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Full bio available [here](#).

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

2023-	Dean, Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs
2022-	Professor of Economics and Public Policy, UT Knoxville
2020-	Research Fellow, Department of Economics at Stellenbosch University, South Africa
2017-	Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)
2016-	Research Fellow, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)

PUBLIC SERVICE

2025-	Board of Directors, East Tennessee Children's Hospital (Knoxville, TN)
2025-	Advisor, Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis (Minneapolis, MN)
2023-	Board of Directors, Zoo Knoxville (Knoxville, TN)
2023-	Economic Advisory Board, Economic Innovation Group (Washington, DC)
2020-	Director, 3Roots Capital, a Community Development Financial Institution (Knoxville, TN)
2019-2021	Member, Federal American Workforce Policy Advisory Board
2018	Chief Domestic Economist, White House Council of Economic Advisers
2017-2018	Senior Labor Economist, White House Council of Economic Advisers

PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS AND EXPERIENCE

2021-2023	Executive Director, UT Howard H. Baker Jr. Center for Public Policy
2016-2022	Associate Professor of Economics, The University of Tennessee
2019-2022	Co-Editor in Chief, <i>Explorations in Economic History</i>
2009-2016	Assistant Professor of Economics, The University of Tennessee
2014-2017	Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)
2001-2003	Associate Consultant, Bain & Company, Boston, Massachusetts

EDUCATION

2009	PhD (Economics), Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
2004	MA (Economics), Northwestern University, Evanston, Illinois
2001	BA (Economics and Mathematics), Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> , Phi Beta Kappa

PUBLICATIONS

Black Americans' Landholdings and Economic Mobility after Emancipation: Evidence from the Census of Agriculture and Linked Records

(with William Collins), *Journal of Economic History*, December 2024, Volume 84, Number 4, Pages 963-996.

African American Intergenerational Mobility Since 1880

(with William Collins), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, July 2022, Volume 14, Number 3. Pages 84-117.

The Global Covid-19 Student Survey: First Wave Results

(with David Jaeger, *et al.*), *Covid Economics*, 2021, Issue 79, Pages 152-217.

The Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis: A Case Study in Peripheral Trauma with Implications for Health Professionals

(with Marcella Alsan and Rachel R. Hardeman), *Journal of General Internal Medicine*, January 2020, Volume 35, Pages 322-325.

Tuskegee and the Health of Black Men

(with Marcella Alsan), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, February 2018, Volume 133, Issue 1, Pages 407-455.

150 Years of Progress for African American Men

Economic History of Developing Regions, 2017, Volume 32, Issue 3, Pages 211-220. (Designated lead article, invited submission).

Separate and Unequal in the Labor Market: Human Capital and the Black-White Wage Gap

(with Celeste Carruthers), *Journal of Labor Economics*, July 2017, Volume 35, Number 3, Pages 655-696.

Decomposing the Returns to School Quality in the Jim Crow South

(with Celeste Carruthers), *Explorations in Economic History*, April 2017, Volume 64, Pages 104-110.

The Great Migration in Black and White: New Evidence on the Selection and Sorting of Southern Migrants

(with William Collins), *The Journal of Economic History*, December 2015, Volume 75, Number 4, Pages 947-992.

Municipal Housekeeping: The Impact of Women's Suffrage on the Provision of Public Education

(with Celeste K. Carruthers), *The Journal of Human Resources*, Fall 2015, Volume 50, Number 4, Pages 837-872. (Designated lead article)

Child Labor and the Wealth Paradox: The Role of Altruistic Parents

(with Luiz Lima and Shirley Mesquita), *Economics Letters*, May 2015, Volume 130, Pages 80-82.

The Perverse Impact of Calling for Energy Conservation

(with J. Scott Holladay and Michael K. Price), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, February 2015, Volume 110, Pages 1-18.

Fertility and the Price of Children: Evidence from Slavery and Slave Emancipation

The Journal of Economic History, December 2014, Volume 74, Number 4, Pages 1045-1071.

Selection and Economic Gains in the Great Migration of African Americans: New Evidence from Linked Census Data

(with William J. Collins), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, January 2014, Volume 6, Number 1, Pages 220-252.

Closing the Gap? The Effect of Private Philanthropy on the Provision of African-American Schooling in the South

(with Celeste Carruthers), *The Journal of Public Economics*, May 2013, Volume 101, Pages 53-67.

Industrialization and Fertility in the Nineteenth Century: Evidence from South Carolina

The Journal of Economic History, March 2012, Volume 72, Number 1, Pages 168-196.

WORKING PAPERS and PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Cohort Effects of Restrictive Abortion Legislation --- Evidence from 19th Century Law Variation

(with Joanna Lahey), 2024.

Civil Rights Legislation and the Labor Market Conditions of Southern-Born Black Americans

(with Celeste K. Carruthers and Theodore Figinski)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

2020 Has Presented Enormous Challenges to Black-Owned Businesses

(with Hancan Sale) *The Thinking Republic*, October 8, 2020.

The Future of Work Arrived Way Too Early

The National Review, August 11, 2020.

Covid019 Could Shrink Earnings of 2020 Graduates for Years to Come

(with Celeste K. Carruthers and Larry Kessler) *The Conversation*, March 31, 2020.

Essays in American Fertility (Dissertation Summary)

The Journal of Economic History, June 2011, Volume 71, Number 2, Pages 485-488.

Review of *Heroes and Cowards: The Social Face of War* by Dora Costa and Matthew Kahn

2009, Book Reviews in Economic and Business History for EH.Net. http://eh.net/book_reviews/heroes-and-cowards-the-social-face-of-war/

Review of *The Color Factor: The Economics Of African American Well-Being In The Nineteenth Century South* by Howard Bodenhorn

2015 Book Review in Economic and Business History for EH.Net.

EXTERNAL and INTERNAL FUNDING

The Legacy of Separate and Unequal Schools in the U.S. South

Russell Sage Foundation – \$99,050

Co-Principal Investigator (with Celeste K. Carruthers), 2020-2022

Tuskegee Syphilis Study and the Health of Black Men

(Subcontract to Award to Marcella Alsan, Stanford University)

National Institutes of Health – \$31,864

2018-2019

The Economic Origins and Ramifications of the Great Migration

(Collaborative with William J. Collins, Vanderbilt University) The

National Science Foundation – \$234,902

Principal Investigator, 2012-2016

Closing the Gap? The Effect of Private Philanthropy on the Provision of African-American Schooling in the U.S. South

The Spencer Foundation – \$40,000

Co-Principal Investigator (with Celeste K. Carruthers), 2011-2012

Closing the Gap? The Effect of Private Philanthropy on the Provision of African-American Schooling in the U.S. South

University of Kentucky, Center for Poverty Research –\$7,500

Co-Investigator (Celeste K. Carruthers, PI), 2010

Summer Graduate Research Assistant for Closing the Gap? The Effect of Private Philanthropy on the Provision of African-American Schooling in the U.S. South

The University of Tennessee, Office of Research – \$3,600

Co-Investigator (Celeste K. Carruthers)

JOURNAL EDITORIAL BOARDS

Journal of Economic History (2016-2019)

Explorations in Economic History (2016-2019)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

2021 Epstein Lecture: London School of Economics

“40 Acres and a Mule: Black Americans’ Landholding and Economic Mobility after Emancipation”

Stellenbosch University (7/2020); University of Warwick (10/2020); Yale University (10/2020); Duke University Sanford School (10/2020); Stanford University (11/2020); University of Oxford (01/2021); George Washington University (01/2021); University of Michigan (04/2021); George Mason University (04/2021); Virtual Economic History Seminar (5/2021); University of California-Berkeley (11/2021)

“Restrictive Abortion Legislation and Child Welfare: Evidence from the 19th Century U.S.”

University of Kentucky (04/2020 - cancelled); University of Alabama-Birmingham (02/2020 - cancelled); University of Pittsburgh (02/2020); Boston University (01/2020); University of Southern Denmark (10/2019); University of Lund (10/2019); Queens’ University Belfast (10/2019); University of California, Davis (5/2019); Northwestern University (4/2019); Cornell University (4/2019); University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (4/2019)

“The Steep Climb: The Economic Progress of African-American Men Since Emancipation”

EH-Clio Lab @ Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile (8/2019); African-American Museum of Iowa (4/2019); U.S. Department of Treasury (2/2018)

“Up from Slavery? The Economic Progress of Black Men since 1870”

University of Stellenbosch (South Africa) (12/2016); University of the South (10/2016); University of Richmond (9/2016)

“Tuskegee and the Health of Black Men”

Rutgers University (5/2017); Florida State University (2/2017); University of Richmond (9/2016); Princeton University (9/2016); UT Africana Studies Symposium (4/2016); University of South Carolina (4/2016)

“Up from Slavery? African-American Intergenerational Mobility since 1880”

University of Michigan (11/2016); University of California - Los Angeles (5/2015); University of Arizona (4/2015); Queen’s University Canada (12/2014)

“Separate and Unequal in the Labor Market: School Quality and the Black-White Wage Gap” Clemson University (11/2014); University of California – Davis (10/2014); University of Minnesota Population Center (4/2014); Harvard University (3/2014); York University (3/2014); University of Pittsburgh (10/2013); College of William & Mary (10/2013)

“The Great Migration in Black and White: New Evidence on the Geographic Mobility of American Southerners”

The University of Georgia (2/2013)

“Selection and Economic Gains in the Great Migration of African Americans: New Evidence from Linked Census Data”

Northwestern University (3/2011); Vanderbilt University (3/2011); University of Chicago (3/2011)

“Industrialization and Fertility in the Nineteenth Century: Evidence from South Carolina”

Washington D.C. Area Economic History Seminar (2/2011); Yale University (03/2010)

“Fertility and the Price of Children: Evidence from Slavery and Slave Emancipation”

The University of Chicago (2008)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Southeast Micro Labor Workshop

“40 Acres and a Mule: Black Americans’ Landholding and Economic Mobility after Emancipation”

Economic History Association

“Restrictive Abortion Legislation and Child Welfare: Evidence from the 19th Century U.S.” (2019)

“Intergenerational Mobility in the Shadow of Jim Crow” (2015)

“The Great Migration of African Americans: New Insights from Linked Census Data” (2011)

“Essays in American Fertility” (2010, Nevins Prize Finalist)

Discussant: 2009, 2014

Vanderbilt University Empirical Applied Microeconomics Festival

“Intergenerational Mobility in the Shadow of Jim Crow” (2015)

American Economic Association/Allied Social Sciences Association

“Tuskegee and the Health of Black Men” (2016)

“Intergenerational Mobility in the Shadow of Jim Crow” (2015)

“Race and the Great Migration: Understanding Black-White Differences using Linked Census Data” (2013)

Discussant: 2007, 2010

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)

“Tuskegee and the Health of Black Men” (Spring 2016)

“Separate and Unequal in the Labor Market: School Quality and the Jim Crow Wage Gap”
(Summer 2014, co-author presented)

“Did Industrialization Cause the American Fertility Decline? Evidence from South Carolina”
(Summer 2010)

Southern Economic Association

“Intergenerational Mobility in the U.S. South: A New View from Linked Census Data” (2014)

“Deconstructing the Returns to School Quality in the Jim Crow South” (2014)

“Closing the Gap? The Effect of Private Philanthropy on the Provision of African-American
Schooling in the U.S. South” (2011)

Discussant: 2011, 2014

The Cliometrics Society

“The Marginal Child Throughout the Life Cycle: Evidence from Early Law Variation” (2017, World Congress)

“The Great Migration in Black and White: Understanding Black-White Differences using Linked Census Data” (2013, World Congress)

“Did Industrialization Cause the American Fertility Decline? Evidence from South Carolina” (2010)

Population Association of America Annual Meeting

Discussant (2010)

Illinois Economic Association

“Slave Emancipation as a Natural Experiment in American Fertility” (2008)

HONORS and AWARDS

Kenneth J. Arrow Award, 2019

Awarded by the International Health Economics Association for the best paper in health economics published in 2018

Alexander Prize, University of Tennessee, 2019

Honors a UT faculty member for exceptional teaching and distinguished scholarship

Vallett Family Research Award, UT Haslam College of Business, 2016

Awarded to one Haslam College of Business faculty member in each year based on research productivity

UT Haslam College of Business Summer Research Award, 2014 and 2015

Granted to Haslam College of Business faculty members based on research productivity

Alumni Outstanding Teacher Award, The University of Tennessee, 2014

Awarded annually to approximately four faculty members on the Knoxville campus; Nominations come from UT alumni, awards made by a panel of faculty peers after classroom evaluation

Outstanding MBA Faculty Award, UT College of Business Administration, 2013 and 2010

Awarded annually to one faculty member from the first year of the MBA program

Allen H. Keally Outstanding Teacher Award, UT College of Business Administration, 2011

College-level teaching award; Awards granted by a panel of faculty peers after classroom evaluation

Finalist for the Nevins Prize, 2010

Awarded annually at the Economic History Association meetings for the best dissertation in American economic history

Northwestern University Presidential Fellowship, 2007-2008, 2008-2009

Northwestern’s most competitive fellowship awarded to 6-8 students annually exhibiting “outstanding intellectual or creative ability”. Graduate fellows are members of the University’s Society of Fellows, and each two-year appointment includes cross-disciplinary research retreats and seminars.

Northwestern University Graduate Research Fellowship, 2006-2007

Competitive award based on professional promise

Northwestern University Graduate Research Grant (2006)

Supported archival research related to dissertation research

Economic History Association Exploratory Travel Grant (2006)

Supported archival research related to dissertation research

COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate Econometrics (Causal Inference)
Capitalism and Ethics (ECON305, undergraduate)
Economics of Business Strategy (ECON505, graduate course in Managerial Economics)
Honors Introductory Economics (ECON207, undergraduate)
Labor Economics (undergraduate and masters at Roosevelt University)
Business Ethics (BLAW505, graduate, joint delivery with Business Law faculty)
Managerial Economics for Bankers (graduate at Louisiana State University)

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Jason Bogart (PhD Finance, Current)
Connor Kasten (PhD Finance, Current)
Danielle Stanley (PhD Accounting)
Bokseong Jeong (PhD Economics, Current, Chair)
Lisa Martin (PhD Economics – Stellenbosch University, Current)
Eunsik Chang (PhD Economics, Expected 2021)
Sangwon Lee (PhD Economics, 2020)
Yinan Liu (PhD Economics, 2019)
Jinseong Park (PhD Economics, 2018)
Bilal Celik (PhD Economics, 2017)
Michael Craig (PhD Economics, 2015)
Ye Gu (PhD Economics, 2014)
Mike McDonald (PhD Finance, 2014)

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS OR INDEPENDENT STUDY SUPERVISION

William Boyd (2021)
Joelle Jarjoura (2021)
Yuxi Zhou (2020)
Hancen Sale (2019)
Morgan Elliott (2019)
Ryan Marine (2019)
Olivia Wilkinson (2019)
Bryson Lype (2017)
Thien Mai (2014)
Daniel Aycock (2014)
Asher Begley (2012)
Kate Abercrombie (2012)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Referee/Reviewer: Russell Sage Foundation, National Science Foundation, US-Israel Binational Science Foundation (BSF), National Research Foundation (South Africa), *American Economic Review*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Explorations in Economic History*, *Economic History Review*, *Clometrica*, *American Economic Journal: Applied*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Growth and Change*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, *Historical Methods*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Labour Economics*, *Southern Journal of Economics*, Gale Encyclopedia of U.S. Economic History
Trustee, Cliometrics Society (2018- 2021)
Cliometrics Society Selection Committee for ASSA Conference Program, 2013-2014; 2019-2021
Economic History Association Annual Meeting Program Committee, 2021
Economic History Association, Nevins Prize Convener, 2015 Meetings
Economic History Association, Committee on Research Archives and Databases, 2012-2014

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Center for Global Engagement Steering Committee (2021-2022)
Organizer, University of Tennessee effort for campus-based Federal Statistical Research Data Center (2017-2023)
Knoxville Economics Forum Organizer (2010-2018)
Dean's Research Council, Haslam College of Business (2017-2018)
Dean's Faculty Advisory Committee, Haslam College of Business (2016-2020)
Chair, Holly Chair of Excellence Search Committee (2019)
Faculty Leader, International Business in Freiburg, Germany, The University of Tennessee (Summer 2015, Summer 2016)
Member, Africana Studies Advisory Committee, University of Tennessee (2015-present)
Member, Commission for Women, University of Tennessee (2016-2017)
Chair, International Programs and Study Abroad Director Recruiting Committee, Haslam College of Business (2016)
Member, University of Tennessee College of Business Administration Taskforce on the Undergraduate Core (2013-2015)
Member, University of Tennessee MBA Program Committee (2011-2015)
University of Tennessee Economics Department Library Representative (2010-2016)
Member, University of Tennessee Economics Faculty Search Committee (2011-2012; 2012-2013; 2015- 2016; 2019-2020)
Member, Northwestern University Presidential Search Committee (2008)

Last updated: January 2025