

Patrick A. Testa

CONTACT	Tilton Memorial Hall 205, New Orleans, LA 70118 patrickatesta.com	+1 (507) 261 7728 ptesta@tulane.edu
RESEARCH	Political economy, economic history, development and growth, urban economics.	
EMPLOYMENT	Tulane University , New Orleans, LA Assistant Professor of Economics Faculty Affiliate, Murphy Institute Kurzius Family Early Career Professor of Economics	2019–Present 2019–Present 2022–2023
	National Bureau of Economic Research , Cambridge, MA Faculty Research Fellow	2025–Present
EDUCATION	University of California, Irvine , Irvine, CA Ph.D., Economics Dissertation: <i>Essays in the Political Economy of Development</i> Committee: Stergios Skaperdas, Daniel Bogart, and Jean-Paul Carvalho M.A., Economics	2019 2015
	Loyola University , New Orleans, LA B.B.A., Economics	2014
ARTICLES, PEER REVIEWED	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Education and Propaganda: Tradeoffs to Public Education Provision in Nondemocracies,” 2018, <i>Journal of Public Economics</i>, 160, 66–81. 2. “Shocks and the Spatial Distribution of Economic Activity: The Role of Institutions,” 2021, <i>Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization</i>, 183, 791–810. 3. “The Economic Legacy of Expulsion: Lessons from Post-war Czechoslovakia,” 2021, <i>The Economic Journal</i>, 131, 2233–71. Featured in: <i>The Economic Journal’s “Economics of Conflict” Compilation</i>. 4. “The Other Great Migration: Southern Whites and the New Right,” 2023, <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i>, 138, 1577–1647 (with Samuel Bazzi, Andreas Ferrara, Martin Fiszbein, and Thomas Pearson). Featured in: NPR, <i>The Washington Post</i>, <i>The Economist</i>, <i>Boston Globe</i>, <i>VoxTalks</i>. 5. “Churches as Social Insurance: Oil Risk and Religion in the U.S. South,” 2023, <i>Journal of Economic History</i>, 83, 786–832 (with Andreas Ferrara). 6. “New Area- and Population-based Geographic Crosswalks for U.S. Counties and Congressional Districts, 1790–2020,” 2024, <i>Historical Methods</i>, 57, 67–79 (with Andreas Ferrara and Liyang Zhou). 7. “National Identity, Public Goods, and Modern Economic Development,” 2025, <i>Journal of Comparative Economics</i>, 53, 412–32 (with Stergios Skaperdas). 	
ARTICLES, NON-PEER REVIEWED	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. “Sundown Towns and Racial Exclusion: The Southern White Diaspora and the ‘Great Retreat’,” 2022, <i>American Economic Association: Papers and Proceedings</i>, 112, 234–8 (with Samuel Bazzi, Andreas Ferrara, Martin Fiszbein, and Thomas Pearson). 	

MANUSCRIPTS,
UNDER REVIEW

9. “The Confederate Diaspora” (with Samuel Bazzi, Andreas Ferrara, Martin Fiszbein, and Thomas Pearson), **Conditionally Accepted** as of June 2025 at the *Review of Economic Studies*.

Featured in: [VoxEU](#), [USA Today](#), [NBC News](#), [LSE Ballpark](#), [Marginal Revolution](#), [94.1 KPFA](#).

10. “Political Foundations of Racial Violence in the Post-Reconstruction South” (with Jhacova Williams), **Revise & Resubmit** invited as of May 2025 at the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

WORKS IN
PROGRESS

11. “The Geography of Demographic Composition in the United States” (with Samuel Bazzi, Eric Chyn, Andreas Ferrara, Martin Fiszbein, and Thomas Pearson).

Funded by the [National Science Foundation](#) and [Russell Sage Foundation](#).

PRESENTATIONS

2025: Department Seminar at Ole Miss (Oxford, MS, invited), Department Seminar at UTEP (El Paso, TX, invited but could not attend).

2024: ASSA Meeting (San Antonio, TX), MWEH Conference (Utah State, Logan, UT), ASREC 2024 (Chapman, Orange, CA), EHA Annual Meeting (Sacramento, CA), Department Seminar at UC Merced (Merced, CA, cancelled), Trade and Development Seminar at Boston University (Boston, MA), 94th SEA Meeting (Washington, DC).

2023: Economics Lunch Seminar (Tulane, New Orleans, LA).

2022: Osaka University (virtual), Economics Lunch Seminar (Tulane, New Orleans, LA), University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, PA), ASREC 2022 (Chapman, Orange, CA).

2021: ASSA Meeting (virtual), THPE Reunion Workshop (virtual), 91st SEA Meeting (Houston, TX).

2020: 19th ASREC Meeting* (Chapman, Orange, CA), 95th WEAI Meeting* (Denver), LSU-Tulane Mini-Conference (virtual), Theory, History, and Development Seminar at UCI (virtual), ASREC 24h (virtual), Historical Political Economy Session at the 90th SEA Meeting* (New Orleans, LA), Economic Growth Conference at the 90th SEA Meeting (virtual).
*cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

2019: Tulane University (New Orleans, LA), Louisiana State University (Baton Rouge, LA), University of Utah (Salt Lake City, UT), George Mason University (Fairfax, VA), University of Alberta (Edmonton, CA).

2018: EHA Annual Meeting (Montréal, CA), CAGE Workshop (Warwick, UK), 17th ASREC Meeting (Chapman, Orange, CA), 11th Conference on Migration and Development (Stanford, CA), 13th UEA Meeting (Colombia, New York City, NY), CGPACS Seminar (UCI, Irvine, CA), Economic History Workshop (UCI, Irvine, CA), All-UC Workshop (Berkeley, CA), Graduate Poster Session (UCI, Irvine, CA), Urban and Transport Seminar (UCI, Irvine, CA), IRES Workshop (Chapman, Orange, CA), THPE Workshop (UCI, Irvine, CA).

2017: Graduate Poster Session (UCI, Irvine, CA), 54th Public Choice Society Meeting (New Orleans, LA), 16th ASREC Meeting (Boston, MA), THPE Workshop (UCI, Irvine, CA), Economic History Workshop (UCI, Irvine, CA), Economics Computing Lunch Workshop (UCI, Irvine, CA).

2016: Graduate Poster Session (UCI, Irvine, CA), 11th Economics Graduate Students Conference (Washington University, St. Louis, MO), 13th IMBS Graduate Student Conference (UCI, Irvine, CA), THPE Workshop (UCI, Irvine, CA).

COURSES
TAUGHT AT
TULANE

Spring 2025
ECON 3420: Economic History of the U.S.
PECN 3010: Positive Political Economy.

Fall 2024
ECON 4410/6410: Mathematical Economics.
PECN 6000: Political Economy in Historical Perspective.

Spring 2024
PECN 3010: Positive Political Economy.

Fall 2023
ECON 7510: Advanced Price Theory I.

Spring 2023
ECON 4410/6410: Mathematical Economics.
PECN 3010: Positive Political Economy.

Fall 2022
ECON 4410/6410: Mathematical Economics.
PECN 6000: Political Economy of Nondemocracy.

Spring 2022
ECON 4410/6410: Mathematical Economics.
PECN 6000: Political Economy of Nondemocracy.

Fall 2021
ECON 7510: Advanced Price Theory I.
PECN 3010: Positive Political Economy.

Spring 2021
Parental leave.

Fall 2020
ECON 4610/6610: Game Theory.
PECN 3010: Positive Political Economy.

Spring 2020
PECN 6000: Political Economy of Nondemocracy.

Fall 2019
ECON 7510: Advanced Price Theory I.
PECN 3010: Positive Political Economy.

ADVISING

Tulane University
Ph.D. Dissertation: Gabe Olivier (2026), Lucia Kovacikova (2022, Marquette University).
Undergraduate Honors Thesis: Grace Slapak* (2021) (awarded the Senior Scholar Award in Economics and Peery Society Membership), Mary-Crescent Carter* (2022), Ellie Stevenson (2025), Mika Nijhawan* (2025).
**chaired or co-chaired.*

UNIVERSITY
SERVICE

Tulane University

- Faculty advisor and speaker, Summer Research Program 2025
- Co-organizer, Economics Seminar Series 2024–2025
- Creator, Economics “internships and careers” monthly email blast Since 2022
- Hiring committee member, Economics-Murphy joint hire 2022
- Organizer, Economics Lunch Seminar Series 2021–2023
- Creator (with LaPorchia Collins), [Economics internships and careers page](#) 2021
- Faculty board member, Tulane Journal of Policy & Political Economy Since 2020
- Exam coordinator (with Wei Long), Economics Ph.D. qualifying exams Since 2020
- Interviewer, Murphy Institute director search 2020
- Mock interviewer, Economics job market candidates Since 2019

REFEREEING	<p><i>American Economic Review, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Czech Science Foundation, Economics of Governance, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Explorations in Economic History, Independent Review, Moravian Geographical Reports, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Regional Science, Public Choice, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Tulane Journal of Policy and Political Economy.</i></p>		
CONFERENCE SERVICE	Session Chair	<p>2024: 9th SEA Meeting (Washington, DC) 2023: ASSA Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA)</p>	
	Discussant	<p>2024: ASSA Annual Meeting (San Antonio, TX) 2023: ASSA Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA) 2022: Economic History Association Meeting (La Crosse, WI) 2021: Economic History Association Meeting (Tucson, AZ) 2019: Economic History Association Meeting (Atlanta, GA) 2018: Urban Economics Association Meeting (Colombia, New York, NY) 2018: IRES Workshop (Chapman, Orange, CA) 2018: 17th ASREC Meeting (Chapman, Orange, CA) 2017: Public Choice Society Meeting (New Orleans, LA) 2017: 16th ASREC Meeting (Boston, MA)</p>	
OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	Data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> County-to-county and county-to-CD crosswalks, 1790–2020: DOI. Featured on Best of #EconTwitter (Oct. 24, 2021). 	
	Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Teaching material for geographic crosswalks: DOI. 	
GRANTS AND AWARDS	Tulane University	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Data, AI, and Community Research Grant (\$2,500), <i>CAIDS</i> 2025 NSF Research Grant (\$353,568), <i>National Science Foundation</i> 2025–2027 Funding “The Geography of Demographic Composition in the United States” (with Samuel Bazzi, Eric Chyn, Andreas Ferrara, Martin Fiszbein, and Thomas Pearson) Schloss Prize (\$2,500), <i>Department of Economics</i> 2022, 2024 RSF Research Grant (\$195,022), <i>Russell Sage Foundation</i> 2024–2026 “The Geography of Race and Ethnicity in the United States: Uncovering a Hidden History of Expulsion and Exclusion” (with Samuel Bazzi, Eric Chyn, Andreas Ferrara, Martin Fiszbein, and Thomas Pearson) Carol Lavin Bernick Faculty Grant (\$7,000), <i>Tulane University</i> 2023–2024 Kurzius Family Early Career Professorship (\$6,500), <i>School of Liberal Arts</i> 2022–2023 	
	University of California, Irvine	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romney Award for Outstanding Research Paper, <i>School of Social Sciences</i> 2019 Kassouf Fellowship for Excellence in Research, <i>Department of Economics</i> 2018 Christian Werner Fellowship, <i>School of Social Sciences</i> 2018 Student Fellowship Award, <i>Public Choice Society</i> 2017 Art DeVany Best Poster Award, <i>Department of Economics</i> 2016 Economics Merit Fellowship, <i>Department of Economics</i> 2016, 2018 Summer Research Fellowship, <i>Department of Economics</i> 2016–2018 Distinction in Microeconomics, <i>Department of Economics</i> 2015 Humane Studies Fellowship, <i>Institute for Humane Studies</i> 2014–2018 Merit Fellowship in Economics, <i>Department of Economics</i> 2014–2019 	