

# Ezra Karger

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## EMPLOYMENT

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

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## EDUCATION

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

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## AFFILIATIONS

Advisor, Open Philanthropy	2023 –
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

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## GRANTS

Cofounder of FRI, funded by Open Philanthropy (\$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

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## AWARDS

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

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## TEACHING

<b>The University of Chicago</b>	<b>Chicago, IL</b>
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

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## PRESENTATIONS

\* Indicates coauthored work presented by a coauthor

**2023:** Federal Reserve Bank of New York (Education Workshop); Workshop on Wealth and Income Inequality Around the World (scheduled); 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

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## SERVICE

<b>Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago</b>	<b>Chicago, IL</b>
Co-organizer: Federal Reserve Applied Microeconomics Workshop	2022 –
Organizer: Research Assistant Reading Group	2021 –

## The University of Chicago

Co-organizer: Student Applied Microeconomics Workshop

Co-organizer: Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference

Co-organizer: Education Workshop

Chicago, IL

2017 – 2018

Fall 2017

2015 – 2019

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

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## WORKING PAPERS

1. The Long-Run Effect of Public Libraries on Children: Evidence from the Early 1900s
2. The Black-White Lifetime Earnings Gap
3. Heterogeneity in the Marginal Propensity to Consume: Evidence from Covid-19 Stimulus Payments (with Aastha Rajan)
4. Schools and Crime (with Todd R. Jones)
5. The Democratization of Opportunity: The Effects of the U.S. High School Movement (with Alison Doxey and Peter Nencka)
6. 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)

## UNDER REVIEW

7. Full Accuracy Scoring Accelerates the Discovery of Skilled Forecasters (with Pavel Atanasov and Philip E. Tetlock)
8. Self-Resolving Prediction Markets for Unverifiable Outcomes (with Siddarth Srinivasan and Yiling Chen)
9. Antitrust Enforcement Increases Economic Activity (with Tania Babina, Simcha Barkai, Jessica Jeffers, Ekaterina Volkova)
10. Heterogeneous Impacts of Sentencing Decisions (with Andrew Jordan, Derek Neal)
11. Reciprocal Scoring: A Method for Forecasting Unanswerable Questions (with Joshua Monrad, Barbara Mellers, and Philip Tetlock)
12. 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*

## RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

13. The Returns to Public Library Investment (with Gregory Gilpin, Peter Nencka) [conditionally accepted, \*American Economic Journal: Economic Policy\*](#)
14. School Closures during the 1918 Flu Pandemic (with Philipp Ager, Katherine Eriksson, Peter Nencka, and Melissa Thomasson) [Accepted, \*Review of Economics and Statistics\*](#)

15. 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*
16. The Census Place Project: A Method for Geolocating Unstructured Place Names (with Enrico Berkes and Peter Nencka) [Accepted](#), *Explorations in Economic History*
17. 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**

18. Improving Judgments of Existential Risk: Better Forecasts, Questions, Explanations, Policies (with Pavel Atanasov and Philip E. Tetlock), *FHI Technical Report*, March 2022.
19. If You Build a Library, Children Will Come—and Learn More, Too, *Chicago Fed Economic Mobility Project Brief*, February 2022.
20. 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.
21. Measuring the Relationship between Business Reopenings, Covid-19, and Consumer Behavior (with Diane Alexander, Amanda McFarland), *Chicago Fed Letter* No. 445, August 2020.

## **RESTING**

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