

September 2020

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Research Interests

Urban economics, regional economics, environmental economics

Employment

University of Houston, Department of Economics
Professor, 2011-present
Associate Professor, 1990-2010
Assistant Professor, 1983-1989
Visiting Assistant Professor, 1982-1983.

Hunter College, Department of Economics
Associate Professor, 1990-1991.

Michigan State University, Department of Economics
Assistant Professor, 1980-1982.

University of Pennsylvania, Department of Regional Science
Lecturer, 1979-80.

Regional Science Research Institute, Philadelphia
Research Associate, 1976-77.

Education

University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia
Ph.D., 1980, Department of Regional Science

M.A., 1977, Department of Regional Science.

University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana
B.A., Economics, 1975, summa cum laude. Honors: Bronze Plaque, Phi Beta Kappa,
Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Lambda Delta, James Scholar.

Research and Scholarship

Scholarly Work—publications

“Labor Force Diversity and Firm Survival,” (with Mikaela Backman), *Journal of Regional Science*, forthcoming 2020.

“The Public Expenditure Impact on Urban Population Growth,” (with Steven Craig), in Edward Glaeser, Karima Kourtit and Peter Nijkamp (Eds.), *Urban Empires: Cities as Global Rulers in the New Urban World*, Routledge, forthcoming 2020.

"Does Closeness in Virtual Space Complement Urban Space?" (with Steven Craig and Edward Hoang), *Socio-Economic Planning Sciences*, June 2017, vol. 58, pp. 22-29.

“Urbanization and Spatial Development of China” (with Zhao Chen), *Annals of Regional Science*, March 2017, vol.58 (2), pp. 271–274.

“Empirical Polycentricity: The Complex Relationship between Employment Centers,” (with Steven Craig and Adam Perdue), *Journal of Regional Science*, vol. 56, Jan. 2016, pp. 25-52.

“Entrepreneurship and Economic Development: the Relative Attraction of Employment Centers by Firm Size,” (with Steven Craig and Adam Perdue), *International Journal of Global Environmental Issues*, vol. 13, June 2014, pp.281-93.

“The New Urban World 2050: Perspectives, Prospects and Problems,” *Regional Science Policy and Practice*, vol.6 (2), June 2013, pp.153-165.

“Editor’s Introduction to a Scholarly Tribute to the 50th Anniversary of the Western Regional Science Association, *Annals of Regional Science*, vol. 48(2), April 2012, pp.359-362.

“The Effect of Urbanization on Labor Turnover,” (with Miles Finney), *Journal of Regional Science*, vol. 48(2), May 2008, pp. 311-328.

"Firm Location in a Polycentric City: the Effects of Taxes and Agglomeration Economies on Location Decisions, "(with Xiahong Ju), *Environment and Planning C*, vol. 25, Oct. 2007, pp. 671-691.

“Cities, Regions, and the Decline in Transport Costs,” (with Edward L. Glaeser), *Papers of the Regional Science Association*, vol. 83, January 2004, pp.197-228.

Reprinted as ch. 9 in R. Florax and D. Plane, eds., *50 Years of Regional Science*, Springer-Verlag, 2004, pp.197-228.

Also as NBER Working Paper # 9886 (<http://www.nber.org/papers/w9886>)

SSRN Top Ten Download for Economics Departments Research Papers Recent Hits, 2003

- "Evaluating Quality of Life Risks in a Comparative Risk Project: Perspectives from Houston Environmental Foresight," (with Sabrina Strawn and John Wilson), *Urban Ecosystems*, vol. 3, July 1999, pp 113-129.
- "The Impact of Toxic Waste Sites on Housing Values," *Journal of Urban Economics*, vol. 30, July 1991, pp.1-26 (lead article).
- "Chaos Theory and Microeconomics: An Application to Model Specification and Hedonic Estimation," (with Steven Craig and David Papell), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, vol. 73, May 1991, pp. 208-215.
- Reprinted in *Chaos Theory in Economics: Methods, Models and Evidence*, W. D. Dechert (ed.), New York: Edward Elgar, 1996, ch. 29, pp. 583-90.
- "A Spatial Theory of Social Contract Formation," (with Hiroshi Ohta and Steven Craig), ch. 4 in *International Comparisons in the Concepts and Forms of Contracts, Research Monograph Series in International Studies*, Y. Hayami and T. Minato (eds.), Research Institute of Aoyama Gakuin University, 1992.
- "Loschian Spatial Competition and the Related Labor Market," (with Hiroshi Ohta), *Environment and Planning A*, vol. 22, Sept. 1990, pp.1223-1238.
- "Land, Labor and Product Markets Under Spatial Monopoly and Spatial Competition," (with Hiroshi Ohta and Yasushi Asami) in M. Chatterji and R. Kuenne (eds.), *New Frontiers in Regional Science*, MacMillan Press, 1990, ch. 6, pp.95-111.
- "General Equilibrium of Spatial Product and Labor Markets," (with Hiroshi Ohta), *Journal of Regional Science*, vol. 29, November 1989, pp.537-553.
- "The Earnings of Soviet Workers: Evidence from the Soviet Interview Project," (with Paul Gregory), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, vol. 70, Feb. 1988, pp. 23-35.
- "Labor Supply and Housing Demand for One- and Two- Earner Households," *Review of Economics and Statistics*, vol. 68, Feb. 1986, pp. 48-57.
- "Why There Is Not a Unified Welfare System: Fiscal Federalism From an Agency Approach," (with Steven G. Craig, *Perspectives on Local Public Finance and Public Policy*, 1985, vol. 2, JAI Press, pp. 81-99.
- "Local Government Revenue: Tax Reliance, Revenue Diversification and Metropolitan Finance," (with Ronald C. Fisher), *Research in Urban Economics*, 1984, vol. 4, JAI Press, pp. 205-227.
- "Fiscal Problems and Policies of the Cities," (with Ronald C. Fisher), in H.E. Brazer (ed.), in *Michigan's Fiscal and Economic Structure*, 1982, University of Michigan Press, pp. 854-892.

"The Effects of the New Demography on Labor Supply and Housing Demand," *Research in Urban Economics*, 1982, vol. 2, JAI Press, pp. 131-170.

Scholarly Works--Working Papers

"Can Bureaucrats Manipulate Policy Outcomes?" (with Edward Hoang and Steven Craig), June 2020.

"Why Do Big City Governments Redistribute Income Out of Own Source Revenue?" (with Steven Craig, Andrew Austin, and Stephanie Botello), Dec. 2017.

"Labor Force Diversity and New Firm Formation," (with Mikaela Backman), Feb. 2017.

"The Location Choice of Immigrants in Sweden," (with Mikaela Backman), November 2016.

"Strategic Interaction in Setting Commercial Office Rents," (with Serguei Chervachidze), March 2011.

"Employment Subcenter Location Using Bivariate Quantile Smoothing Splines," (with Steven Craig and Pin Ng), Nov. 2011.

Scholarly Works—edited Special Issues of journals

"Urbanization and Spatial Development of China," Zhao Chen and Janet E. Kohlhase, guest editors, *Annals of Regional Science*, March 2017, vol.58 (2), pp. 271–374 (103 pages).

"A Scholarly Tribute to the 50th Anniversary of the Western Regional Science Association," Janet E. Kohlhase, guest editor, *Annals of Regional Science*, vol. 48(2), April 2012, pp.359-639 (280 pages).

Scholarly Works—book reviews

Book Review of *Handbook of Regional and Urban Economics, Vol. 3: Applied Urban Economics* (1999), edited by P.C. Cheshire and E. S. Mills in *Journal of Regional Science*, vol. 42, Feb. 2002, pp. 166-172.

Book Review of *Homeowners and Neighborhood Reinvestment* by G.C. Galster (1987), vol. 29, May 1989, pp. 282-284.

Book Review of *The Economics of a Regulated Housing Market* by A. Anas et al. (1987), in *Journal of Regional Science*, Vol. 29, May 1989, pp. 284-286.

Scholarly Works—commissioned papers and final reports

"Vehicle Emission Test Cost Study," (with Steven Craig), for the Texas Natural

Resource Conservation Commission, November 1997, 30 pages.

"Introduction to the Report of the Socioeconomic Subpanel," in *Houston Environment 1995*, J. D. Wilson, S. Strawn and D. Hitchcock, eds., Houston Advanced Research Center, 1996, pp. 249-259.

"Public Perception of Environmental Risk," (with Steven Klineberg), in *Houston Environment 1995*, J. D. Wilson, S. Strawn and D. Hitchcock, eds., Houston Advanced Research Center, 1996, pp. 260-267.

"Constructed Scales for Socioeconomic Activity," in *Houston Environment 1995*, J. D. Wilson, S. Strawn and D. Hitchcock, eds., Houston Advanced Research Center, 1996, pp. 269-278.

"Statistical Overview of the Eight-County Houston Region," (with Gary Mitchell), in *Houston Environment 1995*, J. D. Wilson, S. Strawn and D. Hitchcock, eds., Houston Advanced Research Center, 1996, pp. 279-283.

"Contaminated and Abandoned Sites," in *Houston Environment 1995*, J. D. Wilson, S. Strawn and D. Hitchcock, eds., Houston Advanced Research Center, 1996, pp. 313-323.

"Lead in Homes and Soil," (with Larry Korkmas), in *Houston Environment 1995*, J. D. Wilson, S. Strawn and D. Hitchcock, eds., Houston Advanced Research Center, 1996, pp. 411-413.

Work Trip Behavior and Attitudes of UH Employees: Results of the Employer Trip Reduction Survey 1994, (with Richard Murray, Kent Tedin, and Steven Craig), for the Center for Public Policy at the University of Houston, September 1994, 20 pages.

"Economic Cost of Occupational Injury and Illness in Texas," (with Andrew Austin, Steven G. Craig, and Michael Palumbo), Ch. 5 in *Occupational Injury and Illness in Texas: A Report to the Texas Legislature*, Mark A. Rothstein and Sharon P. Cooper (eds.), Health Law and Policy Institute, University of Houston Law Center, March, 1993, pp. 149-85.

An Analysis of Oil Dependent Economies, (with Barton A. Smith), Final Report prepared for the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration, May 1989, 120 pages.

"The Oil Recession: Wyoming," (with the assistance of Gary Schneider), for the Center for Public Policy at the University of Houston, May 1989, 19 pages.

Research in Progress

“Big Cities and Their Surrounding Suburbs: Implications for Rent Seeking,” (with Steven Craig)

“Immigrants’ Location Decisions” (with Mikaela Backman).

“A Natural Experiment on the Economic Impacts of a Dramatic Change in Public Transit Schedule,” (with Sharon Xu).

“Spatial Mismatch and Commuting,” (with Jia-Huey Lin).

Grant Awards

“Firm Growth and Public Policy over Time,” CLASS Research Progress Grant, 2015.

“Firm Location, Public Policy, and Economic Growth in Cities,” CLASS Research Completion Grant, 2012.

“Long Range Small Area Population Forecasts for the Houston Metropolitan Region,” (with S.G. Craig) Harris-Galveston Subsidence District (through Freese and Nichols, Inc.), 2011.

“Firm Location, Public Policy, and Economic Growth in Cities,” UH Small Grants Program award, 2008-2009, 2009-2010 (renewed), 2010-11 (renewed).

Provost’s Travel Grant, University of Houston, Office of the Provost, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019.

Global Faculty Development Fund Travel Grant, University of Houston, Office of the Provost, 2018.

“The Use of Geographic Information Systems in the Economics Curriculum,” UH Quality Enhancement Program Curriculum Development Grant, 2008-2009.

“Contributions of Small Firms to Urban Growth,” (with S. Craig), Small Business Administration, 2004-2005.

"Economic, Scientific and Technological Implications of the Disruption of the Carbon Cycle," Co-PI (with G. Fox, M. Heller, R. Willson, B. Beloff), Shell Interdisciplinary Scholars Grant, March 2000 - Feb. 2001.

"Sustainable Development in the Face of Possible Global Warming," co-PI (with B. Beloff, G. Fox, M. Heller, R. Willson), Shell Interdisciplinary Scholars Grant, Jan.-Dec. 1999.

"Bioremediation: Scientific, Social and Business Issues," co-PI, (with B. Beloff, G. Fox, M. Heller, R. Willson), Shell Interdisciplinary Scholars Grant, Feb. 1997 - Jan. 1999.

"Occupational Injury and Illness in Texas: the Economics of Worker's Compensation," (with S. Craig, A. Austin, M. Palumbo), Texas Workers' Compensation Research Center, 1992.

"Chaos Theory and the Houston Housing Market: Assessing the Social Cost of Toxic Waste Sites," (with Steven Craig), Advanced Research Program, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, September 1989- September 1992.

"The Success of Housing Auctions as a Method for Disposing of Distressed Property," Research Facilitation Grant, Center for Public Policy, University of Houston, Summer 1989.

"An Analysis of Oil Dependent Economies" (with Barton Smith), Economic Development Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, September 1987-June 1989.

National Science Foundation travel grant to conferences in China and Korea, summer 1987.

"The Impact of Toxic Waste Sites on Housing Values," Research Facilitation Grant, Center for Public Policy, University of Houston, summer 1986.

"The Effects of Changes in Household Status on Individual Behavior," Research Initiation Grant, University of Houston, summer 1984.

Presentations (last five years)

"Labor Force Diversity and New Firm Formation," Presidential Address, WRSA, delivered virtual presentation online, August 12, 2020.

"Can Bureaucrats Manipulate Policy Outcomes?" Public Choice Society Meetings, Louisville, March 12-14, 2019; Western Regional Science Association, Napa, California, Feb.10-13, 2019; North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, San Antonio, November 7-10, 2018.

"Labor Force Diversity and Firm Survival," invited Keynote speech at the 12th World Congress of the Regional Science Association International conference "Spatial Systems: Social Integration, Regional Development and Sustainability," Goa, India May 29-June 1, 2018; Western Regional Science Association, Pasadena, California, Feb.11-14, 2018; invited Keynote speech at the international conference "Sustainable Urban and Regional Development" at Renmin University, Beijing China, Dec. 8-10, 2017; 3rd Urban and Regional Economics Workshop, CEnSE - Centre for Entrepreneurship and Spatial Economics, Jonkoping University, Jönköping International Business School, Hok, Sweden, March 15-16, 2018; North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Vancouver, Nov. 8-11, 2017.

"The Structure of Cities: Implications for Population, Employment and Productivity," at the "Challenge of Cities" conference, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, May 10, 2017.

"Why Do Big Cities Redistribute Income Out of Own-source Revenue?" invited Keynote at the Summit of Applied Economics and Regional Science, Ohio State University, Columbus,

April 21-22, 2017.

“Labor Force Diversity and New Firm Formation,” Western Regional Science Association Meetings, Santa Fe NM, Feb. 15-18, 2017.

“The Location Choice of Immigrants in Sweden,” North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Minneapolis, Minnesota, Nov. 2016.

“How Do Big Cities Respond to Suburban Fiscal Policy?” invited Keynote speech at the 5th International Workshop on Regional, Urban and Spatial Economics in China, Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, China, June 3-4, 2016.

“Growth, Equity and Geography: Evidence,” at conference “Reassessing Economic Development Policies for Regions and Cities,” London School of Economics, UK, April 21-22, 2016.

“Why Do Big Cities Redistribute Income out of Own-Source Revenue?” invited seminar at UNLV Dec. 2015; American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association Meetings, San Francisco, Jan. 2016.

“Which City? The Location of Immigrants in Sweden,” Western Regional Science Association Meetings, Hawaii, Feb. 2016; North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Portland, Oregon, Nov. 2015.

“The Impact of the Internet on Urban Vitality: Does Closeness in Cyber-Space Substitute for Urban Space?” invited Keynote speech at the 4th International Workshop on Regional, Urban and Spatial Economics in China, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, June 6-7, 2015.

Professional Awards and Honors

Award: *Fellows Award* (elected) for outstanding contributions and dedicated leadership to the field of regional science.
Presented at the North American meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Nov. 2018 in San Antonio.

Award: *David E. Boyce Award* for outstanding professional service to regional science.
Presented at the North American meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Nov. 2011 in Miami.

Award: Shell Interdisciplinary Scholar, 1997-2002.

Honor: Invited to be the “discussant/opponent” at the “dissertation seminar” of an economics PhD candidate, Sept. 2017 and at the “final seminar” of an economics PhD candidate, Jan. 2012. Both at Jonkoping International Business School (JIBS), Jonkoping, Sweden.

Professional Activities

Editor: *The Annals of Regional Science*, 2011- present

Guest Editor: *Special Issue* honoring the 50th Anniversary of the Western Regional Science Association, *Annals of Regional Science*, vol. 48(2), 2012.

Special Issue (with Zhao Chen, Fudan University, China) “Urbanization and Spatial Development of China,” *Annals of Regional Science*, vol.58 (2), 2017.

Associate

Editor: *Journal of Regional Science*, 1997-present
Evaluation Review, 1989-1993

Editorial

Board: *Papers in Regional Science*, 1998-2004, 2011 - present
The Annals of Regional Science, 2005-2010

Science

Panel: National Science Foundation senior review panel for geography and regional science 2002-2003

Research

Associate: University of Houston Hobby Center for Public Policy, 2009 – 2015

Review

Panel: GDN Regional Research Competition, at CERGE-EI, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic, August 2004

Promotion

Reviewer: Cornell University 2019, University of Denver 2019, Georgia State University 2018, University of Nevada 2016, University of Oklahoma 2014, University of Skövde, Sweden 2014, Oklahoma State University 2013

Referee:

American Economic Review
Environment and Planning A
Feminist Economics
Journal of Environmental Economics and Management
Journal of Urban Economics
Land Economics
Real Estate Economics
Regional Science and Urban Economics

Regional Science Perspectives
Review of Economics and Statistics
Urban Studies
National Science Foundation
GDN Regional Research Competition

International Professional Service

Urban Economics Association (UEA)
Treasurer, 2018-present

Regional Science Association International (RSAI)
Chair, Alonso Award Committee for Innovation in Regional Science, 2018-present
Member, Alonso Award Committee for Innovation in Regional Science, 2014-2018.
Member, RSAI Publications Committee, 2014-2016
Member, RSAI review committee of journal *Regional Science Policy and Practice*,
2013
Elected to Regional Science Association International Council, 1993-1996
Co-Chair, Organizing Committee 1993 RSAI Houston meetings
Organizing Committee Member RSAI meetings 2002, 2003
Treasurer, 1980-1987
Protocol Committee, 1991-1993
Best Practices Committee, 2000-2006
Committee on Administration, 1988-1989
Dissertation Award Committee, 1994

North American Regional Science Council (NARSC)
Councilor, 1990-1993, 2000-2006 (elected)
Chair of North American Council (NARSC) 2003
Executive Committee of NARSC 2003-2004
Member, Stevens Fellowship Committee of NARSC, 2010 – present
Member NARSC Student Paper Award Committee, 2017, 2018

Western Regional Science Association
President-elect (elected), 2018
Board Member (elected), 2016- present
Board Member (ex officio), 2011- present
Springer Award Committee, 2011-present

Other Memberships

American Economic Association
American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association
Association of Environmental and Resource Economists
National Tax Association - Tax Institute of America
Committee on the Status of Women in the Economics Profession
Women in Regional Science (founding member)

Service to the Department of Economics

Dissertation Chair: Yilin Dong (2017) now at Southwestern University of Finance and Economics, Chengdu, China; Jia-Huey Lin (2006) now at Tong-Hai University, Taiwan; Jay Johnson (2002) now at Southeastern Louisiana University; Xiahong Ju (1998) now at Houston-Galveston Area Council; Steven Pitts (1994) now at UC-Berkeley; Miles Finney (1992) now at Cal State-LA

Dissertation Committee Member: Adam Perdue (2012), Serguei Chervachidze (2010) Mayank Gautam (2008), Jorge Mercado (2008), Ponlapat Kaewsumrit (2005), John Mijares (2003), Yi-Cheng Ho (2003), Sharon O'Donnell (2002), Roberto Trevino (1996), Manzur Tipu (1996), Lynn Schneider (1995), Russell Burge (1990), Wei-Te Hsieh (1989), Cheryl Holsey (1987)

Outside Department Dissertation Committee: Jennifer Qin, Accounting (1999)

Master's Thesis Committee Member: Stephanie Willis (2013), Arthur Haney (2011)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Chair, Trevor Self (2016)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Committee Member: Michael Chang (2017-2018), Abdul Zakaria (2010), Jack Najarian (2009), Stacey Joldersma (2008)

Courses taught:

Graduate (PhD) Microeconomic Theory I, Mathematical Economics, Probability and Statistics, Urban Economics

Graduate (MBA) Microeconomics

Undergraduate: Econometrics, Urban Economics, Environmental Economics, Public Finance, Intermediate Microeconomics, Introductory Microeconomics

QEP designation: Urban Economics Spring 2010 (undergraduate)

Service to the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

College P&T Committee, Chair 2014-2015; Co-chair 2013-2014

College Research Committee 2012-2013

Grievance Committee 1995-1996 (elected position)

Committee on College Government 1989-1991 (elected position)

Service to the University of Houston

Observing Resident Faculty—Official installation of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society at the University of Houston 2016

Faculty Advisory Board for UH Institute for Energy, Law and Enterprise (IELE) 2002-2007

Committee Member Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Group 2003-present

Invited guest lecturer for courses in the Business School, Law School, Chemical Engineering, Industrial Engineering 1997-2006

Research Initiation Grant (RIG) reviewer 1987, 1989, 1991-2000
Quality Enhancement Program (QEP) proposal review panel 2012, 2013

Community Service

Chair, Socioeconomic Subpanel for Houston Environmental Foresight, 1994-1996
Member, Senior Science Panel for Houston Environmental Foresight, 1994-1996
Member Geographic Data Committee (GDC) at Houston-Galveston Area Council 2007-
present
Member Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Day Planning Committee 2007-2010
Regional Impact Analysis System Development for Greater Houston Partnership, 1995
Invited Panel Respondent, NoZone—Houston's Mayoral Forum on Land Use, Houston
Contemporary Art Museum, July 9, 2009