

# LEI MA

Boston University  
Department of Economics  
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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, 2019 - May 2025 (expected)  
M.A., Social Sciences (Economics), University of Chicago, 2017  
B.S., Economics (*Highest Distinction*), University of Minnesota, 2015

## FIELDS

Real Estate/Urban Economics, Industrial Organization, Household Finance

## WORKING PAPERS

[“Build What and for Whom? The Distributional Effects of Housing Supply”](#) (Job Market Paper)  
[“Racial Disparities in Home Selling,”](#) with Leonel Drukker  
[“When Institutional Investors Come to Town: The Local Effects of Buy-to-Rent Properties”](#)  
[“Happy at Home or Stuck in Place? The Determinants of Declining Local Residential Mobility”](#)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Impact of Parenthood on the Financial Well-Being of Families,” with Victoria Wang and Letian Yin  
“Housing Inequality in the United States,” with Gerard Domènech Arumí and Giovanni Paolo Mariani

## PRESENTATIONS

2025: University of Georgia (Real Estate), University of Wisconsin-Madison (Real Estate), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (Economics), Temple University (Economics), University of Arkansas (Economics), Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas  
2024: FDIC Consumer Research Symposium, IHS Workshop on NIMBYism and the Future of Housing, Urban Economics Association Europe Meeting, University of Chicago Stone Center Summer School on Socioeconomic Opportunity and Inequality, Urban Economics Association North America Meeting, GNIlab Alumni Conference, Dallas Fed and Norges Bank Second Women in Central Banking Workshop, Boston University Empirical Micro Workshop

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Marc Rysman, Boston University, 2024-2025  
Research Assistant, Adam Guren, Boston University, 2020-2024  
Research Assistant, Peter Ganong and Pascal Noel, University of Chicago, 2018-2019  
Research Assistant, Christopher Palmer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2017-2018

Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, 2015-2016

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching assistant, Introduction to Mathematical and Computational Economics (PhD), Intermediate Macroeconomics (Undergrad), Money and Banking (Undergrad), Elementary Mathematical Economics (Master's), Boston University. **Teaching evaluation: 4.75/5**  
Teaching assistant, Theory of Probability and Statistics (Undergrad), University of Minnesota

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Committee member, University of Chicago MAPSS Alumni Association Executive Committee, 2022 - present  
Co-chair, Women in Economics (WEorg), Boston University, 2021 - 2023  
Co-organizer, Spatial and Trade Reading Group, Boston University, 2022 - 2023  
Mentor, Master RA mentor program, Boston University, 2022 - 2023  
Mentor/tutor, Boston Partners in Education, 2022-2023

## OTHER PUBLICATION

“County-level estimates of excess mortality associated with COVID-19 in the United States,” with Andrew Stokes, Calvin Ackley, Dielle Lundberg, Irma Elo, and Samuel Preston, SSM-Population Health, 2022 Jan 5: 101021

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Graduate Fellowship, Boston University, 2019 - 2025  
Institute for Economics Development travel grant, Boston University, 2024  
Institute for Economics Development research grant, Boston University, 2023  
California Policy Lab Seed grant (co-authored project), UCLA, 2020  
UCLA Ziman Center for Real Estate research grant (co-authored project), UCLA, 2020  
Graduate Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2016-2017  
Dean's List, University of Minnesota, 2013-2015

## SOFTWARE

R, Julia, Python, Stata, Matlab, Git, LaTeX, cluster computing

## REFERENCES

Professor Adam Guren (co-advisor)  
Department of Economics, Boston University  
Email: [guren@bu.edu](mailto:guren@bu.edu)

Professor Marc Rysman (co-advisor)  
Department of Economics, Boston University  
Email: [mrysman@bu.edu](mailto:mrysman@bu.edu)

Professor Kevin Lang  
Department of Economics, Boston University  
Email: [lang@bu.edu](mailto:lang@bu.edu)

Professor Jihye Jeon  
Department of Economics, Boston University  
Email: [jjeon@bu.edu](mailto:jjeon@bu.edu)