

Patrick A. Testa

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RESEARCH	Political economy, public economics, migration, demography, economic history.	
EDUCATION	University of California, Irvine , Irvine, CA	
	Ph.D., Economics	2019
	Dissertation: <i>Essays in the Political Economy of Development</i>	
	Committee: Stergios Skaperdas, Daniel Bogart, and Jean-Paul Carvalho	
	M.A., Economics	2015
	Loyola University , New Orleans, LA	
	B.B.A., Economics	2014
EMPLOYMENT	Tulane University , New Orleans, LA	
	Assistant Professor of Economics	2019–Present
	Faculty Affiliate, Murphy Institute	2019–Present
	Kurzios Family Early Career Professor of Economics	2022–2023
	National Bureau of Economic Research , Cambridge, MA	
	Faculty Research Fellow	2025–Present
ARTICLES, PEER REVIEWED	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “The Confederate Diaspora” (with Samuel Bazzi, Andreas Ferrara, Martin Fiszbein, and Thomas Pearson), Accepted at the <i>Review of Economic Studies</i>. Featured in: <i>VoxEU</i>, <i>USA Today</i>, <i>NBC News</i>, <i>LSE Ballpark</i>, <i>Marginal Revolution</i>, <i>94.1 KPFA</i>. 2. “State Capacity and Identity: Assimilation vs Resistance of Tribal Rimlands” (with Stergios Skaperdas), Accepted at the <i>European Economic Review</i> in a Special Issue in Honor of James C. Scott. 3. “Political Foundations of Racial Violence in the Post-Reconstruction South,” 2026, <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i>, 141, 733–49 (with Jhacova Williams). 4. “National Identity, Public Goods, and Modern Economic Development,” 2025, <i>Journal of Comparative Economics</i>, 53, 412–32 (with Stergios Skaperdas). 5. “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). 6. “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). 7. “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: <i>NPR</i>, <i>The Washington Post</i>, <i>The Economist</i>, <i>Boston Globe</i>, <i>VoxTalks</i>. 8. “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</i> “Economics of Conflict” Compilation. 9. “Shocks and the Spatial Distribution of Economic Activity: The Role of Institutions,” 2021, <i>Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization</i>, 183, 791–810. 10. “Education and Propaganda: Tradeoffs to Public Education Provision in Nondemocracies,” 2018, <i>Journal of Public Economics</i>, 160, 66–81. 	

ARTICLES,
NON-PEER
REVIEWED

11. “Sundown Towns and Racial Exclusion: The Southern White Diaspora and the ‘Great Retreat’,” 2022, *American Economic Association: Papers and Proceedings*, 112, 234–8 (with Samuel Bazzi, Andreas Ferrara, Martin Fiszbein, and Thomas Pearson).

WORKS
IN PROGRESS

12. “Elections and Political Investment”.
13. “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](#), [Russell Sage Foundation](#), and [CAIDS](#).

PRESENTATIONS

2026: Department Seminar at University of Nebraska (Lincoln, NE, invited), Economic History Seminar (Northwestern University, invited), THD Seminar (UC Irvine), Department Seminar at Vanderbilt University (Nashville, TN, invited), NBER Development of the American Economy Spring Meeting (Cambridge, MA, invited).

2025: Department Seminar at Ole Miss (Oxford, MS), 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	<p>Tulane University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECON 7510: Advanced Price Theory I (Ph.D. level). ECON 3420: Economic History of the U.S. ECON 4610/6610: Game Theory. ECON 4410/6410: Mathematical Economics. PECN 6000: Political Economy in Historical Perspective. PECN 6000: Political Economy of Nondemocracy. PECN 3010: Positive Political Economy.
ADVISING	<p>Tulane University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ph.D. Dissertation: Lucia Kovacikova (2022, Marquette University), Gabe Olivier (expected 2026), Alejandro Gonzalez Tapia (expected 2027), Nan Zhang (expected 2027). • Undergraduate Honors Thesis: Grace Slapak* (2021), Mary-Crescent Carter* (2022), Ellie Stevenson (2025), Mika Nijhawan* (2025), Hope Breslin (expected 2026), Georgia May* (expected 2026), Scarlett Seyler* (expected 2026), Aiyana Brumley* (expected 2026). • Major Advising: 19 current major advisees, with 41 total between 2019 and 2025. <p>*<i>chaired or co-chaired.</i></p>
UNIVERSITY SERVICE	<p>Tulane University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, European Economic Review, 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 Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Tulane Journal of Policy and Political Economy.</i></p>

CONFERENCE
SERVICE

Session Chair

- 2024: 9th SEA Meeting (Washington, DC)
- 2023: ASSA Annual Meeting (New Orleans, LA)

Discussant

- 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)

OTHER
PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE

Data

- County-to-county and county-to-CD crosswalks, 1790–2020: DOI. Featured on Best of #EconTwitter (Oct. 24, 2021).

Teaching

- Teaching material for geographic crosswalks: DOI.

GRANTS AND
AWARDS

Tulane University

- Data, AI, and Community Research Grant (\$2,500), *CAIDS* 2025
- NSF Research Grant (\$353,568), *National Science Foundation* 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), *Department of Economics* 2022, 2024
- RSF Research Grant (\$195,022), *Russell Sage Foundation* 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), *Tulane University* 2023–2024
- Kurzius Family Early Career Professorship (\$6,500), *School of Liberal Arts* 2022–2023

University of California, Irvine

- Romney Award for Outstanding Research Paper, *School of Social Sciences* 2019
- Kassouf Fellowship for Excellence in Research, *Department of Economics* 2018
- Christian Werner Fellowship, *School of Social Sciences* 2018
- Student Fellowship Award, *Public Choice Society* 2017
- Art DeVany Best Poster Award, *Department of Economics* 2016
- Economics Merit Fellowship, *Department of Economics* 2016, 2018
- Summer Research Fellowship, *Department of Economics* 2016–2018
- Distinction in Microeconomics, *Department of Economics* 2015
- Humane Studies Fellowship, *Institute for Humane Studies* 2014–2018
- Merit Fellowship in Economics, *Department of Economics* 2014–2019