

# Christopher Severen

Economic Advisor and Economist, Research Department

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## APPOINTMENTS

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

## EDUCATION

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<b>University of California, Santa Barbara</b>	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
<b>Institut Henri Poincaré</b>	Paris, France
<i>Visiting Graduate Student</i>	2013
<b>University of Texas at Austin</b>	Austin, TX
<i>B.A. (High Honors), Economics and Latin American Studies (Special Honors)</i>	2009
<i>Minors in Mathematics and History</i>	

## PUBLICATIONS

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### 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 Urban Transportation with Quantitative Spatial Models.”](#)

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

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

### **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**

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#### **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, 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)

## **Grant Review**

National Science Foundation (ad hoc), METTRANS (ad hoc)

## **Session Organization at Conferences**

AEA/ASSA (2021), AREUEA (2021), SEA (2022, 2025), UEA (2019, 2023)

## **PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSIONS, AND PANELS**

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

2026	AEA (Philadelphia)†
2025	FRB Boston, ITEA (Northwestern), Ohio State U (AEDE), 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 NH, UEA (Philadelphia)‡, UPenn (Wharton EEF)
- 2018 AREUEA (Washington DC), FRS Applied Micro (Washington DC), FRS System Regional (Boston)†, Penn State (Smeal), SMU CURE (Singapore), UEA (NYC)‡, WCERE (Göteborg)
- 2017 Euro UEA (Copenhagen), FRB Philadelphia, FRS System Regional (NYC), Fordham, NYU (Furman Center), NARSC (Vancouver)‡, Tilburg (EOR), UEA (Vancouver)‡, UMass Amherst (DRE), Ottawa, WEAI (San Diego)‡
- 2013-6 AERE Summer Conf. (San Diego), ASSA (Philadelphia), NARSC (Minneapolis)‡, NBER SI EEE Egg Timer, Occasional Workshop in Environmental and Resource Economics (UCSB)†, SOCCAM, WEAI (Portland)‡, Workshop on Environmental Economics and Development (UCSB)†, WUSTL Graduate Student Conf.

## Panels and Outreach

Guest Panelist – Online Spatial and Urban Seminar, March 2021

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

## TEACHING

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### 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

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### CLEAResult

*Analyst*

Austin, TX

2009–2011

### Inter-Cooperative Council of Austin

*Board of Directors*

*Executive Committee*

Austin, TX

2007–2011

2008–2009

## GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

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Finalist, NARSC Graduate Student Paper Award (2017)

Economics Department & Graduate Division Travel Grants, UCSB (2015–17)

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)