



Samuel Watling

watlings@tcd.ie | samuelwatling.github.io

Cambridge and LSE graduate. Combining quantitative skills including fluency in the R statistical programming language with specialist experience in game theory. Aiming to pursue a PhD with an emphasis political economy research in the formation and distribution of public goods and their attribution to housing politics.



RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **Trinity College Dublin** 
Predoctoral Research Assistant Sep 2024 - Sep 2025
Dublin, Ireland
 - Predoctoral research assistant to Professor Ronan Lyons.
 - Work specialises in data preperation and analysis in the topics of Urban Economics and Economic History at the Trinity Research in Social Sciences Department.
 - Data work includes web-scraping Craigslist rental data in Python and using Tesseract combined with R to carry out OCR conversions on housing permit data.
- **Centre for Cities** 
Research Assistant Sep 2021 Year - Feb 2023
London, England
 - Co-author of the "Housebuilding Crisis" with Anthony Breach. This was a landmark study in British post-war house-building policy quoted in the Economist and other publications.
 - Collected and processed of European Housing Data from annals of historical statistics using OCR technology and R.
 - Estimate the British housing shortfall using adjusted Western European building rates for both public and private housing as a synthetic control for British planning policies from 1955 to 2015. This method produced an of an overall post-war British housing deficit of 4.3 million beginning in 1955.

EDUCATION

- **Birkbeck College** Jan 2024 - July 2024
London, England
Graduate Certificate in Mathematics
 - Grade: Distinction
- **London School of Economics** Sep 2021 - Sep 2023
London, England
Political Science and Political Economy
 - GPA: 3.73/4.00
- **Cambridge University** Sep 2018 - June 2021
Cambridge, England
History and Politics
 - GPA: 3.85/4.00

PROJECTS

- **The Political Economy of English Housing** March 2023 - 
Tools: R, GiS, Tesseract
 - Digitization of English housing completions, taxation, planning and local elections data from 1947 to the present day for conducting causal inference analysis.
 - Work centers around empirically examining the relationship between housing tenure in an area and both political preferences and the permissiveness of the local planning system.
 - The methodology uses a continuous difference in difference approach. This exploits differences in the treatment intensity on exogenous shifts in local housing tenure through government mandated policies of allowing units of social housing to be bought by its occupants.
- **The European Housing Archive** September 2021 - 
Tools: R, Excel
 - Digitization and storage of previously unused data from UN European Housing Statistics.
 - This includes estimations of housing stock for all Western European countries after 1950 and public and private building rates.
 - Includes replication code from the House-building Crisis report for both summary statistics and the synthetic control methodology.
 - Currently working to extend this series to Spain and the Eastern European Countries of Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Poland before and after the fall of communism.

PUBLICATIONS

P=PUBLISHED, W=WORKING PAPER, T=THESIS

- [T/W] **The Impact of Property Ownership on Voting Behaviour Evidence from Right to Buy.** Current working paper.
- [P] Watling and Breach (2023). **The Housebuilding Crisis.** Published by The Centre for Cities.
- [T/P] **The Impact of Mortgage Rationing and Government Policy on the British Housing Market 1963 -1975, the Origins of the 'Barber Boom'.** An edited form incorporating my later European research was published as the Works in Progress articles **Why Britain Doesn't Build** and **Britain's Forgotten Financial Crisis.**

SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** R , Python , STATA
- **Data Science and Statistics:** OLS and Logistic Regression, Causal Inference, Panel Data
- **Data Collection:** OCR using Tesseract engine in R and Python, Webscraping using BeautifulSoup and Selenium Packages.
- **Mathematics:** Real Analysis, Multivariate Calculus, Linear Algebra
- **Other Tools & Technologies:** \LaTeX , Markdown and Github
- **Research Skills:** Archival research, Historical data, Webscraping