

# LEAH PLATT BOUSTAN

## MAILING ADDRESS

Industrial Relations Section  
Louis A. Simpson International Building  
Princeton, NJ 08544

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Phone: (609) 258-7116  
Email: lboustan@princeton.edu  
URL: scholar.princeton.edu/lboustan/home

## EDUCATION

**Harvard University, Ph.D. in Economics, 2006**

**Princeton University, A.B. in Economics *summa cum laude*, 2000**

## EMPLOYMENT

### **Princeton University**

Professor of Economics, 2017–present

### **University of California Los Angeles**

Professor of Economics, 2016–2017; Associate 2012–2016; Assistant 2006–2012

## POSITIONS

### **National Bureau of Economic Research**

Co-Director, Development of the American Economy Program, 2017–present

Faculty Research Fellow/Research Associate 2007–present

### **American Economic Journal: Applied Economics**

Co-editor, 2022–

### **Journal of Urban Economics**

Co-editor, 2017–2022; Editorial board, 2013–17

### **Editorial boards (Former)**

American Economic Review, Explorations in Economic History, Historical Methods,

Journal of Economic History, Journal of Economic Perspectives, Journal of European

Economics Assn

## BOOKS

*Streets of Gold: America's Untold Story of Immigrant Success*, PublicAffairs, 2022 (with Ran Abramitzky).

*Competition in the Promised Land: Black Migrants in Northern Cities and Labor Markets*, Princeton University Press, 2017.

Awards: Allan Sharlin (Social Science Hist Assn); Alice Hanson Jones (Econ History Assn)

*Human Capital in History: The American Record*, co-edited with Carola Frydman and Robert A. Margo. Chicago: U of Chicago Press, 2014.

**PUBLISHED PAPERS AND PAPERS UNDER REVISION**

“White Flight from Asian Immigrants: Evidence from California Public Schools,” with Christine Cai. Revision requested at *Journal of Urban Economics: Insights*.

“Refugees without Assistance: English-Language Attainment and Economic Outcomes in the Early Twentieth Century” with Ran Abramitzky, Peter Catron, Dylan Connor, and Rob Voigt. Revision requested at *American Sociological Review*.

“Leaving the Enclave: Historical Evidence on Immigrant Mobility from the Industrial Removal Office,” with Ran Abramitzky and Dylan Connor. Revision requested at *Journal of Economic History*.

“Does Condominium Development Lead to Gentrification?” with Robert A. Margo, Matthew M. Miller, James M. Reeves and Justin Steil. *Journal of Urban Economics: Insights*, Forthcoming.

“The Effect of Immigration Restrictions on Local Labor Markets: Lessons from the 1920s Border Closure,” with Ran Abramitzky, Philipp Ager, Elior Cohen and Casper Worm Hansen. *American Economic Journal: Applied* (2023).

“Computational Analysis of 140 Years of U.S. Political Speeches Reveals More Positive but Increasingly Polarized Framing of Immigration,” with Ran Abramitzky, Chris Becker, Dallas Card, Serina Chang, Dan Jurafsky, Julia Mendelsohn and Rob Voigt. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119.31 (2022).

“The Intergenerational Effects of a Large Wealth Shock: White Southerners after the Civil War,” with Philipp Ager and Katherine Eriksson. *American Economic Review*, 111.11 (2021): 3767–94.

“Automated Linking of Historical Data,” with Ran Abramitzky, Katherine Eriksson, James Feigenbaum, and Santiago Pérez. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 59.3 (2021): 865–918.

“Intergenerational Mobility of Immigrants in the U.S. over Two Centuries,” with Ran Abramitzky, Elisa Jácome & Santiago Pérez. *American Economic Review*, 111 (2021): 580–608.

“Do Immigrants Assimilate More Slowly Today Than in the Past?,” with Ran Abramitzky and Katherine Eriksson. *American Economic Review: Insights*, 2 (2020): 125–41.

“Discrimination and the Returns to Cultural Assimilation in the Age of Mass Migration,” with Ran Abramitzky, Katherine Eriksson and Stephanie Hao. *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 110 (2020): 340–6.

“The Effect of Natural Disasters on Economic Activity in US Counties: A Century of Data,” with Matthew Kahn, Paul Rhode and Maria Lucia Yanguas. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 118 (2020).

“Variation in Women’s Success Across PhD Programs in Economics,” with Andrew Langan. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 33 (2019), 23–42.

“To the New World and Back Again: Return Migration and Upward Mobility,” with Ran Abramitzky and Katherine Eriksson. *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 72 (2019) 300–322.

“Urbanization in the United States, 1800-2000,” with Devin Bunten and Owen Hearey. *Oxford Handbook of American Economic History*, ed. Louis Cain, Price Fishback, Paul Rhode. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).

**PUBLISHED PAPERS, CONT.**

“Immigration in American Economic History,” with Ran Abramitzky. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 55 (2017) 1311–45.

“Racial Differences in Health in Long-Run Perspective,” with Robert A. Margo. *Oxford Handbook of Economics and Human Biology*, ed. John Komlos. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).

“The Origin and Persistence of Black-White Differences in Women’s Labor Force Participation,” with William J. Collins. In *Human Capital in History: The American Record* (U of Chicago Press, 2014).

“A Nation of Immigrants: Assimilation and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration,” with Ran Abramitzky and Katherine Eriksson. *Journal of Political Economy*, 122 (2014) 467-506.

“A Silver Lining to White Flight? White Suburbanization and African-American Homeownership, 1940-80,” with Robert A. Margo. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 78 (2013) 71–80.

“The Effect of Rising Income Inequality on Taxation and Public Expenditures: Evidence from US Municipalities and School Districts, 1970-2000,” with Fernando Ferreira, Hernan Winkler and Eric Zolt. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 95 (2013), 1291–1302.

“Local Public Goods and the Demand for High-Income Municipalities,” *Journal of Urban Economics*, 76 (2013) 71–82.

“Population Trends as a Counterweight to Central City Decline,” with Allison Shertzer. *Demography* 50.1 (2013): 125–47.

“Europe’s Tired, Poor, Huddled Masses: Self-selection and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration,” with Ran Abramitzky and Katherine Eriksson, *American Economic Review* 102.5 (2012): 1832–56.

“Moving to Higher Ground: Migration Response to Natural Disasters in the Early Twentieth Century,” with Matthew E. Kahn and Paul W. Rhode, *AEA: Papers and Proceedings* (2012): 238–44.

“School Desegregation and Urban Change: Evidence from City Boundaries,” *American Economic Journal: Applied* 4.1 (2012): 85–108.

“Racial Residential Segregation in American Cities,” in *Oxford Handbook of Urban Economics and Planning*, ed. Nancy Brooks and Gerrit-Jan Knaap (Oxford University Press, 2011), 318–39.

“The Effect of Internal Migration on Local Labor Markets: American Cities During the Great Depression,” with Price Fishback and Shawn Kantor, *Journal of Labor Economics* 28.4 (2010): 719–46.  
Winner of the 2010 IPUMS Research award

“Was Postwar Suburbanization White Flight? Evidence from the Black Migration,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 125.1 (2010): 417–43.

“Job Decentralization and Postwar Suburbanization: Evidence from State Capitals,” with Robert A. Margo, *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs* (2009): 1–20.

**PUBLISHED PAPERS, CONT.**

“Competition in the Promised Land: Black Migration and Northern Labor Markets, 1940-1970,” *Journal of Economic History* 69.3 (2009): 756–83.

“Race, Segregation, and Postal Employment: New Evidence on Spatial Mismatch,” with Robert A. Margo, *Journal of Urban Economics* 65.1 (2009): 1–10.

“Were Jews Political Refugees or Economic Migrants? Assessing the Persecution Theory of Jewish Emigration, 1881-1914,” in *The New Comparative Economic History: Essays in Honor of Jeffrey G. Williamson*, ed. Tim Hatton, Kevin O’Rourke and Alan Taylor (MIT Press, 2007), 267–90.

“Black Migration, White Flight: The Effect of Black Migration on Northern Cities and Labor Markets,” *Journal of Economic History* 67.2 (2007): 484–88. (Dissertation summary)

**WORKING PAPERS**

“Automation After the Assembly Line: Computerized Machine Tools, Employment and Productivity in the United States,” with Jiwon Choi and David Clingingsmith. NBER Working Paper 30400. August 2022.

**HONORS, PRIZES AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2022	Fellow, Econometric Society
2019	IZA Young Labor Economist Award
2018	Graduate Economics Club, Best Advisor Award, Princeton University
2016–17	Russell Sage Foundation Research Project Award
2013–14	Research Fellow, Straus Institute at NYU School of Law
2012–14	Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship
2010	IPUMS Research Award, Best Journal Article
2010–13	National Science Foundation Research Grant
Various years	Excellence in Reviewing: <i>AEJ: Applied</i> ; <i>AER</i> ; <i>QJE</i>
2006–14 (x 4)	Distinguished Teaching Award, UCLA Economics Dept
2006	Alan Nevins Prize for best dissertation in American Economic History
2001–04	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

**GRADUATE ADVISING** \*indicates chair or co-chair

2022	Lukas Althoff*, Jiwon Choi*, Christine Cai*, Stephanie Hao*
2021	Emily Battaglia* (Delaware); Hannah Postel* (Stanford, Postdoc)
2020	Cavit Baran* (Northwestern, Postdoc) Elijior Cohen (Fed – Kansas City), Elisa Jacome* (Northwestern)
2019	Jessica Brown (South Carolina); Mingyu Chen (Amazon); Andrew Langan* (Mathematica); Maria Lucia Yanguas (Cornerstone)
2017	Peter Catron (Sociology; U Washington); Dylan Connor (Geography; Arizona State); Matthew Miller (Amazon); Colin Weiss (Fed Board)
2016	Devin Bunten (Fed Board; now MIT Urban Planning); Owen Hearey (Analysis Group); Carlos Hernandez* (Universidad de Los Andes)
2015	Francisco Haimovich* (World Bank); Sandra Roza (USC; now World Bank)
2014	Gabriela Rubio (UC-Merced)
2013	Katherine Eriksson* (Cal Poly; now UC-Davis); Molly Ball (History; Rochester)
2012	Matt Hill (Pompeu Fabra); Mohamed Saleh (Toulouse)
2011	Allison Shertzer (Pittsburgh); Hernan Winkler (World Bank)

**PUBLIC LECTURES, KEYNOTE TALKS AND INVITED TEACHING**

- 2022 Friends of Economic History lecture, Northwestern University
- 2022 Henry Hart Rice Urban Policy Forum, New York University
- 2022 Romano lecture, SUNY Binghamton
- 2022 Keynote lecture, Migration and Organizations Conference, Wharton
- 2022 Wellington Burnham Lecture, Tufts University
- 2022 AEA Continuing Education, Quantitative Approaches to Economic History
- 2021 Sawyer Lecture, University of Rochester
- 2021 Clair Wilcox Lecture, Swarthmore College
- 2021 Uppsala Lecture in Housing and Urban Research, Uppsala University, Sweden
- 2021 Hicks Lecture, Economic and Social History Workshop, Oxford University
- 2021 Keynote lecture, Immigration and the Economy Conference, NBER
- 2020 Urban Economics Association Lectures on Urban Economics
- 2019 Departmental seminar, MIT (Economics)
- 2019 W.J. Usery Distinguished Lecturer, Georgia State University
- 2019 Keynote, "Moving to Opportunity in Developing Countries," World Bank
- 2019 Keynote, Neighborhoods, Externalities and Inequality workshop, Copenhagen
- 2019 Public lecture, "Streets of Gold: Immigration and the American Dream," Trinity-Dublin
- 2018 Keynote, Urban Economics Association
- 2018 "The Economics and Ethics of Immigration," New York University
- 2018 Departmental seminar, Princeton University (Economics)
- 2018 Departmental seminar, UC-Berkeley (Economics)
- 2014 Mary MacKinnon Lecture, Canadian Network for Economic History
- 2013 Keynote, "Migration: Global Development, New Frontiers," University College London
- 2011 Institut d'Economia de Barcelona, Summer School in Immigration & Public Policy
- 2010 Public lecture, "Black Migration and the Transformation of American Cities," Dartmouth

**Updated: December 2022**