

James J. Feigenbaum

CONTACT	Department of Economics Boston University 270 Bay State Road Boston, MA 02215	617-353-4396 jamesf@bu.edu jamesfeigenbaum.github.io
APPOINTMENTS	Boston University , Boston, MA Associate Professor, Department of Economics, 2026- Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, 2017-2026 National Bureau of Economic Research , Cambridge, MA Faculty Research Fellow, 2016- Princeton University , Princeton, NJ Postdoctoral Research Associate, Industrial Relations Section, Department of Economics, 2016-2017	
EDUCATION	Harvard University , Cambridge, MA Ph.D. in Economics, 2016 A.M. in Economics, 2012 Wesleyan University , Middletown, CT B.A. with High Honors in Economics and Mathematics, 2008	
PUBLICATIONS	“Why Does Education Increase Voting? Evidence from Boston’s Charter Schools.” With Sarah Cohodes. Accepted, <i>Review of Economics and Statistics</i> . “‘Descended from Immigrants and Revolutionists’: How Family History Shapes Immigration Policy Making.” 2025. With Maxwell Palmer and Benjamin Schneer. <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> , 140(3):2381-2457. “Examining the Role of Training Data for Supervised Methods of Automated Record Linkage: Lessons for Best Practice in Economic History.” 2024. With Jonas Helgertz and Joseph Price. <i>Explorations in Economic History</i> , 96. “Answering the Call of Automation: How the Labor Market Adjusted to the Mechanization of Telephone Operation.” 2024. With Daniel Gross. <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> , 139(3):1879-1939. “How the Other Half Died: Immigration and Mortality in US Cities.” 2024. With Philipp Ager, Casper Worm Hansen, and Hui ren Tan. <i>Review of Economic Studies</i> , 91(1):1-44. “Organizational and Economic Obstacles to Automation: A Cautionary Tale from AT&T in the Twentieth Century.” 2024. With Daniel Gross. <i>Management Science</i> , 70(12):8520-8540. “Racial Inequality in the Prime of Life: Infectious Disease Mortality in U.S. Cities, 1906-1933.” 2023. With Aja Antoine-Jones, Lauren Hoehn-Velasco, Christopher Muller, and Elizabeth Wrigley-Field. <i>Social Science History</i> , 47(3):491-504. “Capital Destruction and Economic Growth: The Effects of Sherman’s March, 1850-1920.” 2022. With James Lee and Filippo Mezzanotti. <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i> , 14(4):301-42.	

“Racial Disparities in Mortality During the 1918 Influenza Pandemic in United States Cities.” 2022. With Martin Eiermann, Elizabeth Wrigley-Field, Jonas Helgertz, Elaine Hernandez, and Courtney E. Boen. *Demography*, 59(5):1953-1979.

Awarded the 2023 Evolution, Biology and Society Section’s Best Article Award

“Automated Linking of Historical Data.” 2021. With Ran Abramitzky, Leah Boustan, Katherine Eriksson, and Santiago Perez. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 59(3):865-918.

“Childhood cross-ethnic exposure predicts political behavior seven decades later: Evidence from linked administrative data.” 2021. With Jacob Brown, Ryan Enos, and Soumyajit Mazumder. *Science Advances*, 7(24).

“The Return to Education in the Mid-20th Century: Evidence from Twins.” 2020. With Hui Ren Tan. *Journal of Economic History*, 80(4):1101-1142.

“Regional and Racial Inequality in Infectious Disease Mortality in U.S. Cities, 1900–1948.” 2019. With Christopher Muller and Elizabeth Wrigley-Field. *Demography*, 56(4):1371-1388.

“Multiple Measures of Historical Intergenerational Mobility: Iowa 1915 to 1940.” 2018. *Economic Journal*, 128(612):F446-F481.

“Majority-Party Disadvantage: Revising Theories of Legislative Organization.” 2017. With Alexander Fourinaies and Andrew B. Hall. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 12(3):269-300.

“Tenancy, Marriage, and the Boll Weevil Infestation of the US South, 1892-1920.” 2017. With Deirdre Bloome and Christopher Muller. *Demography*, 54(3):1029-1049.

“Racial Inequality in the Annual Risk of Tuberculosis Infection in the United States, 1910-1933.” 2017. With Jon Zelner and Christopher Muller. *Epidemiology and Infection*, 145(9):1797-1840.

“Lead Exposure and Violent Crime in the Early Twentieth Century.” 2016. With Christopher Muller. *Explorations in Economic History*, 62:51-86.

Awarded the 2017 Larry Neal Prize for best article

“How Legislators Respond To Localized Economic Shocks: Evidence From Chinese Import Competition.” 2015. With Andrew B. Hall. *Journal of Politics*, 77(4):1012-1030.

“The Vicious Cycle: Fundraising and Perceived Viability in US Presidential Primaries.” 2013. With Cameron A. Shelton. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 8(1):1-40.

WORKING PAPERS “After the Burning: The Economic Effects of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre.” With Alex Albright, Jeremy A. Cook, Laura-Thorne Kincaide, Jason Long, and Nathan Nunn. Revise and Resubmit, *American Economic Review*.

“Intergenerational Mobility during the Great Depression”

“Automated Census Record Linking: A Machine Learning Approach”

“From the Bargaining Table to the Ballot Box: Downstream Effects of Right to Work Laws.” With Alexander Hertel-Fernandez and Vanessa Williamson.

“Who Becomes a Member of Congress? Evidence From De-Anonymized Census Data.” With Daniel M. Thompson, Andrew B. Hall, and Jesse Yoder.

	“When Coercive Economies Fail: The Political Economy of the US South After the Boll Weevil.” With Soumyajit Mazumder and Cory Smith. “Milk Pasteurization and Mortality.” With Lauren Hoehn-Velasco and Amanda Wahlers. “Immigration Restrictions and Natives’ Intergenerational Mobility: Evidence from the 1920s US Quota Acts.” With Yi-Ju Hung, Marco Tabellini, and Monia Tomasella
WORKS IN PROGRESS	“Fortunate Sons: Elite Political Selection in American History.” With Andrew B. Hall, Daniel M. Thompson, and Jesse Yoder. “Germ Theory at Home: The Role of Private Action in Reducing Child Mortality during the Epidemiological Transition.” With Lauren Hoehn-Velasco and Sophie Li. “Immigration Policy and Party.” With Danielle Graves Williamson, Maxwell Palmer, and Benjamin Schneer. “Union Membership and Political Participation: Evidence from NLRB Elections and Excelsior Data.” With Jacob Brown, Yair Listokin, and Benjamin Sachs. “Iron Horses and Iron Chains: The Effect of Railroad Expansion and Market Access on Slavery.” With Alex Kane. “Fine-Tunable Historical Record Linkage: A Twin Neural Network Approach.”
NON-PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	“1918 Every Year: Racial Inequality in Infectious Mortality, 1906-1942.” 2022. With Lauren Hoehn-Velasco, Christopher Muller, and Elizabeth Wrigley-Field. <i>American Economic Association: Papers and Proceedings</i>, 112:199-204.
CHAPTERS	Inequality and the Safety Net in American Cities Throughout the Income Distribution, 1929-1940. With Price Fishback and Keoka Grayson. 2022. In R. Chetty, J. Friedman, J. Gornick, B. Johnson, and A. Kennickell, eds. <i>Measuring Distribution and Mobility of Income and Wealth</i>. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. Health in Historical Political Economy. 2022. In J. Jenkins and J. Rubin, eds. <i>The Oxford Handbook of Historical Political Economy</i>. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS	2026 (including scheduled) NBER Immigrants and the U.S. Economy, Toronto, Vanderbilt 2025 McMaster Spark Talk, NBER Linking Historical Data Sources for Small Populations, Northwestern 2024 LSE Economic History Larry Epstein Memorial Lecture, Microsoft Research New England 2023 Harvard, NBER DAE Program Meeting, Yale, Chicago Booth, Werner Troesken Memorial Conference 2022 Harvard, NYU

2021
Chicago Fed, Oz Virtual Econ Research Seminar, NBER DAE Summer Institute, NBER IT and Digitization Workshop, Social Science History Association

2020 (including COVID-cancelled)
Virtual Seminar in Economic History, NBER DAE Summer Institute, UCLA Anderson, Vassar College, St. Andrews, Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile

2019
Brown, Florida State, University of Maryland, Organization of American Historians, Wesleyan, University of Southern Denmark, University of Copenhagen, University of Montreal, Northwestern Economic History Record Linkage Conference, University of Pittsburgh

2018
American Economic Association, William & Mary, Harvard Law School, Boston University Political Science, Russell Sage Foundation Inequality Conference, World Economic History Congress, Harvard Political Economy, Brigham Young University, George Mason, Brown, UMass Amherst

2017
Case Western, Princeton, Stanford, NBER DAE Spring Meeting, Northwestern, Toulouse School of Economics, Economic History Association, Auburn, UC Davis, UC Berkeley Haas, Harvard, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management, Yale

2016
NYU Stern, Carnegie Mellon Heinz, Princeton, Stanford, Chicago Booth, Vanderbilt, Cornell, UCLA, Boston University, Dartmouth, University of Colorado Boulder, Bowdoin College, Minnesota Population Center, New York City Department of Health, Southern Economic Association

2015
NBER DAE Summer Institute, University of Michigan, Social Science History Association, UC Berkeley Population Center

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS	BU CAS Frank and Lynn Wisneski Award for Excellence in Teaching	2025-2026
	<i>AER</i> Excellence in Reviewing Award	2025
	Finalist for BU Metcalf Award for Excellence in Teaching	2025
	BU Graduate Economic Association Advisor of the Year	2023
	Hariri Institute for Computing Junior Faculty Fellow, Boston University	2019–2023
	<i>AEJ Applied</i> Excellence in Reviewing Award	2020
	Gitner Prize for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Boston University	2019
	Alan Nevins Prize, best dissertation in US economic history, Economic History Association	2016
	Sokoloff Dissertation Fellowship, Economic History Association	2015
	Thomas Cochran Fellow in Economic History, Harvard University	2013–2016

	NSF-IGERT Doctoral Fellow, Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, Harvard University	2012–2016
	Burton C. Hallowell Prize, awarded to the top student in the Social Sciences at Wesleyan	2008
	Frazar B. Wilde Prize, awarded to the top student in the Wesleyan Economics department	2008
	John M. Plukas Prize, awarded to support the publication of an outstanding honors thesis	2008
	Phi Beta Kappa	2007
	Horace White Jr. Prize, for excellence in economics	2007 and 2008
	John M. Plukas Teaching Apprentice Award	2006, 2007, and 2008
GRANTS	BU Initiative on Cities	2020-2021
	Russell Sage Foundation Grant	2017-2018 (with Maximilian Hell, Robert Manduca, and Jimmy Narang)
	Robert Wood Johnson Seed Grant	2015 (with Christopher Muller, Elizabeth Wrigley-Field, and Jon Zelner)
	Harvard IQSS Research Grant	2015
	Harvard Warburg Research Fund	2014
	Harvard LEAP Research Grant	2014 (with James Lee and Filippo Mezzanotti)
	Harvard Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy Research Grant	2013 (with Christopher Muller)
TEACHING	Boston University, Department of Economics	
	CAS EC 365 Economic Institutions in Historical Perspective	(Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2025)
	CAS EC 565 Economic Institutions in Historical Perspective	(Spring 2020)
	GRS EC 764 Topics in Economic History	(Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Spring 2025, Spring 2026)
	Princeton University, Department of Economics	
	Junior Independent Writing Advisor	(2016-2017)
	Harvard University, Department of Economics	
	Teaching Fellow, ECON 1393 Poverty and Development	(Spring 2013)
	Teaching Fellow, ECON 1357 Historical Perspectives on Economic Ascendancy	(Fall 2012)
REFEREING AND REVIEWING	Referee	
	<i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics; American Economic Journal: Economic Policy; American Economic Review: Insights; American Economic Review; American Economist; American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; American Sociological Review; British Journal of Political Science; Bulletin of Economic Research; Demography; Econometrica; Economic History Review; Economic Inquiry; Economic Journal; Economic Policy; Economica; Economics & Politics; European Journal of Political Research; Explorations</i>	

in Economic History; Historical Methods; Journal of Business & Economic Statistics; Journal of Comparative Economics; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Economic History; Journal of Economic Literature; Journal of Empirical Legal Studies; Journal of Human Resources; Journal of Labor Economics; Journal of Law and Economics; Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Politics; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of the European Economic Association; Journal of Urban Economics; Labor Studies Journal; Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics; PLOS ONE; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Public Choice; Quarterly Journal of Economics; Quarterly Journal of Political Science; Regional Science and Urban Economics; Review of Economic Studies; Review of Economics and Statistics; Science: Advances; Science; Social and Economic Studies; Social Forces; Sociological Quarterly

Grant Reviewer

National Science Foundation, Russell Sage Foundation, U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council

Discussant

Economic History Association Annual Meeting (2016, 2023), NBER Urban (2016, 2023), USC PIPE Workshop (2022), NBER SI Conference on Research in Income and Wealth (2022), American Economic Association Annual Meeting (2017, 2018, 2020, 2022), George Washington University's Annual Series on U.S.-China Economic Relations (2021), BU Center for Antiracist Research Symposium (2021), NBER Cities, Labor Markets, and the Global Economy (2019), Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting (2016), National Tax Association Annual Conference on Taxation (2015), Cliometrics Congress (2013)

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Harvard-BU Economic History Seminar Co-Coordinator, 2022-
PhD Recruitment Committee Member, 2020, 2023-25
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee Member, 2023
Merit and Equity Advisory Committee Member, 2022
Computational Course Committee Member, 2019-2020
Micro Seminar Co-Coordinator, 2018-2020, 2022
Economics Newsletter Committee, 2018
Undergraduate Instruction Committee Member, 2017-19
Junior Recruiting Committee Member, 2017-

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Social Sciences Curriculum Committee, 2025-
Initiative on Cities Faculty Advisory Board Member, 2022-25
Center for Anti-Racism Racial Data Lab Advisory Committee Member, 2022-23
Hariri Graduate Student Fellowship Reviewer, 2022
Faculty Taskforce on the Mathematical & Computational Sciences, 2020-21

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Program Committee, NBER DAE Summer Institute Workshop, 2026-
Editorial Board, *Explorations in Economic History*, 2024-2027
EHA Committee on Research in Economic History, 2024-2026
Editorial Board, *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*, 2020-2022
SSRC Working Group on Big Data and History, 2015-2020

ADVISING AND MENTORING

PhD Advising (with Graduation Year and Initial Placement; *main advisor)
Danielle Graves (Williams College, 2026)*
Michael Briskin (Analysis Group, 2026)*
Grant Goehring (UC Merced, 2026)*
Katarina Fedorov (UCSD Postdoc, 2025)
Sophie Li (University of Southern Denmark, 2024)*
Xinyuan Chen (Deloitte, 2024)

Ran Ji (Analysis Group, 2023)
Hanna Schwank (University of Bonn, 2022)
Max McDevitt (Fontana Group, 2022)
Anna Weber (US Military Academy, 2021)
Chelsea Carter (Government Accountability Office, 2020)
Gianluca Russo (Pompeau Fabra Postdoc, 2020)
Colin Shanks (Cornerstone Research, 2020)
Huiren Tan (National University of Singapore, 2019)
Yeonha Jung (Korea Development Institute, 2019)
Andrew Busey (NERA Economic Consulting, 2018)

Visiting PhD Students Hosted (Home Institution, Year)

Chen Lin (University of Bonn, 2025)
Alice Calder (University of New South Wales, 2024)
Jade Ponsard (Aix Marseille University, 2023)

External PhD Examinations (Home Institution, Year)

Hillary Vipond (LSE Economic History, 2024)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisees

Vignesh Somjit (Economics Honors Thesis, 2025)
Michael Baker (Economics Honors Thesis, 2020)
Caitlin Laber (Kilachand Honors College Keystone, 2019)