

**Craig Sylvera**  
*Curriculum Vitae, October 2021*

Email: craig.sylvera@vanderbilt.edu  
Phone: (504)491-8608  
Website: c-sylvera.github.io

Vanderbilt University  
Department of Economics  
Nashville, TN 37235

---

**Graduate Education**

Vanderbilt University, Department of Economics  
Ph.D Candidate in Economics, May 2022 (Expected)  
Dissertation Title: Black Representation In Muncipal Government

References:

Brian Beach  
Lesley Turner  
William Collins

brian.beach@vanderbilt.edu  
lesley.j.turner@vanderbilt.edu  
william.collins@vanderbilt.edu

M.A. in Economics, 2018

**Undergraduate Education**

University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA  
B.S. in Finance, 2016

**Research Interests**

Primary: Labor and Demographic Economics  
Secondary: Economic History

**Working Papers**

*“Black Mayors & Black Communities”*

Do Black communities benefit economically from the election of a Black mayor? Leveraging elections where a Black candidate wins mayor in a city for the first time and that Black Americans generally reside near each other, I use a difference-in-differences strategy allowing for heterogeneous treatment effects by ZIP-code racial composition to estimate the effect breakthrough Black mayors have on location-specific economic activity. I find majority-Black ZIP codes experience gains in employment, establishments, and annual payroll relative to non-Black ZIP codes. Absolute gains in Black communities are larger in areas where the mayor has executive power or was re-elected. Establishment gains are found in industries where the mayor and department heads exert influence over city contracts suggesting these figures are influencing the distribution of city funds. To provide evidence these gains are experienced by Black residents, I turn to the decennial Census and American Community survey and find a positive relationship between the Black–White self employment gap and relative self-employment gains suggesting institutional and historical factors may limit Black economic progress in areas of high disparity.

**Work-in-Progress**

*“Economic Impact of Black Lives Matter Protests”* (with Oscar O’Flaherty)

**Conference Presentations**

**2021**

Vanderbilt Empirical and Applied Microeconomics Seminar  
Missouri Valley Economics Association Conference

### Teaching Experience

Vanderbilt University, Instructor

Econ 1010: Principles of Macroeconomics 2019

Econ 2160: Strategic Analysis 2020

Vanderbilt University, Teaching Assistant

GRADUATE EXPERIENCE

Econ 8400: Introduction to Economic History, Prof. Peter Rousseau 2020

UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

Econ 1010: Principles of Macroeconomics, Prof. Hojjatallah Ghandi 2021

Econ 1010: Principles of Macroeconomics, Prof. Heather Luea 2019, 2020

Econ 1500: Economic Statistics, Prof. Hojjatallah Ghandi 2021

Econ 1500: Economic Statistics, Prof. Heather Luea 2017

Econ 2220: Latin American Development, Prof. Ana de Vides Regina Andrade 2018, 2019

### Other Research Experience

Vanderbilt University, Research Assistant - Discovery Grant 2019