

# NICHOLAS P. SWEENEY

University of Manchester, United Kingdom

[Email](#) ◇ [Website](#)

## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

**Fellow**, Alliance Manchester Business School, University of Manchester

2025 – 2028

Three year appointment as the *Sir Terry Leahy Fellow of Urban and Regional Economics*

## PUBLICATIONS

Sweeney, N. P. (2026) ‘Challenging the S of Mayoral Strategic Authorities: Standardisation Over Strategy?’. *The Political Quarterly*. Forthcoming.

Sweeney, N. P. (2026) ‘Devolution and Economic Growth in English City Regions’. *Urban Studies*. Forthcoming.

Sweeney, N. P. (2025) ‘Devolution and democratic engagement in England’. *Political Geography*. [DOI](#).

Sweeney, N. P. (2025) ‘Devolution, Health and Health Inequalities in Greater Manchester’. *Social Science & Medicine*. [DOI](#).

## WORKING PAPERS

Sweeney, N. P. () ‘Spatial Variation in Mobility Across England: Evidence from 21 Million Geo-coded Credit-Card Flows’. *Spatial Economic Analysis*. 2nd R&R submitted.

## EDUCATION

**Land Economy, PhD**, St Catharine’s College, University of Cambridge

2022 – 2026 (expected)

*In progress*

- **Thesis & Funding:** ‘Devolution and Space in England: Empirical Essays on Economic Growth, Democratic Engagement and Health’; fully funded by the ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership

**Land Economy by Research, MPhil**, Darwin College, University of Cambridge

2021 – 2022

*Distinction (75%)*

- **Awards & Achievements:** £12,000 Cambridge Trust (Grace Goh Studentship); 87% in Research Methods

**Land Economy, BA**, Jesus College, University of Cambridge

2018 – 2021

*Double First-class (73.4%)*

- **Awards & Achievements:** Most marks in cohort across all three years; prizes for best final-year dissertation (82%), best overall second-year performance (71.6%), best overall (71%) and Economics, first-year performance

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**University of Cambridge Interviewer**

2022 – *Trinity Hall & 2024 – Sidney Sussex*

- Entrusted to be one of four interviewers for candidates for undergraduate Land Economy applications
- Consulted on final selection of candidates, justifying my reasoning based on objective criteria

**Data Science Intern**

September 2023–March 2024

Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

*Paris, France*

- Recruited to employ Natural Language Processing techniques to explore the potential for big data (full text job listings) to illustrate how the digital and green ('twin') transition is impacting labour markets
- During my internship, I also focused on analysing sector-specific datasets, particularly in mining, using R and Python to present findings for the LESI Division

**Supervisor**

Autumn 2022

Department of Land Economy

*Cambridge, UK*

- Supervised 60 second year undergraduates on ‘Paper 11: Land and Urban Economics’, marking essays, giving feedback and clarifying technical and theoretical problems in small group formats
- Covered the topics of agglomeration, reasons for co-location of highly skilled couples, retail accessibility as a determinant of place attractiveness and whether big cities were ‘bad places to live’

## Researcher

- MillNET.i Summer 2021 – Virtual
  - Selected to work on a project analysing longitudinal data on the composition and sources of income and diets of residents in The Gambia and Ethiopia funded by the UK Research and Innovation [Global Research Fund](#)
  - Handled observations for >600 households, spanning through the COVID-19 pandemic to investigate how diets changed, engaging in debates as to how to improve the research design of the project with a strong focus on integrating local perspectives
- ASEAN Development Outlook Report Summer 2020 – Virtual
  - Selected to provide guidance on the Association of South East Asian Nations [Development Outlook Report 2020 - 2025](#), providing analysis on topics ranging from the impact of colonial legacies to the sustainability of palm oil
  - Proof-read and provided feedback before official review on the four core themes of: identity, natural and built environment, livelihoods, social welfare/health

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

---

### Camp Director

- Cambridge Summer Schools in China Summer 2023 – Bali, Indonesia
  - Directed an educational sustainability camp at Bali Green School, being responsible for coordinating lessons and activities for 4 teachers and 50 students

### Camp Teacher

- Cambridge Summer Schools in China 2019 – Guangzhou, China & 2020 – Virtual
  - Taught English to 140 Chinese students for 2 weeks in the South China Normal University, then recruited to teach English to Chinese students in 10 online debating lessons the following summer

## SKILLS

---

Technical Skills	Proficient in <b>Python</b> , <b>R</b> , <b>LaTeX</b> , <b>STATA</b> , intermediate in <b>QGIS</b>
Communication	Intermediate French language

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR

---

- **Societies and interests:** Hawks’ Club President & Committee, Cambridge University Association Football Club Secretary, Grade 5 ABRSM Piano