

Adam R. Scavette

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Current Position

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Community Development
Economic Advisor, 2024–Present

Education

Ph.D., **Rutgers University–New Brunswick**, Public Policy, 2024
M.S.E., **University of Pennsylvania**, Systems Engineering, 2018
M.Sc., **University of Edinburgh**, Economics, 2011
B.S., **Villanova University**, Economics, 2010

Previous Positions

West Virginia University, Regional Research Institute
Visiting Researcher, 2024–2025
Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Research Department
Regional Economist, 2022–2024
Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, Research Department
Sr. Econ. Analyst, 2019–2021; Econ. Analyst, 2015–2018; Research Assoc., 2011–2015

Research Interests

Urban economics; public economics; economic mobility; poverty; place-based policies

Working Papers

“From Campus to Community: The Local Economic Effects of College Closures” (with Daniel Centuriao and Heather Stephens)

“Reversing the Natural Resource Curse: Coal Mine Closures and Poverty in Appalachia” (with David Nason and Heather Stephens).

“Are Place-Based Policies Capitalized into Local Home Prices? Evidence from England” (with Robert Calvert Jump and Sierra Stoney).

“Do Research Universities Recession Proof Their Regions? Evidence from State Flagship College Towns” (with Robert Calvert Jump). FRB Richmond WP 24-05. Revision requested at *Journal of Economic Geography*.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

“A better Sahm rule? Introducing the SOS recession indicator” (with John O’Trakoun), *Economics Letters*, 2025.

“JUE Insight: The Labor Market Effects of Place-Based Policies: Evidence from England's Neighbourhood Renewal Fund” (with Robert Calvert Jump), *Journal of Urban Economics*, 144, 2024. Previous Version: FRB Richmond WP 22-02.

“Aerospace Place-Based Policy: The Impact of Boeing on South Carolina's Aerospace Industry.” *Economic Development Quarterly*, 2024.

“The Economic Impact of a Casino Monopoly: Evidence from Atlantic City,” *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 103, 2023. Previous Version: FRB Richmond WP 23-07.

“The Impact of New Jersey’s Urban Enterprise Zones on Local Employment: A Synthetic Control Approach,” *Economic Development Quarterly*, 37(2), 2023, pp. 127-142.

“Exploiting a Natural Hub: Turning a Stopover into a Destination” (with Leah Goldsberry), *Transportation Research Record: Journal of the Transportation Research Board*, 2672(23), 2018, pp. 8-14.

Federal Reserve Publications (Selected)

“SOS! Signaling Recessions Earlier” (with John O’Trakoun), *Economic Brief*, February 2025.

“Understanding SNAP’s Role” (with Carrie Cook, Stephanie Norris, and Alvaro Sanchez), *Econ Focus*, 2024: Q1.

“Social Capital Across the Fifth District” (with Stephanie Norris), *Econ Focus*, 2023: Q3.

“Casinos and Regional Economies: Has the Game Changed?” *Economic Brief*, No. 22-28, July 2022.

“Regional Spotlight: Making Ends Meet,” *Economic Insights*, 2022: Q2.

“Broadband Subscription, Computer Use, and Labor Market Attachment across U.S. Metros” (with Alvaro Sanchez), *Community Development Report*, June 2021.

“Regional Spotlight: Evaluating Metro Unemployment Rates Throughout the Business Cycle,” *Economic Insights*, 2019: Q4.

“Exploring the Economic Effects of the Opioid Epidemic,” *Economic Insights*, 2019: Q2.

“Regional Spotlight: Purchasing Power Across the U.S.” (with Elif Sen), *Economic Insights*, 2017: Q4.

“Is Urban Cool Cooling New Jersey’s Job Market?” (with Ethan Haswell), *Research Brief*, December 2016.

Media Mentions

New York Times [[link](#)], *Wall Street Journal*, *Chicago Sun-Times* (x2) [[link](#); [link](#)], *Bloomberg* [[link](#)], *MarketWatch* [[link](#)], *NPR*, *Post and Courier* [[link](#)], *Torsten Slok Newsletter*, *Congressional Research Service* (x2) [[link](#); [link](#)], *Inside U.S. Trade* [[link](#)], *National Affairs*, *American Enterprise Institute* [[link](#)], *Baltimore Banner* (x4) [[link](#)], *Baltimore Business Journal*, *City Observatory* [[link](#)], *Indiana Public Media* [[link](#)], *Travel Weekly* [[link](#)]

Awards

Susan S. Fainstein Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award, Rutgers University, 2024
Runner-up, Tiebout Prize for Best PhD Paper, Western Regional Science Association, 2024
Winner, Moriarty Prize for Best PhD Paper, Southern Regional Science Association, 2023
Runner-up, Tiebout Prize for Best PhD Paper, Western Regional Science Association, 2022
Augustinian Scholarship, Full-tuition merit scholarship, Villanova University, 2006-2010

Academic Presentations

2025: Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis Opportunity & Inclusive Growth Institute Research Conference (scheduled), Society of Government Economists Annual Meeting, West Virginia University, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia

2024: Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, The Urban Institute, WHY Symposium on Policy Evaluation and Causal Inference, Johns Hopkins University, West Virginia University, National Conference of State Legislatures Roundtable on Evaluating Economic Development Tax Incentives, FR System Committee on Regional Analysis, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Society for Economic Measurement Conference, College of Charleston, Southern Regional Science Association, Western Regional Science Association

2023: FR System Committee on Regional Analysis, WHY Symposium on Policy Evaluation and Causal Inference, Southern Regional Science Association, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

2022: Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta, WHY Symposium on Policy Evaluation and Causal Inference, APPAM Fall Research Conference, Society of Government Economists Annual Meeting, Rutgers University Krueckeberg Doctoral Conference, Western Regional Science Association Annual Meeting

2021: Urban Economics Association (UEA) – North American Meeting, FR System Committee on Regional Analysis, Rutgers University

2018-2019: Transportation Research Board Annual Meeting, FR System Committee on Regional Analysis

Outreach Presentations

2023-2024: United Way National ALICE Summit, Garrett College's Maryland Manufacturing Conference, Maryland Council on Economic Education, Garrett College Workforce Summit, Rural Maryland Council, South Carolina Chamber of Commerce, Investing in Rural America Conference

2021-2022: West Virginia University Economic Outlook Conference, Western North Carolina Rebounding Stronger Summit, United States Congressional Representatives and Staff, Pennsylvania Governor's Advisory Council on Rural Affairs, Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

Professional Service

Referee Reports

Contemporary Economic Policy, Economic Development Quarterly, Economics Letters, Journal of Public Economics, Nature Communications, Papers in Regional Science, Regional Science and Urban Economics (x3), Telecommunications Policy

Conference Organization

2026: Co-organizer, FR System Committee on Regional Analysis, TBD.

2025: Co-organizer, FR System Committee on Regional Analysis, Washington, DC.

Podcasts

“A New Way of Detecting Recessions” (with John O’Trakoun), *Speaking of the Economy*, April 2025.

“The Role of Anchor Institutions in Regional Economies” (with Deborah Diamond), *Speaking of the Economy*, June 2024.

“The Economic Impact of the Key Bridge Collapse” (with Jason Kosakow), *Speaking of the Economy*, June 2024.

“Figuring Out Maryland's Out-Migration” (with Keith Waters), *Speaking of the Economy*, April 2024.

Op-Eds and Commentary

“Port of Baltimore well positioned to bounce back from Key Bridge loss,” *Baltimore Banner*, April 12, 2024.

“The Revival of Urban Enterprise Zones in New Jersey,” *New Jersey State Policy Lab*, May 27, 2022.

Teaching

Teaching Assistant

Research Methods in Policy (10:775:395), Rutgers University, Fall 2021

Applied Multivariate Methods (833:525:01), Rutgers University, Fall 2020

Engineering Statistics (ESE 302), University of Pennsylvania, Fall 2016–Spring 2018

Intermediate Microeconomics (ECO 2102), Villanova University, Spring 2010