2023	AEA (New Orleans)‡, Cornell University, FRB Kansas City, SEA (New Orleans), UEA North American Meeting (Toronto)‡, University of Pennsylvania (Wharton), University of West Virginia

2022 FRS System Regional (Kansas City), LACEA LAUrban (Santiago), NARSC (Montréal), UEA North American Meeting (Washington DC)‡, University of Southern California, University of Toronto*

2021 AEA*, FRS System Regional*, UEA Virtual Meeting‡*

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 University, Migration & Mobility Workshop (Rome), NBER Econ. of Infrastructure, SEA (Fort Lauderdale)‡, University of New Hampshire, UEA North American Meeting (Philadelphia)‡, University of Pennsylvania (Wharton)

2018 AREUEA (Washington DC), FRS Applied Micro (Washington DC), FRS System Regional (Boston)†, Pennsylvania State University, SMU CURE (Singapore), UEA North American Meeting (NYC)‡, WCERE (Göteborg)

2017 FRB Philadelphia, FRS System Regional (NYC), Fordham University, New York University (Furman), NARSC (Vancouver)‡, Tilburg, UEA European Meeting (Copenhagen), UEA North American Meeting (Vancouver)‡, University of Massachusetts Amherst, University of 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

CLEAResult Austin, TX
Analyst *2009–2011*

Inter-Cooperative Council of Austin Austin, TX
Board of Directors *2007–2011*
Executive Committee *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)