

LEI MA

University of Georgia
Terry College of Business
Department of Insurance, Legal Studies, and Real Estate
B415 Moore-Rooker Hall

Email: lei.ma@uga.edu
Website: leima-econ.com
Work Phone: 706-542-0075

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 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