

**Jacob Van Leeuwen**

2935 Research Parkway  
College Station, TX 77843

<https://sites.google.com/view/jacobvanleeuwen/>

Email: [jacobrvl@tamu.edu](mailto:jacobrvl@tamu.edu)

Phone: 801-721-1165

Citizenship: United States

**Education:**

Ph.D. Economics, Texas A&M University, expected 2025

B.S. Economics and Statistics, Brigham Young University, 2018

**Research and Teaching Interests:**

Applied Microeconomics, Labor Economics, Economic History, Urban Economics, Environmental Economics

**Working Papers:**

“The long run effects of anti-immigrant discrimination in policing: Evidence from Philadelphia” (**Job Market Paper**)

I estimate the long-run and intergenerational effects of institutional discrimination using a policy targeting Irish immigrants in 19th century Philadelphia. I construct a panel of US Census data from 1850 to 1910 linked to inmate data from a large prison, and find that the rate of incarceration for Irish men increased following the implementation of the policy. Using a differences-in-differences design, I find that impacted Irish individuals had worse labor market outcomes nearly 25 years after the enactment of the policy, and are more likely to move to a different county. While the effects of the discriminatory policy do not persist across generations on average, first-generation mobility contributes to the persistence of effects. Irish individuals who moved from Philadelphia and their children see improved labor market outcomes, while those who stayed do not, suggesting that institutional discrimination has lasting effects for those unable to move away from the source of the discrimination.

“The long-run and intergenerational effects of natural disaster exposure: Evidence from the Galveston Hurricane of 1900”

I exploit a natural experiment to examine the long-run and intergenerational effects of a major negative shock, exploring how where we live can have long-lasting impacts. I examine outcomes of individuals impacted by the Galveston Hurricane of 1900, whose landfall was poorly forecasted in the United States. Using historic newspaper records from *The Houston Post*, I am able to identify towns which sustained significant physical damage or were completely destroyed by the storm. Leveraging panel data of linked US Census records for individuals living in southeast Texas in 1900, I find that individuals in affected towns were less likely to migrate, had lower employment rates, shorter lifespans, and poorer literacy and occupational outcomes compared to similar individuals in nearby unaffected towns. These negative effects persisted into the next generation, pointing to both persistent long-run and intergenerational effects of negative shocks, which may be driven by individuals' migration behavior.

“The Socioeconomic Effects of Forced Displacement: Evidence from the Tennessee Valley Authority” with Andre’nay Harris

We examine the socioeconomic effects of forced migration using individuals who were displaced by the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) dam projects in the 1930s. To estimate the effect of forced migration, we use data from the relocation program associated with the TVA and link it to US Census data using record linking methods. We compare individuals living in counties that were impacted by the dam-induced flooding with nearby counties that would have been affected had the dams been in a different location. We find evidence that individuals who were impacted by the dam projects are more likely to participate in the labor force, with an influx into unskilled occupations. They are also more likely to pay higher rent prices conditional on renting. We examine racial disparities in outcomes and find that Black families see a higher increase in rent prices and Black men are more likely to switch into unskilled occupations compared to White families and White men after the relocation.

**Works in Progress:**

"The Orphan Train Experiment: The Impact of America's First Large-Scale Child Welfare Program" with Maxwell Bullard

**Publications:**

"Male-biased sex ratios, marriage, and household composition in early twentieth-century Hawai‘i." *Asia-Pacific Economic History Review* (2024). with Sumner La Croix, Timothy Halliday, and Joseph Price

“Using Linked Census Records to Study Shrinking Cities in the United States from 1900 to 1940”, *The Professional Geographer* (2022) , with Samuel Otterstrom and Joseph Price

“Combining family history and machine learning to link historical records: The Census Tree data set.” *Explorations in Economic History* 80 (2021): 101391, with Joseph Price, Kasey Buckles, and Isaac Riley

“Baseball and Life Expectancy: Evidence from Linked Data” *Historical Perspectives on Sports Economics* (2019), with Joseph Price and Sebastian Brown

**Teaching Experience:**

Primary Instructor, Public Finance, Texas A&M University, 2024 (Course evaluation: 4.1/5.0)

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Econometrics, Texas A&M University, 2021- 2022

Teaching Assistant, Applied Econometrics, Brigham Young University, 2018

**Research Experience:**

Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Economics, Texas A&M University, 2020-

Research Assistant, Department of Economics, Brigham Young University, 2016-2020

**Presentations:**

BYU Family History Technology Workshop, 2019  
Texas TEAMS Workshop, 2024

**References:**

Professor Andrew Barr  
Department of Economics  
Texas A&M University  
[abarr@tamu.edu](mailto:abarr@tamu.edu)

Professor Jonathan Meer  
Department of Economics  
Texas A&M University  
[jmeer@tamu.edu](mailto:jmeer@tamu.edu)

Professor Joanna Lahey  
Bush School of Government and Public Service  
Texas A&M University  
[jlahey@tamu.edu](mailto:jlahey@tamu.edu)