

# LEI MA

University of Georgia  
Terry College of Business  
Department of Insurance, Legal Studies, and Real Estate  
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## EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor of Real Estate, University of Georgia, Terry College of Business, August 2025 -

## EDUCATION

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

## RESEARCH FIELDS

Real Estate/Urban Economics, Industrial Organization, Household Finance

## WORKING PAPERS

["Build What and for Whom? The Distributional Effects of Housing Supply"](#)  
["Racial Disparities in Home Selling,"](#) with Leonel Drukker  
["Housing Inequality in the United States,"](#) with Gerard Domènech Arumí and Giovanni Paolo Mariani

## WORK IN PROGRESS

"The Impact of Parenthood on the Financial Well-Being of Families," with Victoria Wang and Letian Yin

## PRESENTATIONS

2026: ASSA Philadelphia  
2025: NBER Real Estate/Urban Summer Institute, Urban Economics Association North America Meeting, Miami University Finance and Real Estate Conference, ISEG Lisbon Urban and Public Economics Workshop, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, 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), CUHK Shenzhen (Economics)  
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, Dallas Fed and Norges Bank Second Women in Central Banking Workshop, Urban Economics Association North America Meeting, GNlab Alumni Conference, Boston University Empirical Micro Workshop

## **WORK 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**

- Instructor, Real Estate Principles (Undergrad), University of Georgia
- 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**

- Hiring committee member, University of Georgia, 2025-2026
- Organizing committee member, FSU-UF-UGA Critical Issues in Real Estate Symposium, 2025-2026
- Committee member, University of Chicago MAPSS Alumni Association Executive Committee,  
2022 - 2024
- 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**

- Best paper award, Miami University Finance and Real Estate Conference, 2025
- Graduate Fellowship, Boston University, 2019 - 2025
- Institute for Economic Development travel grant, Boston University, 2024
- Institute for Economic 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