


Maude Toussaint-Comeau
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A professional with more than 15 years of teaching and advising experience at the university level, and working as a researcher in the economic/policy research division of a central bank. I have advanced applied empirical research experience as well as strong presentation skills. I have demonstrated ability to create strong team-building, and in managing, and implementing special research and community development policy projects and initiatives.

EDUCATION:

- Ph.D., Economics, University of Illinois-Chicago, 1998
- M.S., Economics, Temple University, Philadelphia, 1991
- B.A., Economics, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, 1989

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE:

 **Adjunct Faculty, DePaul University, (2004-present)**


Courses taught: *Economics for Decision Making; Work in a Global Environment*

 **Adjunct Assistant Professor: University of Illinois at Chicago, (1995-2000)**

Courses taught: Microeconomics; Macroeconomics; and Consumer Economics.

 **Researcher, Community Development and Policy Study, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (2009-present)**


Conduct high quality policy studies on topics related to community development, banking and finance for publication in refereed economic journals and bank's publication from the Economic Research department and from the Community Development and Policy Studies division. Organize high caliber and visible conferences on topics related to banking and financing and small businesses and employment growth in low income neighborhoods. Make presentations of research in both policy-oriented and academic meetings, and to a wide variety of audiences, including practitioners, policy makers and academicians. Conduct outreach meetings with community leaders, lead focus groups, and facilitate intermediation between community leaders, banks, and policymakers. Develop and spearhead various bank high-priority initiatives on timely community development areas, including workforce development, small business development, bank credit access, and supporting community development financial institutions and minority-owned banks.

 **Policy Specialist Speaker, Speaker Bureau, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (2007-present)**

As one of the featured specialists of the Chicago Fed's Speaker Bureau, receive several requests from stakeholders annually to give presentations and speeches, including delivering keynote speeches in academic annual meetings, with audiences of more than 300 people. (List of speeches/presentations and institutions are available upon request).

 **Economist: Economic Research, , Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (2005-2009)**


Conduct independent economic research on applied microeconomics and public policy including producing high-quality research for publication in refereed economic journals. Conduct analyses of labor market and productivity, and produce empirical projections for microeconomic team's Labor Memo, as well as write up special memos on various labor economic topics, upon request, to support the FOMC process. Make policy recommendations and vote on monetary policy issues at the Economic Research departmental FOMC meetings. Make presentations internally to senior bank management and externally at workshops, seminars, and conferences. Trained and supervised work of research associates, as well as spearheaded recruitment of economist interns and research associates.

 **Assistant Examiner/Fair Lending Economist: Supervision and Regulation, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago (2009-2010)**

(Part time and temporary assignment): Conducted statistical modeling and analyses of lending evaluation of banks.

 **Economist: (2000-2005)/ Research Analyst: (1998-2000), Consumer and Community Affairs, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago**

Conducted applied research pursuant knowledge in the consumer laws and regulations —CRA, ECOA, HMDA, and FHA, etc. Author publications such as the HMDA Profile, the CRA Profile, and MSA profile. Conducted outreach in Chicago's communities such as Chatham and Little Village and intermediated between communities and local area banks to increase access to financial services in communities. Made presentations internally to senior bank management and externally at workshops, seminars and conferences. Assisted management to develop long-term strategic project planning, budgeting and reporting.

 **Assistant Economist Intern: Consumer and Community Affairs U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington DC (Summer 1997)**

Provided assistance to an Agricultural Counselor in research and activities aimed at maintaining global market opportunities and global competitiveness of American agriculture. Such activities included assisting with monitoring and assessing global food aid needs, administering of a variety of export promotion, technical, and food assistance programs in cooperation with other government agencies, the private sector, and international organizations.

 **Teacher: Howard Area Community center, Chicago, Illinois (1991-1992)**

Taught in an after-school education remedial program sponsored by the City of Chicago and recruited students in the Chicago Public School system to attend.

PUBLICATIONS:

 **Book Published**

- *Strategies for Improving Economic Mobility of Workers: Bridging Research and Practice*, with Bruce D. Meyer, editors, Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, Kalamazoo, 2009.

 **Journal Publications**

- "Minority-Owned Banks and Their Primary Local Market Areas," with Robin Newberger, *Economic Perspectives*, May 2017

- “Mexican Immigration, Occupational Clustering and the Labor Market Adjustment of African-American Workers,” *IZA Journal of Migration*, 2016, vol. 5, Issue 1.
- “Inclusive Cluster-Based Development Strategies for Inner Cities,” with Robin Newberger and Darline Augustine, *Economic Development Quarterly*, May 2016, vol. 30, no. 2 (171-184).
- “Ethnic Social Networks and Self-Employment of Immigrant Men in the US” *Eastern Economic Journal*, 2011, 38, (74-98).
- “The Occupational Assimilation of Hispanic Immigrants: Evidence from Panel Data,” *International Migration Review*, 2006, Vol. 40 (6).
- “Who Uses Check-Cashing Businesses? A Look at Racial/Ethnic Differences,” With Sherrie Rhine and William Greene, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2006, Vol. 88 (1).
- “Tenure Choice with Location Selection: The Case of Hispanic Neighborhoods in Chicago,” with Sherrie Rhine, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, Vol.22, No. 1, January 2004.
- “Changing Demographic of Hispanics: Opportunities and Constraints in the Financial market,” Chicago Fed Letter, August 2003, No. 192.
- “The Relationship between Hispanic Location Decision and Homeownership,” with Sherrie Rhine,” *Economic Perspectives*, 2004, Vol. 28, No. 3.
- “Variations in Consumer Sentiment across Demographic Group,” with Leslie McGranahan, *Economic Perspectives*, 2006, Vol. 30 (1).
- “Strategies for Improving Economic Mobility of Workers: A Conference Preview,” Chicago Fed Letter, No. 245, 2007.
- “Do Networks and Ethnic Enclave Promote Self-Employment?” *Economic Perspectives*, December 2008.
- “Self-Employed Immigrants: An Analysis of Recent Data,” Chicago Fed Letter, 2009, No. 213.
- “Trends in Consumer Sentiment and Spending,” with Daniel DiFranco, Chicago Fed Letter, May 2009, No. 262.
- “Do Labor Market Activities Help Predict Inflation?” With Luojia Hu, *Economic Perspectives*, 2009, Vol. 34, 4th Quarter.
- “Developing Small Businesses and Leveraging Resources in Detroit,” with Robin Newberger, Chicago Fed Letter, 2013 No. 306a.
- “The Homeownership Experience and Financing in two Chicago Minority Neighborhoods,” *ProfitWise Profile News and Views*, Vol. 6, 2000.
- “Strategies for Improving Economic Mobility of Workers,” *ProfitWise News and Views*,

September 2008

- “Developing Small Businesses and Leveraging Resources in Detroit: An Informed Discussion among Financial Institutions, Policymakers and Other Stakeholders in Detroit,” *ProfitWise News and Views*, Vol. 28, August 2013, 3rd Quarter.
- “International Diversity and Entrepreneurship in Louisville,” Federal Reserve of St. Louis, *Bridges*, Fall 2013.
- An Analysis of SBA Loans in Lower-Income and Black Neighborhoods in Detroit and Michigan, *ProfitWise News and Views*, Spring 2014.
- “The Use of Formal and Informal Financial Markets among Black Households,” *Consumer Interest Annual*, Vol. 45, 1999.
- “Currency Exchange Use and the Unbanked: An Empirical Analysis,” *Consumer Interest Annual*, Vol. 47, 2001.
- “Evaluating Outcomes of Personal Financial Education,” *Consumer Interests Annual*, Vol. 49, 2003.
- “The Role of Alternative Financial Service Providers in Serving Low- and Moderate-Income Neighborhoods,” *Federal Reserve System Community Affairs Research Conference Proceedings*, Washington, D.C., 2001.
- “The Financing Experiences of Minority Businesses: Evidence from Asian, Hispanic, and Black Small Business Owners,” *Fourteenth Annual Conference of the Academy of Entrepreneurial Finance*, 2003.
- “The Availability of Credit in the Minneapolis-St. Paul Hmong Community,” *Federal Reserve System’s Third Community Affairs Research Conference Proceedings*, 2003.
- “Delivery of Financial Literacy Programs,” *The Journal of Consumer Education*, Vol. 19/20, 2001/2002.
- “Adult Preferences for the Delivery of Personal Finance Information,” *Financial Counseling and Planning Journal*, Vol. 13, 2003.
- “Increasing Market Participation among Black Households,” *Advancing the Consumer Interest: a Journal of Consumer Law, Policy, and Research*, Vol. 13, Numbers 1&2, Fall 2001/Winter 2002
- “Health Status and Savings of Insured and Uninsured Working-Age Households in the U.S.,” with Jonathan Hartley, *Journal of Consumer Education*, 2012.

Short Articles Published in Federal Reserve Blog

- “New Issues in Immigration Research”, February 12, 2013.
- “Redefining Rust Belt: The Local Impact of Anchor Institutions in Detroit, Baltimore, Cleveland and Philadelphia,” December 18, 2013

- “Redefining Rust Belt: An Exchange of Strategies by the Cities of Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit, and Philadelphia,” August 22, 2013
- “Redefining Rustbelt: Mitigating Blight and Managing Vacancies in Detroit,” May 13, 2014
- “Redefining Rustbelt: Opportunities for City Revitalization and Educational Reform,” July 24, 2014

Special Reports

- “Comparison of Earning Potential Across Race/Ethnicity and Gender,” 2016.
- “How the Retiring Workforce affect the composition of the Workplace and talent Shortage across Varying Demographic Groups”, 2014.
- “Projections of Minority in Top Executives Positions in the Chicago MSA”, 2008.
- “Historical Impact of Recession on the Diverse Workforce,” 2010
- “The Supply of Racially Diverse Talent for Top Executive and Managerial Positions,” 2012.
- “The Occupational Status of Hispanics in the U.S.,” with Ludovic Comeau Jr and Thomas Smith: Prepared for the Pew Hispanic Center, 2004.

Research Advising

- Advisory Committee Member: Integration of New Immigrants in the Workforce Study, Institute for Work and the Economy, July 2006.
- Economic Advisory Council Member: New Economic Initiative (NEI) for southern Michigan, 2008-present. Periodically review and critique the strategy and work of the NEI. 2008-present.
- Senior Research Advisor: *Haitian Diaspora Engagement and Investment in Haiti: New Findings and Recommendations*, 2015. United States Agency for International Development and Pan American Development Foundation.
- Senior Idea Reviewer: Diaspora Challenge Initiative, 2017. United States Agency for International Development and Pan American Development Foundation

SELECTED PROJECT MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE

-  **Project Manager: “The CDPS Detroit Small Business Initiative.”**

The CDPS Detroit Small Business Project is a significant contribution to the Federal Reserve bank's community development strategic plan. The purpose of this project is to support small business development in Detroit by focusing on expanding access to credit and lending programs for small firms, and contribute to revitalize the city of Detroit. The multi-year Detroit Project involves conducting and writing up research and policy analysis on issues pertaining to small business development, financing, and community revitalization in the city of Detroit; Presenting findings at meetings of stakeholders, including a presentation to the board of Directors, at the Detroit Branch; and engaging in consistent and long-term community outreach and networking with stakeholders, business owners, non-profit organizations, bankers and policy makers.

 **Project Manager: “Worker Mobility Initiative.”**

This initiative provided a significant contribution to the bank's strategic direction in 2007. It contributed substantially to the Business Unit Goal to foster the development of high-quality research in public policy and industry best practices and communicate this research to a variety of audiences – internal and external, national and international. As a project manager of the conference I secured a Strategic Initiative Fund (SIF) of \$65,000 to fund the conference, and oversaw all aspects of logistics and contents of the conference.

 **EEO Retention Strategy Workgroup**

Serve as a Project Team Member of the Chicago FED 2010 EEO Retention Strategy Project. As such, I was responsible to lead the investigation/research/analysis of Chicago Fed internal data including, headcount data, promotion data, termination data, and exit interviews, in order to study the factors affecting women and minority retention in the Chicago Fed. I also examined some of the factors explaining termination/retention, as well as provided recommendations.

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Minority-Owned Banks and Their Primary Local Market Areas, Webinar to invited minority bank officers in the country, organized by Federal Reserve Board, FDIC and OCC, 2017.
- “Mission-Oriented Bank Closings and Credit Availability in Low-Income and Minority Neighborhoods,” Invited Speaker, Interagency Minority Depository Institution and CDFI Bank Conference, 2017.
- “Minority Owned Banks and their Primary Local Housing Market Areas,” Invited Panelist, Western Economic Association, *Contemporary Economic Policy: Public Policy and Inequality Series Session*, Santiago, Chile, 2017.
- “Minority Owned-Banks Performance and Survivability in Times of Financial Stress,” Presented at the following conferences: Howard University, Federal Reserve Board, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, Midwest Economic Association, Southern Economic Association, Western Economic Association, 2016.
- “Black-owned businesses”, keynote speech at the Ypsilanti Black Chamber of Commerce event, Michigan, 2015.

- “The State of Black-owned businesses in Detroit, Before and After Recession”, speech at Urban Economic Forum, Michigan, 2015.
- Panelist in a session “Profile of the Urban Entrepreneurs” Urban Economic Forum, Michigan, 2015.
- “Use of Mobile Technology and the Unbanked,” keynote speech, the Annual Association of Financial Services meeting, Chicago, Ill, 2014.
- “Immigrants in Louisville,” Invited guest speaker, the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, Louisville, KY.
- “SBA Analysis in Michigan,” Chicago Fed Investing in Detroit conference, A joint meeting, organized with U.S. Department of Treasury.
- “Banking Infrastructure in Detroit,” presentation to legislators in Detroit.
- Poster presentation at Federal Reserve Board conference “Resilience and Rebuilding for Low-Income Communities”.
- “Small business Lending in Detroit,” Board of Directors, Detroit Branch
- Allied Social Sciences Association, New York, New York 1999; Atlanta, Georgia, 2002
- Illinois Economic Association, Chicago, 2000, 2002, 2003.
- American Council on Consumer Interest, 2001.
- Western Economics Association International, 2001, 2003.
- Rutgers University, Promoting New and Small Businesses in the Inner City:
- Improving the Environment and Obtaining Funds, Conference, 2002.
- DePaul University, 14th Annual Conference of the Academy of Entrepreneurial Finance, 2003.
- Federal Reserve System Community Affairs Academic Research Conference, Washington DC, 2003.
- Midwest Economic Association, Annual Meetings, 2004, 2007
- George Washington University, 15th Annual Conference of the Academy of Entrepreneurial Finance, 2004.
- “Financial Access to Immigrants”, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and Brookings Institutions, 2004.
- University of Chicago, Changing Faces of Chicago Metropolitan Area, Public Policy Research Conference, 2004. Session Chair/Discussant:
- “Household Behavior,” Midwest Economic Association, Cleveland, 2001.
- “Banking Structure,” Western Economics Association International, San Diego, 2000.
- “The Labor Market and Discrimination,” Western Economics Association International, San Francisco, 2001.
- “Consumer Economics,” Illinois Economics Association, Chicago, 2001.
- Panelist, Public Policy Issues, American Council on Consumer Interest, 2002, 2003.

Other Leadership/Professional Activities

- **Catalyst Committee Advisory Board Member, Greater Chatham Initiative**
- Member of the Editorial Team and Contributor to the Journal, Haiti Perspectives.
- Co-editor, the Journal of Consumer Education.
- Chicago Fed Challenge Judge, past several years.
- Served as a member of nominating team to identify vice president, academic member

and non-academic members for the Board of WEAI, 2012.

- **Referee:** Journal of Consumer Education; Journal of Consumer Affairs; Real Estate Economics; Social Science Quarterly; International Migration Review; Journal of Socio-Economics; Southern Economic Journal; Journal of Consumer Education; Demography

AWARDS

- Excellence in Teaching Evaluation, congratulatory letters received from the Graduate College at the University of Illinois-Chicago, 1996, 1997, 1998, 2000.
- Martin Luther King Award for Academic Excellence and Community Services Recipient, University of Illinois-Chicago, 1997.
- Social Science Research Council, Award for Doctoral Dissertation on Immigration, 1997.
- National Trio Achiever Award, 2007
- Visionary Award, Chicago United, 2017

OTHER PERSONAL:

- Married, with 2 children, Niabelle Comeau (12 years), Emilise Comeau (10 years), husband, Ludovic Comeau (Associate Professor, DePaul University and Consultant at the Central Bank of Haiti).

References are available upon request