

Ezra Karger

230 South LaSalle Street • Chicago, IL 60604

ezra.karger@chi.frb.org • ezrakarger.com

EMPLOYMENT

Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago	Chicago, IL
Economist	2021 –
Resident Scholar	2019 – 2021
Cornerstone Research	Boston, MA
Analyst	2014 – 2015

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago	Chicago, IL
Ph.D. in Economics	2021
M.A. in Economics	2017
B.A. in Mathematics, Statistics, and Economics	2014

AFFILIATIONS

Advisor, Open Philanthropy	2023 –
Cofounder and Research Director, Forecasting Research Institute (FRI)	2022 –
Visiting Scholar, University of Pennsylvania: Department of Psychology	2021 –
Special Sworn Status, U.S. Census Bureau	2017 –
Research Affiliate, New York University: Coleridge Initiative	2019 – 2020

GRANTS

Co-PI, Open Philanthropy, Advancing the Science of Forecasting (\$5,503,000)	2022 – 2025
Co-PI, U.S. Census Bureau, External Project #1971 (data access)	2022 – 2025
Co-PI, U.S. Census Bureau, External Project #2090 (data access)	2019 – 2024
Co-PI, Musk Foundation, Existential Risk Persuasion Tournament (\$1,500,000)	2020
Co-PI, Open Philanthropy, Forecasting Tournament Planning (\$275,000)	2021
Co-PI, Long-Term Future Fund, Existential Risk Persuasion Tournament (\$200,000)	2020
Grantee, Allison Davis Research Award (\$10,000)	2020
Grantee, UChicago Data Grant (\$3,000)	2020
Co-PI, Equitable Growth, The Causal Effects of Antitrust Enforcement (\$77,000)	2019
Grantee, Institute of Education Sciences via UChicago, Data Digitization (\$11,000)	2019

AWARDS

Most accurate forecaster, ACX Forecasting Tournament	2024
Larry Neal Prize for the best article in <i>Explorations in Economic History</i>	2023
President's Award for Excellence, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago	2021
Honorable Mention, APPAM Dissertation Award	2021
IPUMS Mug	2021

Agility Award, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago	2020
Starr Dissertation Completion Fellowship, UChicago	2020
Doctoral Fellow, Institute of Education Sciences	2015 – 2020
Forecaster on most accurate team, FOCUS	2019
Most accurate forecaster, Hybrid Forecasting Competition	2018
Fellow, Illinois Department of Employment Security	2017 – 2018
Superforecaster, Good Judgment Project	2015
David S. Hu Award for economics coursework and senior thesis excellence	2014

TEACHING

The University of Chicago	Chicago, IL
Teaching Assistant: Applied Microeconomics in Economic History (graduate)	Winter 2021
Teaching Assistant: Job Mobility and Wage Determinants (graduate)	Winter 2019
Lecturer: Introduction to R (undergraduate, two-day course)	Summer 2018
Lecturer: Pathways in Economics (high school, two-day course)	Summer 2018
Teaching Assistant: Economics of Education (undergraduate)	Spring 2017
Preceptor: Honors Thesis Workshop (undergraduate)	2016 – 2018
Grader: Introductory Statistics (undergraduate)	Fall 2012
Grader: Linear Algebra (undergraduate)	Fall 2012
Teaching Assistant: Calculus 1, 2, and 3 (undergraduate)	2011 – 2012

PRESENTATIONS

* Indicates coauthored work presented by a coauthor

2024: George Washington University; NBER Law and Economics (Summer Institute); National Academy of Sciences' Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Automated Laboratories for Biotechnology

2023: Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Education Workshop); Workshop on Wealth and Income Inequality Around the World; NBER Conference on Research in Income and Wealth (Summer Institute)*

2022: Notre Dame; Auburn; Mississippi State; Mountain West Economic History Conference; NBER Education (Spring)*; NBER Children (Spring)*; Cliometric Conference, NBER Development of the American Economy (Summer Institute); Global Priorities Institute's Workshop on Forecasting Existential Risks and the Long-Term Future

2021: Midwest Economics Association; Economic History Society Conference; Cliometric Conference; NBER Summer Institute (x2); Future of Humanity Institute; DePaul; Northwestern's Methodological Advances in the Extraction and Analysis of Historical Data*; Oxford Workshop on Global Priorities Research

2020: University of Michigan H2D2 Conference; WEAI Graduate Student Workshop; Virtual Seminar in Economic History; Young Economist Symposium; Economic History Association; LSE Graduate Economic History Seminar; Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference; Southern Economic Association; Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; APPAM; University of Southern Denmark; Economics of Education Student Conference

2019: Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; Chapin Hall; NYU Coleridge Initiative

2018: Chicago Education Workshop

SERVICE

Co-organizer: Labor and Finance Conference *Fall, 2023*
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago **Chicago, IL**
Co-organizer: Federal Reserve Applied Microeconomics Workshop (new work) 2022 – 2023
Organizer: Research Assistant Reading Group 2021 –

The University of Chicago **Chicago, IL**
Co-organizer: Student Applied Microeconomics Workshop 2017 – 2018
Co-organizer: Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference *Fall 2017*
Co-organizer: Education Workshop 2015 – 2019

Referee: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics; American Economic Review: Insights; Review of Economics and Statistics; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of Health Economics; Journal of Economic History; Explorations in Economic History; International Journal of Central Banking; Scandinavian Journal of Economics; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Journal of Human Capital; Economic Inquiry; American Journal of Health Economics*

WORKING PAPERS

1. The Long-Run Effect of Public Libraries on Children: Evidence from the Early 1900s
2. Heterogeneity in the Marginal Propensity to Consume: Evidence from Covid-19 Stimulus Payments (with Aastha Rajan)
3. The Democratization of Opportunity: The Effects of the U.S. High School Movement (with Alison Doxey and Peter Nencka)

UNDER REVIEW (ECONOMICS)

4. Ending Early Grade Suspensions (with Sarah Komisarow)
5. Early Predictors of Racial Disparities in Criminal Justice Involvement (with Andy Jordan and Derek Neal)
6. Antitrust Enforcement Increases Economic Activity (with Tania Babina, Simcha Barkai, Jessica Jeffers, Ekaterina Volkova)
7. School and Crime (with Todd R. Jones) [Reject & Resubmit, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*](#)
8. The Black-White Lifetime Earnings Gap (with Anthony Wray) [R&R, *Explorations in Economic History*](#)

PUBLICATIONS (ECONOMICS)

9. Heterogeneous Impacts of Sentencing Decisions (with Andrew Jordan, Derek Neal) [accepted, *Journal of Labor Economics*](#)
10. The Returns to Public Library Investment (with Gregory Gilpin, Peter Nencka) [accepted, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*](#)
11. School Closures during the 1918 Flu Pandemic (with Philipp Ager, Katherine Eriksson, Peter Nencka, and Melissa Thomasson) [Accepted, *Review of Economics and Statistics*](#)

12. Do Stay-at-Home Orders Cause People to Stay at Home? Effects of Stay-at-Home Orders on Consumer Behavior (with Diane Alexander) [Accepted, *Review of Economics and Statistics*](#)
13. The Census Place Project: A Method for Geolocating Unstructured Place Names (with Enrico Berkes and Peter Nencka) [Accepted, *Explorations in Economic History*](#)

UNDER REVIEW (FORECASTING)

14. Belief Updating in AI-Risk Debates: Exploring the Limits of Adversarial Collaboration (with Josh Rosenberg, Zachary Jacobs, Molly Hickman, Avital Morris, Harrison Durland, and Philip E. Tetlock)
15. AI-Augmented Predictions: LLM Assistants Improve Human Forecasting Accuracy (with Philipp Schoenegger, Peter S. Park, and Philip E. Tetlock)
16. Subjective-Probability Forecasts of Existential Risk: Initial Results from a Hybrid Persuasion-Forecasting Tournament (with Josh Rosenberg, Zachary Jacobs, Molly Hickman, and Philip E. Tetlock)
17. Full Accuracy Scoring Accelerates the Discovery of Skilled Forecasters (with Pavel Atanasov and Philip E. Tetlock)
18. Self-Resolving Prediction Markets for Unverifiable Outcomes (with Siddarth Srinivasan and Yiling Chen)
19. Reciprocal Scoring: A Method for Forecasting Unanswerable Questions (with Joshua Monrad, Barbara Mellers, and Philip Tetlock)
20. Tracking U.S. Consumers in Real Time with a New Weekly Index of Retail Trade (with Scott A. Brave, Michael Fogarty, Daniel Aaronson, and Spencer Krane) [R&R, *International Journal of Central Banking*](#)

PUBLICATIONS (EDUCATION)

21. State and Local Efforts To Investigate the Validity and Reliability of Scores From Teacher Evaluation Systems (with Corinne Herlihy, Cynthia Pollard, Heather C. Hill, Matthew A. Kraft, Megan Williams, Sarah Howard), [Teachers College Record](#) 116(1), 2014.

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

22. Conditional Trees: A Method for Generating Informative Questions about Complex Topics: AI Risk Case Study (with Tegan McCaslin, Josh Rosenberg, Avital Morris, Molly Hickman, Otto Kusela, Sam Glover, Zach Jacobs, and Phil Tetlock), [FRI Technical Report](#), August 2024
23. What's New in CARTS 2.1? Updates to Our Index Tracking National Retail Sales (with Scott A. Brave, Lucas Cain, and Ross Cole), [Chicago FED Insights](#), July 2024
24. Roots of Disagreement on AI Risk: Exploring the Potential and Pitfalls of Adversarial Collaboration (with Josh Rosenberg, Avital Morris, Molly Hickman, Rose Hadshar, Zachary Jacobs, Philip Tetlock), [FRI Technical Report](#), January 2024
25. What Was in Your Holiday CARTS? Resuming Our Index Tracking National Retail Spending (with Scott A. Brave), [Chicago FED Insights](#), January 2024
26. Forecasting Existential Risks: Evidence from a Long-Run Forecasting Tournament (with Josh Rosenberg, Zachary Jacobs, Molly Hickman, Rose Hadshar, Kayla Gamin, Taylor Smith, Bridget

Williams, Tegan McCaslin, and Philip E. Tetlock), *FRI Technical Report*, August 2023

27. Improving Judgments of Existential Risk: Better Forecasts, Questions, Explanations, Policies (with Pavel Atanasov and Philip E. Tetlock), *FHI Technical Report*, March 2022.

28. If You Build a Library, Children Will Come—and Learn More, Too, *Chicago Fed Economic Mobility Project Brief*, February 2022.

29. Introducing CARTS: A New Index Tracking National Retail Spending (with Scott A. Brave, Ross Cole, Michael Fogarty, and Liam Puknys), *Chicago Fed Insights*, July 12, 2021.

30. Measuring the Relationship between Business Reopenings, Covid-19, and Consumer Behavior (with Diane Alexander, Amanda McFarland), *Chicago Fed Letter* No. 445, August 2020.

RESTING

31. Patent Citations and Stock Performance: Constructing a Dynamic Industry Classification (with Sebastien Gay), *SSRN Working Paper*, 2015.