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HARVARD UNIVERSITY

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Office Contact Information

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Cambridge, MA 02138

Undergraduate Studies:

B.A., Harvard University, Magna Cum Laude, 2009

Graduate Studies:

London School of Economics, 2010-2011
MSc in Human Geography Research (Merit)

Harvard University, 2013 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis Title: “Essays on Inequality in the Labor Market”

Expected Completion Date: June 2019

References:

Professor Lawrence Katz
Harvard University
617-495-5148, lkatz@harvard.edu

Professor Claudia Goldin
Harvard University
617-613-1200, cgoldin@harvard.edu

Professor Nathaniel Hendren
Harvard University
617-496-5079, nhendren@fas.harvard.edu

Professor Edward Glaeser
Harvard University
617-495-0575, eglaser@harvard.edu

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Labor, Economic History
Secondary fields: Public Economics

Job Market Paper:

“Can you move to opportunity? Evidence from the Great Migration”

The northern United States long served as a land of opportunity for black Americans, but today the region's racial gap in intergenerational mobility rivals that of the South. I show that racial composition changes during the peak of the Great Migration (1940-1970) reduced upward mobility in northern cities in the long run, with the largest effects on black men. I identify urban black population increases during the Migration at the commuting zone level using a shift-share instrument, interacting pre-1940 black southern migrant location choices with predicted out-migration from southern counties. The Migration's negative effects on children's adult outcomes appear driven by neighborhood factors, not changes in the characteristics of the average child. Starting in the 1960s, the Migration led to greater white enrollment in private schools, increased spending on policing, and higher crime and incarceration rates. I estimate that the overall change

in childhood environment induced by the Great Migration explains 43% of the upward mobility gap between black and white men in the region today.

Working Papers:

“Minimum wages and racial inequality” (with Claire Montialoux)

The earnings difference between black and white workers fell dramatically in the United States in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This paper shows that the extension of the minimum wage played a critical role in this decline. The 1966 Fair Labor Standards Act introduced high federal minimum wages to sectors that were previously uncovered and where women and black workers were overrepresented. We show that this reform increased wages for workers in newly covered industries and that the impact was twice as large for black workers as for white. We find no effect of the reform on employment. The 1966 extension of the minimum wage can explain 20% of the reduction in the racial wage gap in the United States as a whole in the late 1960s and early 1970s. Our findings shed new light on the impacts of labor standards on racial inequality.

“Atlantic Slavery’s Impact on European Economic Development: Evidence from the Slave Trade”

Did the institution of Atlantic slavery contribute to the rise of Western Europe? I evaluate this question using data on European port cities’ participation in the Atlantic slave trade. I estimate a panel fixed effects model and show that a 10 percent increase in the number of slaving voyages is associated with a 0.5% average increase in population from 1600-1850. Using a newly created dataset on British port-level trade, I show that for the UK, this effect is distinct from a general overseas trade effect during this period, which was also positively associated with city growth. I discuss mechanisms for why the slave trade in particular may have led to higher growth for participating ports.

Research Papers in Progress:

“Job satisfaction, pay, and inequality in US firms: Evidence from Glassdoor”

“The Effects of Public, Private, and Social Institutions on Wage Norms” (with David Weil and Clemens Noelke)

Publications:

“The Historical Origins of Global Inequality,” in Heather Boushey, J. Bradford DeLong, and Marshall Steinbaum (eds.), *After Piketty: the agenda for economics and inequality*, Chapter 20, pp. 491-511. Harvard University Press, 2017.

Teaching Experience:

Spring, 2016	The History of Economic Growth, Harvard University, Prof. Melissa Dell
Fall, 2015	Empirical Research on Economic Inequality, Harvard University, Prof. Max Kasy

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2014-2017	Harvard University, Research Assistant for Max Kasy
Summer 2014	Harvard University, Research Assistant for Melissa Dell
2012-2013	Harvard University, Research Assistant for Nathan Nunn
Summer 2012	UCLA, Research Assistant for Leah Boustan

Professional Activities:

2015	Discussant, Economic History Association Conference, Nashville, TN
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Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2018	Washington Center for Equitable Growth Doctoral Award
2018	Lab for Economic Applications and Policy Grant
2018	Harvard Dissertation Completion Fellowship

2018 Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences Grant
2017 Russell Sage Foundation Grant (topic: Intergenerational Mobility in the US)
2016 Washington Center for Equitable Growth Doctoral Award
2016 Louis E. Kelso Fellow, Rutgers School of Management and Labor Relations
2014-2017 Harvard Kennedy School Inequality and Social Policy Fellowship
2015 Lab for Economic Applications and Policy Grant
2015 Warburg Fund Fellowship
2015 Danielian/Kuznets Travel & Research Grant

Conferences and Invited Presentations:

2018 Berkeley Economic History Seminar; Stanford Economic History Seminar;
Economic History Association (Montreal), V Calvó-Armengol International Prize
Workshop (Barcelona); Harvard University Workshop in History, Culture, and
Society
2017 First WID.world Conference (Paris)
2016 Economic History Association (Boulder, CO)
2015 Oxford University Economic History Seminar