

Jeff Chan

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Research Interests Economic History, International Trade

Academic Positions

July 2023 - now Associate Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University

Jan. 2017 – June 2023 Assistant Professor, Wilfrid Laurier University

Education

2010-2016 PhD, Economics, University of Toronto

2009-2010 MA, Economics, University of Toronto

2005-2009 BA, Economics, University of Western Ontario

Work in Progress

Lands Reclaimed: Additions to Reserve and Indigenous Economic Development (with Azim Essaji and Rob Gillezeau)

Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Stratification Economics*

The Geography of Segregation in Canada, 1891-1921

Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of Economic History*

The Costs of Highways on Isolated Communities: Evidence from the Alaska Highway

The Mechanization of Manufacturing and Female Labour in the 19th Century United States: Evidence from Establishment-Level Panel Data

Railroads, Market Access, and Indigenous Land Dispossession (with Azim Essaji and Rob Gillezeau)

Publications

The Effects of Telecommunications on Production: Evidence from the US Electric Telegraph Rollout (2026)

Accepted, *Canadian Journal of Economics*

Full Steam Ahead: Steamship Adoption and Trade Flows During the First Golden Age of Globalization (2026), *European Economic Review*, Vol. 187: 105338.

Proving their Loyalty: A Research Note on the Effects of Serving in World War II on Immigrant Outcomes

Forthcoming, *Demography*

Improved Market Access and Indigenous Land Loss: Evidence from the Nineteenth-Century US Railroad Expansion (2026), *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, Vol. 116: 652-657.

(Joint with Azim Essaji and Rob Gillezeau)

Book review: Christopher M. Meissner, *One from the Many, The Global Economy Since 1850* (Oxford University Press, 2024. Pp. 352. ISBN: 9780199924462 PbK \$32), 2025, the *Economic History Review*.

The Effects of the 19th Century US Railroad Expansion on Port-Level Wine Trade Flows (2025), *Journal of Wine Economics*, Vol. 20(2): 181-193.

Railroads, Land Cessions, and Indigenous Nations: Evidence from Canada (2025), *Canadian Journal of Economics*, Vol. 58(3): 860-891.
(Joint with Azim Essaji and Rob Gillezeau)

Changing the pace of the melting pot: The effects of immigration restrictions on immigrant assimilation (2024), *Journal of Comparative Economics*, Vol. 52(4): 733-754.

The Local Effects of the First Golden Age of Globalization: Evidence from American Ports, 1870-1900 (2025), *Canadian Journal of Economics*, Vol. 58(1): 329-355.

End of the Line: The Effects of Large Passenger Rail Cuts on Local Economic Outcomes (2024), *Canadian Public Policy*, Vol. 50(4): 422-439.

For Amber Waves of Grain: Commodity Booms and Structural Transformation in Nineteenth Century America (2024), *Canadian Journal of Agricultural Economics*, Vol. 72(4): 489-507.

Banking on Railroads: The Effect of Market Access on Banking Provision During the Gilded Age (2025), *Economic History Review*, Vol. 78(3): 776-801.

Does Anti-Immigration Policy Lead to Protectionism? Evidence from the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act (2024), *Applied Economics Letters*

Forced Displacement and Migrants' Location Choices: Evidence from the Japanese-Canadian Experience during World War II (2023), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Vol. 211: 206-240.

The long-run effects of childhood exposure to market access shocks: Evidence from the US railroad network expansion (2024), *Explorations in Economic History*, Vol. 91: 101503.

Oil Royalties and the Provision of Public Education in Brazil (2023), *Economics of Education Review*, Vol. 92: 102351.
(Joint with Ridwan Karim)

Farming Output, Concentration, and Market Access: Evidence from the Nineteenth Century American Railroad Expansion (2022), *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 157: 102878.

Viewing the COVID-19 Pandemic from Space: The Effect of COVID-related Mobility Declines on Night Light Brightness in Canada (2022), *Canadian Journal of Regional Science*, Vol. 45(3): 188-198.

The Geography of Social Distancing in Canada: Evidence from Facebook (2020), *Canadian Public Policy*, Vol. 46(S1): S19-S28.

The Effect of Immigration on Local Public Finances (2019), *Economics Bulletin*, Vol. 39(4): 2423-2428.

Tariffs and the Composition of Employment: Evidence from the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (2019), *Canadian Public Policy*, Vol. 45(3): 342-365.

Labour Market Characteristics and Surviving Import Shocks (2019), *The World Economy*, Vol. 42(5): 1288-1315.

The Effect of College Education on Intolerance: Evidence from Google Search Data (2019), *Applied Economics Letters*, Vol. 26(2): 83-86.

Market Access and Occupational Upgrading: Evidence from the 19th Century American Transportation Network (2018), *Applied Economics*, Vol. 50(45): 4879-4900.

Does Import Competition Worsen the Gender Gap? Evidence from Matched Employer-Employee Data (2018), *Economics Letters*, Vol. 165(C): 13-16.

The Long-Run Impact of the Power Loom: Evidence from 19th Century Prussia (2014), *Economics Bulletin*, Vol. 34(3): 1776-1791.

Awards and Grants (since 2017)

Laurier Centre for Economic Research & Policy Analysis Grant (\$1,325), 2023

Canadian Public Policy Referee of the Year, 2021

Cole Grant-in-Aid (5,000 USD), 2022

SSHRC Insight Development Grant (\$24,821), 2019-2021

Laurier Centre for Economic Research & Policy Analysis Grant (\$1,461), 2019

Freure Homes Student Assistantship Award, 2017

Laurier Centre for Economic Research & Policy Analysis Grant (\$1,153), 2017

Conference Presentations (since 2017)

2026: American Economic Association Meeting (Philadelphia), Canadian Economics Association (Vancouver), Journal of Stratification Economics Conference (Amherst/virtual), Canadian Network for Economic History/Indigenous Economics Study Group Joint Conference (Yellowknife), Atlantic Canada Economics Association (Wolfville, scheduled)

2025: Canadian Network of Economic History Conference (Montreal), Economic History Society Conference (Glasgow UK), Canadian Economics Association (Montreal), Atlantic Canada Economics Association (St. John's)

2024: Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference (Honolulu), Canadian Economics Association (Toronto), Social Science History Association Conference (Toronto), Canadian International Trade Study Group Conference (Burlington)

2023: Canadian Economics Association (Winnipeg), Western Economic Association (San Diego), Economic History Association Conference (Pittsburgh), Canadian Network of Economic History Conference (Toronto)

2022: Canadian Economics Association (Ottawa), NARSC (Montreal)

2021: Canadian Economics Association (virtual), European Economic Association (virtual)

2020: Western Economic Association (virtual), European Economic Association (virtual), U. of Waterloo Data and Privacy during a Global Pandemic Conference (invited speaker, virtual)

2019: Canadian Economics Association (Banff), NARSC (Pittsburgh)

2018: Canadian Economics Association (Montreal), Western Economic Association (Vancouver)

2017: Canadian Economics Association (Antigonish), NARSC (Vancouver)

Seminar Presentations (since 2017)

2026: University of Guelph, Memorial University (scheduled)

2025: UBC Okanagan

2024: Wilfrid Laurier University (Internal Seminar)

2023: University of Texas – RGV

2022: Wilfrid Laurier University (Internal Seminar), Toronto Metropolitan University

2018: Brock University

Teaching

Wilfrid Laurier University

EC239: International Trade (W17, W18, W19, W20, W21, W22, W23)

EC285: Introductory Statistics (W17, W18, W19)

EC395: Applied Econometrics (W25, W26, W27)

EC639: International Trade – MA (W20, W21, W22, W23)

Supervision (MA Students)

Yuxuan Zhong (S17), Sebastian Stanglmeier (W18), Harrison Domagala (F19), Charles Kwak (co-supervisor, F19), Joshua Cooney (co-supervisor, W20), Nicole Catarino (S20), Melis Kaya (S20), Xiangyan Yao (S21), Hari Patel (W25)

Departmental and University Service

LTA Hiring Committee (2024-25)

LCERPA Director (2024-25, 2025-26, 2026-27)

Mentor Coordinator (2024-25, 2025-26)

External Seminars Committee (2024-25)

Lazaridis Merit Committee (2024-25)

Chair Nominations Committee (2022-23)

Internal Seminar Committee (2022-23)

Undergraduate Petitions Committee (2021-22, 2022-23)

Internal Research Grant Review Committee (2020-21)

Part-Time Appointment Committee (2019-20)

Graduate Program Committee (2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21)

Departmental Hiring Committee (2017-18)

Library Coordinator (2017-18)

Professional Service

Canadian Economics Association Board of Directors (2026-30)

Canadian Economics Association CEDC/CWEC Mentoring Committee Co-Chair (2025-present)

European Economics Association Mentor (2026-27)

Refereeing

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Annals of Regional Science, Applied Economics (x3), Applied Economics Letters, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, British Journal of Political Science, Canadian Journal of Economics (x6), Canadian Medical Association Journal, Canadian Public Policy (x7), Economic Inquiry (x5), Economic Systems, Economics of Education Review, Education Economics, European Review of Economic History, Explorations in Economic History (x2), Feminist

Economics, Industrial and Corporate Change, ILR Review, Journal of Economic Geography (x2), Journal of Economic History (x4), Journal of Economic Studies, Journal of Economics & Management Strategy (x2), Journal of Urban Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association (x2), Journal of Regional Science, South African Journal of Economics