

Nicholas Forster-Benson

Department of Sociology, 675 William James Hall, 33 Kirkland Street Cambridge, MA 02138

nforsterbenson@g.harvard.edu / [Google Scholar](#) / [GitHub](#) / [Website](#)

Education

Ph.D. Sociology & Social Policy, Harvard University	2025-
B.A. Economics <i>with honors</i> , Vanderbilt University	2021-2025
<i>Thesis: Upzoning, Density, and Housing Affordability in Nashville</i>	
B.A. Quantitative Social Science (<i>interdisciplinary</i>), Vanderbilt University	2021-2025
Visiting Student, Economic and Social Sciences (<i>graduate</i>), Università Bocconi	Spring 2024

Manuscripts Under Review

Forster-Benson, N., Nchare, K. [Post-Colonial Trade Distortions and Dependency: The Colonial Legacy of Portugal in Africa](#). Revise & Resubmit, Journal of International Development.

Forster-Benson, N., Nchare, K. [Upzoning and Residential Transaction Price in Nashville](#). Revise & Resubmit, Housing Economics.

Manuscripts In Preparation

Forster-Benson, N., “[Upzoning Culture: Financialization and the Social Production of Space in Nashville](#)”

Forster-Benson, N., “Colonial Cash-Cropping and Contemporary Yield Gaps in Sub Saharan Africa”

Grants and Fellowships

John J. Siegfried Honors Economics Scholars Student Research Grant, \$2,000	Summer 2024
Humanities in the Real-World Fellow, Robert Penn Warren Center, \$1,000	Fall 2023
Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Program, \$7,100	Summer 2023

Research Experience

Student Researcher , Vanderbilt Department of Economics	2023 - 2025
<i>Advisor: Dr. Karim Nchare</i>	
Student Researcher , Vanderbilt Department of Sociology	Summer 2023
<i>Advisor: Dr. Richard Lloyd</i>	
Research Assistant , Lab. for Research on Conflict and Collective Action	Spring 2023
<i>Advisor: Dr. Andrew Coe</i>	

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant , ECON 1500 Economic Statistics	Fall 2024
<i>Vanderbilt Department of Economics</i>	
Teaching Assistant , SOC 3202 Cultural Production and Institutions	Fall 2023
<i>Vanderbilt Department of Sociology</i>	
Teaching Assistant , SOC 3233 Contemporary American Society	Fall 2023, Fall 2022
<i>Vanderbilt Department of Sociology</i>	

Non-Academic Employment

Resident Advisor , V. U. Office of Housing and Residential Experience	<i>2022 - 2025</i>
Candidate , Tennessee State House District 56	<i>Summer 2024</i>
Intern , U.S. Federal Reserve Board	<i>Summer 2023</i>
Intern , Tennessee Department of Treasury	<i>Summer 2022</i>

Professional Memberships

Member , American Planning Association	<i>2023 - Present</i>
Member , Union for Radical Political Economics	<i>2023 - Present</i>

Programming and Languages

Programming Proficiencies: L^AT_EX, Python, QGIS, R, Stata
Languages: English (Native), Italian (Intermediate)

References

Richard Lloyd, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, V. U., r.d.lloyd@vanderbilt.edu
Karim Nchare, Senior Lecturer, Department of Economics, V. U., karim.nchare@vanderbilt.edu
Ariell Zimran, Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, V. U., ariell.zimran@vanderbilt.edu
Brandon Underwood, Senior Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, V. U., brandon.underwood@vanderbilt.edu