

Quantitative Approaches in Economic History

AEA Continuing Education

January 10-11, 2022

Instructors: Ran Abramitzky (Stanford and NBER); Leah Boustan (Princeton and NBER)

	Time	Instructor	Topic
CLASS	11:30AM-12:45PM	Ran	Why economic history?
BREAK	12:45PM-1:00PM		
CLASS	1:00PM-2:15PM	Leah	Education and technology
LUNCH	2:15PM-3:10PM		
CLASS	3:10PM-4:30PM	Leah	Racial disparities
BREAK	4:30PM-4:45PM		
CLASS	4:45PM-6:00PM	Ran	Immigration – economics
BREAK	6:00PM-6:10PM		
CLASS	6:10PM-7:00PM	Ran	Immigration - politics

	Time	Instructor	Topic
CLASS	11:30AM-12:45PM	Leah	Urbanization
BREAK	12:45PM-1:00PM		
CLASS	1:00PM-2:15PM	Leah	Segregation
LUNCH	2:15PM-3:10PM		
CLASS	3:10PM-4:30PM	Leah	Social programs
BREAK	4:30PM-4:45PM		
CLASS	4:45PM-6:00PM	Ran	Social mobility
BREAK	6:00PM-6:10PM		
CLASS	6:10PM-7:00PM	Ran	Inequality

Selected readings

1. Introduction to economic history

Abramitzky, Ran, “Economics and the Modern Economic Historian,” *Journal of Economic History*, 75:4,1240-1251 (2015). [\[link\]](#)

McCloskey, Donald, “Does the Past Have Useful Economics?” *Journal of Economic Literature*, 14(2), pp. 434-461 (1976). [\[link\]](#)

Margo, Robert, “The Integration of Economic History into Economics,” *Cliometrica*, September 2018. [\[link\]](#)

Giorelli Michela, “The Long-Term Effects of Management and Technology Transfers” *American Economic Review* 2019. [\[link\]](#)

Abramitzky, Ran and Victor Lavy, “How Responsive is Investment in Schooling to Changes in Redistribution Policies and in Returns?” *Econometrica*, 82:4, 1241-1272, July 2014. [\[link\]](#)

Clark, Gregory, *A Farewell to Alms: A Brief Economic History of the World*, Princeton University Press (2007)

Guinnane, Timothy, “The Historical Fertility Transition: A Guide for Economists,” *Journal of Economic Literature* (2011)

Mokyr, Joel, *The Gifts of Athena: Historical Origins of the Knowledge Economy*, Princeton University Press (2003).

Mokyr, Joel, *A Culture of Growth: The Origins of the Modern Economy*, Princeton University Press (2016).

Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James Robinson, “The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development: An Empirical Investigation,” *American Economic Review*, 91(5), pp.1369-1401 (2001). [\[link\]](#)

Dell, Melissa, “the persistent effects of Peru’s mining Mita,” *Econometrica* (2010)

2. Education and technology

Goldin, Claudia, and Lawrence F. Katz. *The Race between Education and Technology*. Harvard University Press, 2010. Chapter 1 (“Human Capital Century”) and Chapter 3 (“Skill-biased Technical Change”)

Atack, Jeremy, Robert A. Margo, and Paul W. Rhode. “‘Automation’ of Manufacturing in the Late Nineteenth Century: The Hand and Machine Labor Study.” *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 33, no. 2 (2019): 51-70.

See also:

Goldin and Katz, *QJE* 1998

Lleras-Muney and Shertzer, *AEJ*, 2015

Feigenbaum and Tan, *JEH*, 2020

Gray, *EEH* 2013

Parman, *JEH* 2011

Ager and Cinnirella, WP 2021

Stanley, *QJE* 2003

Farber, Herbst, Kuziemko, Naidu, *QJE* 2021

3. Racial disparities

Bayer, Patrick, and Kerwin Kofi Charles. “Divergent Paths: A New Perspective on Earnings Differences between Black and White Men since 1940.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 133, no. 3 (2018): 1459-1501.

Derenoncourt, Ellora, and Claire Montialoux. “Minimum Wages and Racial Inequality.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 136, no. 1 (2021): 169-228.

See also, classics:

Smith and Welch, *JEL* 1989

Donohue and Heckman, *JEL* 1991

See also, new:

Boustan, Book 2016

Hornbeck and Naidu, *AER* 2014

Miller, *ReStat* 2020

Carruthers and Wanamaker, *JOLE* 2017

Aneja and Xu, *QJE* forthcoming

Aizer, et al. NBER WP 2021

Aneja and Avenancio-Leon, WP 2021

Collins & Wanamaker NBER WP 2021

Margo 2016

Eriksson, *JHR* 2020

Derenoncourt, et al., WP 2021

4. Immigration – economics

Abramitzky Ran and Leah Boustan “Immigration in American History,” with Leah Boustan, *Journal of Economic Literature* (2017) [[link](#)]

Borjas, George, “The Economics of Immigration,” *Journal of Economic Literature*, 32(4), pp. 1667—1717 (1994). [\[link\]](#)

Chiswick, Barry, “Are Immigrants Favorably Self-Selected?” *American Economic Review*, 89(2), pp. 181—185 (1999). [\[link\]](#)

Abramitzky, Ran, Leah Boustan, and Katherine Eriksson, “A Nation of Immigrants: Assimilation and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration,” *Journal of Political Economy*, 122:3, 467-717 (2014). [\[link\]](#)

Abramitzky, Ran, Leah Boustan, Santiago Perez, and Elisa Jacome, “Intergenerational Mobility of Immigrants in the US over Two Centuries,” *American Economic Review* (2021) [\[link\]](#)

Abramitzky, Ran, Philipp Ager, Leah Boustan, Elior Cohen, and Casper Worm Hansen, “The Effects of Immigration on the Economy: Lessons from the 1920s Border Closure,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* (2022) [\[link\]](#)

Tabellini, Marco, “Gifts of the Immigrants, Woes of the Natives: Lessons from the Age of Mass Migration,” *Review of Economic Studies* (2020) [\[link\]](#)

5. Immigration – culture and politics

Abramitzky, Ran, Leah Boustan, and Katherine Eriksson, “Do Immigrants Assimilate More Slowly Today Than in the Past?” *American Economic Review: Insights* (2020) [\[link\]](#)

Abramitzky, Ran, Leah Boustan, Katherine Eriksson and Stephanie Hao, “Discrimination and the Returns to Cultural Assimilation in the Age of Mass Migration,” *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 110, 340-346, May 2020 [\[link\]](#)

Fouka, Vicky, “The Unintended Effects of Language Prohibition in US Schools after World War I,” *Review of Economic Studies* (2020) [\[link\]](#)

Card, Dallas, Serina Chang, Chris Becker, Julia Mendelsohn, Rob Voigt, Leah Boustan, Ran Abramitzky, and Dan Jurafsky “Computational Analysis of 140 Years of U.S. Political Speeches Reveals More Positive but Increasingly Polarized Framing of Immigration,” working paper (2021)

6. Urbanization

Bleakley, Hoyt, and Jeffrey Lin. “Portage and Path Dependence.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 127, no. 2 (2012): 587-644.

Donaldson, Dave, and Richard Hornbeck. “Railroads and American Economic Growth: A “Market Access” Approach.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 131, no. 2 (2016): 799-858.

See also:

Davis and Weinstein, AER 2002

Brooks and Lutz, ReStat 2018

Heblich, Trew and Zylberberg, JPE 2021

Schumann, AEJ 2014

Lee and Lin, ReStud 2018

Redding, Sturm, Wolf, ReStat 2011

Hanlon, ReStat 2017

Allen and Donaldson, NBER WP 2021

Hornbeck and Rotemberg, WP 2021

You, AEJ 2021

Trew, AEJ 2020

7. Segregation and public health in cities

Boustan, Leah Platt. “Was Postwar Suburbanization “White Flight”? Evidence from the Black Migration.” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 125, no. 1 (2010): 417-443.

Anderson, D. Mark, Kerwin Kofi Charles, and Daniel I. Rees. “Re-Examining the Contribution of Public Health Efforts to the Decline in Urban Mortality.” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Forthcoming.

See also:

Fishback et al., NBER WP 2021

Aaronson, Hartley, Mazumder, WP 2019

Shertzer, Twinam and Walsh, AEJ 2016, JUE 2018

Shertzer and Walsh, ReStat 2019

Boustan, AEJ 2012

Ananat, AEJ 2011

Derenoncourt, AER forthcoming

Feigenbaum, Hoehn-Velasco, Wrigley-Field, WP 2020

Cutler and Miller, Demography 2005

Goldin and Alsan, JPE 2019

Beach and Hanlon, EJ 2018

Kesztenbaum and Rosenthal, JUE 2017

8. Social programs and social insurance

Finkelstein, Amy. “The Aggregate Effects of Health Insurance: Evidence from the Introduction of Medicare.” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 122, no. 1 (2007): 1-37.

Hoynes, Hilary, Diane Whitmore Schanzenbach, and Douglas Almond. “Long-run Impacts of Childhood Access to the Safety Net.” *American Economic Review* 106, no. 4 (2016): 903-34.

See also:

Alesina, Stantcheva, Teso, AER 2018

Aizer, et al., AER 2015

Fetter and Lockwood, AER 2018

Costa, QJE 1995

Fishback, Horrace, Kantor, JEH 2005

Goodman Bacon, AER 2021

Bailey, Sun and Timpe, AER 2021

9. Social mobility in historical perspective

Chetty, Raj, John Friedman, Nathan Hendren, Jones, Porter. “The Opportunity Atlas: Mapping the Childhood Roots of Social Mobility” NBER wp (2018)

Chetty Raj, Nathan Hendren, Patrick Kline, and Emmanuel Saez, “Where is the land of Opportunity? The Geography of Intergenerational Mobility in the United States,” *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* (2014) [\[link\]](#)

Chetty Raj, David Grusky, Maximilian Hell, Nathan Hendren, Robert Manduca, Jimmy Narang, “The Fading American Dream: Trends in Absolute Income Mobility Since 1940.” *Science* (2017) [\[link\]](#)

Abramitzky, Ran, Leah Boustan, Katherine Eriksson, James Feigenbaum, and Santiago Perez, “Automated Linking of Historical Data,” *Journal of Economic Literature* (2021) [\[link\]](#)

Abramitzky, Ran, Roy Mill and Santiago Perez, “Linking Records Across Historical Sources: a Fully Automated Approach,” *Historical Methods*, 53:2, April 2020 [\[link\]](#)

Xi, Song, Catherine Massey, Karen Rolf, Joseph Ferrie, Jonathan Rothbaum, Yu Xie, “Long-term decline in intergenerational mobility in the United States since the 1850s,” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (2019) [\[link\]](#)

Long, Jason, and Joseph Ferrie, “Intergenerational Occupational Mobility in Great Britain and the United States Since 1850,” *American Economic Review* (2013) [\[link\]](#)

Olivetti, Claudia and Daniele Paserman, “In the Name of the Son (and the Daughter): Intergenerational Mobility in the United States, 1850–1940,” *American Economic Review* 2015 [\[link\]](#)

Perez, Santiago, “Intergenerational Occupational Mobility Across Three Continents,” *Journal of Economic History* (2019) [[link](#)]

Feigenbaum, James, “Multiple Measures of Historical Intergenerational Mobility: Iowa 1915 to 1940,” *Economic Journal* (2018) [[link](#)]

Ward, Zach, “Intergenerational Mobility in American History: Accounting for Race and Measurement Error,” *American Economic Review* (2021) [[link](#)]

Jacome, Elisa, Ilyana Kuziemko, and Suresh Naidu, “Mobility for All: Representative Intergenerational Mobility Estimates over the 20th Century,” NBER WP (2021) [[link](#)]

10. Social mobility and inequality

Saez, Emmanuel, and Gabriel Zucman, “The Rise of Income and Wealth Inequality in America: Evidence from Distributional Macroeconomic Accounts,” *JEP* (2020) [[link](#)]

Feigenbaum, James, “Intergenerational Mobility during the Great Depression,” working paper (2015)

Bleakely, Hoyt, and Joseph Ferrie, “Shocking Behavior: Random Wealth in Antebellum Georgia and Human Capital Across Generations,” *QJE* (2016) [[link](#)]

Ager, Philipp, Leah Boustan, and Katherine Eriksson, “The Intergenerational Effects of a Large Wealth Shock: White Southerners After the Civil War,” *American Economic Review* (2021) [[link](#)]

Connor, Dylan, and Michael Storper, “The changing geography of social mobility in the United States” (*PNAS* 2020) [[link](#)]

Abramitzky, Ran, *The Mystery of the Kibbutz: Egalitarian Principles in a Capitalist World*, Princeton University Press (2018)