

# PETER CHRISTENSEN

Office: 217-300-3054 ♦ Email: [pchrist@illinois.edu](mailto:pchrist@illinois.edu)

Website: <https://www.uiuc-bdeep.org/christensen>

1301 W. Gregory Dr., University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

## EDUCATION

---

Ph.D. Environmental and Resource Economics, Yale University	2015
M.E.Sc. Environmental Economics and Policy (concentration), Yale F&ES	2009
B.A. Psychology, Summa Cum Laude, University of California, Davis	2004

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

---

Assistant Professor	2015-
Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics, Department of Economics (secondary appointment), National Center for Supercomputing Applications (secondary appointment), University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign	
Visiting Assistant Professor, Economics Department, Duke University	Spring 2019

## OTHER ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

---

Director, [Big Data for Environmental Economics and Policy \(BDEEP\) Research Team](#)  
Faculty Affiliate, [National Center for Supercomputing Applications, UIUC](#)  
Faculty Affiliate, [Center for Social and Behavioral Science, UIUC](#)  
Faculty Affiliate, [Cline Center for Advanced Social Research, UIUC](#)  
Faculty Affiliate, [European Union Center, UIUC](#)  
Faculty Affiliate, [Lemann Center for Brazilian Studies, UIUC](#)  
Steering Committee Member, [Illinois Data Science Initiative \(iDSI\)](#)  
Faculty Partner, National Center for Supercomputing Applications Industry Program  
Academic Partner: Uber Technologies Research, Zillow Research, AirDNA, Google Earth Engine

## CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

---

Christensen, P., Lehe, L., and Osman, A. Ridehailing and the ‘First/Last Mile’ Challenge in Public Transit: Experimental Evidence from a Ride-2-Connect Program. (work in progress)

Christensen, P., Osman, A., and Tsivanidis, N. Ridesharing and Transport Externalities: Using RCTs to Estimate Optimal Policy. (work in progress)

Box-Couillard, S. and Christensen, P. Trends and Mechanisms Underlying Racial Price Differentials in the U.S. Housing Market. (work in progress)

Christensen, P., Myers, E., and Francisco, P. Can Performance Pay Seal a Gap in the Weatherization Assistance Program? Evidence from a Field Experiment with Contractors. (work in progress)

Ang, A., Bento, A., and Christensen, P. Using High Frequency Google Transit Queries to Estimate the Social Cost of Flood Delays in the Transport Sector. (work in progress)

Christensen, P., Kreindler, G., and Vieira, R. Does Camera-Based Speed Enforcement Reduce Traffic Fatalities in Developing Country Cities? (work in progress)

## WORKING PAPERS AND PAPERS IN REVIEW

---

Christensen, P., Sarmiento, I., and Timmins, C. Racial Discrimination and Housing Outcomes in the United States Rental Market. (working paper)

– [NBER Working Paper No. 29516 \(November, 2021\)](#)

Farhoodi, A., Khazra, N., and Christensen, P. Does Airbnb Reduce Matching Frictions in the Housing Market? (in review)

– [SSRN Version \(September, 2021\)](#)

Christensen, P. and Osman, A. The Demand for Mobility: Experimental Evidence from an Experiment with Uber Riders in Cairo. (in review)

– [IZA Paper No. 14179. \(March, 2021\)](#)

Christensen, P., Francisco, P., Myers, E., Shao, H., and Souza, M. Energy Efficiency Can Deliver for Climate Policy: Evidence from Machine Learning-Based Targeting. (in review)

– [E2e Working Paper No. 27. \(Feb, 2021\)](#)

Christensen, P. and Timmins, C. The Damages and Distortions from Discrimination in the Rental Housing Market. (revise and resubmit, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*)

– [NBER Working Paper No. 29049 \(July, 2021\)](#)

Parthum, B. and Christensen, P. A Market for Snow: Modeling Winter Recreation Patterns Under Current and Future Climate. (revise and resub., *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*)

## PUBLICATIONS

---

Christensen, P., Keiser, D., and Lade, G. Economic Effects of Environmental Crises: Evidence from Flint, Michigan. (conditionally accepted, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*)

Christensen, P. and Timmins, C. Sorting or Steering: Experimental Evidence on the Effects of Housing Discrimination on Location Choice. (accepted, *Journal of Political Economy*)

Christensen, P., Myers, E., Francisco, P., and Souza, M. Decomposing the Wedge: Mechanisms Driving the Gap Between Projected and Realized Returns from Energy Efficiency Programs. (forthcoming, *Review of Economics and Statistics*)

Christensen, P., Sarmiento, I., and Timmins, C. Housing Discrimination and the Pollution Exposure Gap in the United States. (forthcoming, *Review of Economics and Statistics*)

Ang, A., Christensen, P., and Vieira, R. (2020). Should Congested Cities Reduce their Speed Limits? Evidence from Brazil. *Journal of Public Economics*, 184(104155).

Albouy, D., Christensen, P., and Sarmiento, I. (2020). Unlocking Amenities: Complementarity in Public Good Consumption. *Journal of Public Economics*, 182(104110).

Christensen, P. (2019). Suburbs or Skyscrapers: The Effect of China's Land Leasing Market on Housing Decentralization. *Land Economics*, 95(4).

Gillingham, K., Nordhaus, W. D., Anthoff, D., Blanford, G., Bosetti, V., Christensen, P., McJeon, H., and Reilly, J. (2018). Modeling Uncertainty in Integrated Assessment of Climate Change: A Multimodel Comparison. *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, 5(4).

Christensen, P., Gillingham, K., and Nordhaus, W. (2018). Uncertainty in Forecasts of Long-run Economic Growth. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 115(21):5409–5414.

Christensen, P. and McCord, G. C. (2016). Geographic Determinants of China’s Urbanization. *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 59:90–102.

Mendelsohn, R., Arellano-Gonzalez, J., and Christensen, P. (2010). A Ricardian Analysis of Mexican Farms. *Environment and Development Economics*, 15(2):153–171.

## EDITORIALS AND REPORTS

---

Kling, C. L., Arriitt, R. W., Calhoun, G., Keiser, D. A., Antle, J. M., Arnold, J. G., Carriquiry, M., Chaubey, I., Christensen, P., Ganapathysubramanian, B., et al. (2016). Research needs and challenges in the FEW system: Coupling economic models with agronomic, hydrologic, and bioenergy models for sustainable food, energy, and water systems

Contributing Author – IPCC 2014: Climate Change 2014: Mitigation of Climate Change. Contribution of Working Group III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change [Edenhofer, o., et al eds]. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge, United Kingdom and New York, NY, USA

Seto, K. C. and Christensen, P. (2013). Remote sensing science to inform urban climate change mitigation strategies. *Urban Climate*, 3:1–6

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

---

### Fellowships and Invited Affiliations

<b>David F. Linowes Fellow</b> , <i>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign</i>	<b>2021-2022</b>
<b>Faculty Affiliate</b> , <i>Abdul Latif Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)</i>	<b>2021-present</b>
<b>Faculty Affiliate</b> , <i>E2e Project</i>	<b>2019-present</b>
<b>Science to Achieve Results (STAR) Graduate Fellow</b> , <i>US EPA</i>	<b>2012-2015</b>
<b>Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow</b> , <i>US Department of Education</i>	<b>2009</b>
<b>Yale Coca Cola World Fund Fellow</b> , <i>Yale MacMillan Center</i>	<b>2008</b>
<b>Kunkler Scholar in Sustainability Strategy</b> , <i>Yale FES</i>	<b>2007-2009</b>

### Grants or Awards Exceeding \$100,000

<b>Discovery Partners Institute Science Team Grant</b> <i>Mobility on Demand Lab (MoDL)</i>	<b>\$125,000 – 2021-2022</b>
<b>J-PAL King Climate Action Initiative (conditionally approved)</b> <i>Ridesharing and Transport Externalities: Using RCTs to Estimate Optimal Policy</i>	<b>\$185,821 – 2021-2023</b>
<b>National Science Foundation, Economics</b> <i>The Impacts of Racial Discrimination on Housing Choice and Economic Welfare in US Rental Markets</i>	<b>\$333,000 – 2019-2021</b>
<b>Russell Sage Foundation: Social, Political and Economic Inequality</b> <i>Welfare Impacts of Housing Discrimination on Location Choice</i>	<b>\$148,088 – 2018-2020</b>
<b>National Center for Supercomputing Applications</b> <i>Applied Microeconomics and Data Science Postdoctoral Research Program</i>	<b>\$140,000 – 2018-2020</b>
<b>Uber Technologies (collaborative field experiment)</b> <i>Experimental Evidence on the Effect of Mobility-on-Demand Services in Developing Country Cities</i>	<b>\$100,000 – 2018-2019</b>
<b>Alfred P. Sloan Foundation</b>	<b>\$349,000 – 2016-2018</b>

## *Understanding the Energy Efficiency Investment Gap*

### **Minor Awards (less than \$100,000)**

<b>NBER and DOT: Transportation in the 21st Century Initiative</b> <i>The Last Mile Problem: A Grand Transportation Challenge</i>	<b>2021-2022</b>
<b>Center for Social and Behavioral Science (CSBS) Seed Grant (UIUC)</b> <i>Experimental Evidence on the Effect of Mobility-on-Demand Services on the 'Last Mile' Problem</i>	<b>2020-2021</b>
<b>ACES Competitive Seed Grant (UIUC)</b> <i>Experimental Evidence on the Effect of Mobility-on-Demand Services on the 'Last Mile' Problem</i>	<b>2020-2021</b>
<b>Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and the Environment</b> <i>Experimental Evidence on the Effect of Mobility-on-Demand Services on the 'Last Mile' Problem</i>	<b>2020-2021</b>
<b>ACES Seed Grant (Office of International Programs)</b> <i>Experimental Evidence on the Effect of Mobility-on-Demand Services in Developing Country Cities</i>	<b>2018-2019</b>
<b>Lemann Institute Faculty Research Grant</b> <i>Measuring the Welfare Impacts of Traffic Congestion in Sao Paulo with Google Transit Data</i>	<b>2017-2018</b>
<b>Campus Research Board Award (UIUC)</b> <i>Understanding the Energy Efficiency Investment Gap</i>	<b>2016-2017</b>
<b>Total Funding Awards and Grant Support (2015-present)</b>	<b>\$1,364,000</b>
<b>Total to Christensen (2015-present)</b>	<b>\$748,000</b>

## **EXPERT TESTIMONY**

---

1. Susman Godfrey LLP, 03/17/2020 – ongoing.  
Class Action Litigation: Damages from Flint Water Crisis.
2. Sierra Club, SOIL, and Shay Law LTD, 19-0673, 12/20/2019-3/5/2020.  
Litigation Regarding Joint Petition to State of Illinois Commerce Commission by Dakota Access, LLC and Energy Transfer Crude Oil Company, LLC.

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS (INCL SCHEDULED)**

---

NBER (Transport Economics in the 21st Century), CU Environmental Economics, U.S. Dept of HUD, Cornell Dyson, SWEEEP Seminar, Chicago (EPIC), Indiana (Kelly School), ASU, UCSB, ASSA 2021, Advances in Field Experiments 2020, AERE Summer 2020, The Workshop in Environmental Economics and Data Science (TWEEDS), UC San Diego (HDSI), ASSA 2020, UCSB Occasional, UC San Diego (Economics), Urban Economics Association 2020, AERE Summer 2019, Cities and Development Workshop (Harvard/JHU), Duke (TREE), University of Tennessee (Baker Center), The Workshop in Environmental Economics and Data Science (TWEEDS), NBER EEE (Spring), ASSA 2019, Urban Economics Association 2018, WCERE Congress (Gothenburg), University of São Paulo, Midwest Energy Fest (Chicago), Zillow Economics, Microsoft Research, ASSA 2017, University of Chicago (EPIC), University of Pennsylvania, AERE Summer Workshop, FEEM, ETH Zurich (EAERE Meeting), World Bank (Global Trade and Policy), Stanford Energy Modeling Forum, Iowa State, National Center for Supercomputing Applications, Stanford Energy Modeling Forum, University of Michigan, UIUC, Georgetown, UC Davis, Penn, NYU, AERE Summer Workshop, Lincoln Land Institute (Beijing), Yale Environmental Economics Seminar, Columbia (SIPA), Northeast Energy Policy and Environmental Economics