

# ALEXANDER WEINBERG

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|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Placement Directors:</b>    | Manasi Deshpande  | mdeshpande@uchicago.edu | (773) 702-8260 |
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## Office Contact Information

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Saieh Hall for Economics, 5757 S University Ave, Chicago, IL 60637

## Education

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| University of Chicago, Ph.D. Economics                             | 2021–2027 ( <i>Expected</i> ) |
| University of Chicago, A.B. Economics with Honors, Minor in Arabic | 2019                          |

## References

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Professor Esteban Rossi-Hansberg (Chair)<br>Department of Economics, University of Chicago<br>earossih@uchicago.edu | Professor Michael Greenstone<br>Department of Economics, University of Chicago<br>mgreenst@uchicago.edu |
| Professor Milena Almagro<br>Booth School of Business, University of Chicago<br>milena.almagro@chicagobooth.edu      | Professor Peter Ganong<br>Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago<br>ganong@uchicago.edu  |

## Research and Teaching Fields

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| Primary:   | Urban Economics, Spatial Economics |
| Secondary: | Public Economics                   |

## Job Market Paper

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### Urban Scars: Multiplicity and Persistent Effects of Civil Unrest

*Abstract: This paper uses newly digitized data from telephone directories to study the long-run, local impacts of the civil unrest of the 1960s. The effects on business activity are persistent: damaged commercial corridors have about 23% fewer establishments four decades later than comparable undamaged tracts. To explain how these temporary episodes could have such persistent effects, I develop a dynamic quantitative spatial model with strong local complementarities across firms. In the model, a disruption to agglomeration economies leads to a permanent decline in business activity, scarring the neighborhood. These results have implications for the design of revitalization policies.*

## Publications

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**Earnings Instability** (with Peter Ganong, Pascal Noel, Christina Patterson, and Joseph Vavra), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, conditionally accepted

*Abstract: This paper uses high-frequency administrative data to show that the majority of U.S. workers experience substantial month-to-month fluctuations in pay, even within ongoing employment relationships. This earnings instability is pervasive, but it has been masked in past analysis of annual data. Moreover, this instability is unequally distributed: lower-income, hourly workers face more instability than higher-income, salaried workers. This is because earnings instability arises in large part from firm-driven fluctuations in hours. This earnings instability is a meaningful source of economic risk: we provide evidence that it increases consumption volatility and leads to greater job separations. These*

*findings suggest that short-term earnings risk is a significant feature of the labor market and that this risk falls disproportionately on the most financially fragile workers.*

**Which Workers Bear the Burden of Social Distancing?** (with Simon Mongey and Laura Pilosoph), *Journal of Economic Inequality*, 19, 2021

Abstract: *Using data from O\*NET, we construct two measures of an occupation’s potential exposure to social distancing measures: (i) the ability to conduct that job from home and (ii) the degree of physical proximity to others the job requires. After validating these measures with comparable measures from ATUS as well as realized work-from-home rates during the pandemic, we employ the measures to study the characteristics of workers in these types of jobs. Our results show that workers in low-work-from-home and high-physical-proximity jobs are more economically vulnerable across various measures constructed from the CPS and PSID: they are less educated, of lower income, have fewer liquid assets relative to income, and are more likely renters. Consistent with the idea that high physical proximity or low work-from-home occupations were more exposed to the Coronavirus shock, we show that the types of workers predicted to be employed in them experienced greater declines in employment during the pandemic. We conclude by comparing the aggregate employment losses in these occupations to their employment losses in the 2008 recession, and find evidence that these occupations were disproportionately exposed to the pandemic shock, and not just comprised of more cyclically sensitive workers.*

Media coverage: *The New York Times*, *Reuters*, *FiveThirtyEight*

## Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

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|                                                                                |            |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation Urban Doctoral Fellow                  | 2023–2026  |
| UChicago Social Sciences Research Center Graduate Student Fellowship           | 2021–2026  |
| Center for the Study of Race, Politics, and Culture Graduate Grant             | 2026       |
| Mansueto Institute Student Urban Innovation Grant                              | 2024, 2026 |
| Chicago Booth Center for Applied Artificial Intelligence Summer Fellow         | 2025       |
| Agnes and Nathan Janco Travel Award                                            | 2025       |
| Becker Friedman Institute Public Economics Grant                               | 2024, 2025 |
| UC Davis Global Migration Center Summer Fellow                                 | 2024       |
| Arts, Science + Culture Graduate Collaboration Grant, Art Institute of Chicago | 2023–2024  |
| UC Berkeley Stone Center Summer Institute Fellow                               | 2023       |
| UChicago Social Sciences Division First Year Scholar                           | 2021–2022  |
| Computation in Economics Predoctoral Fellowship, NYU / Schmidt Futures         | 2020       |
| Becker Friedman Institute Summer Research Seminar for Undergraduates           | 2018–2019  |
| Foreign Language Acquisition Grant, Jordan Language Academy                    | 2017       |

## Research and Teaching Experience

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|                                                         |                      |            |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------|
| Big Data Summer Workshop (BA)                           | Instructor           | 2021–2026  |
| Applications of Econometrics and Machine Learning (MA)  | Teaching Assistant   | 2023, 2025 |
| New Developments in Public Finance (Ph.D.)              | Teaching Assistant   | 2024, 2025 |
| Honors Thesis Workshop (BA)                             | Teaching Assistant   | 2025       |
| Microeconomics (BA)                                     | Teaching Assistant   | 2019       |
| Research for Prof. Simon Mongey (University of Chicago) | Predoectional Fellow | 2019–2021  |

## Other Information

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|----------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Presentations</b> | 2026 North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, University of Chicago, Yale University, Northwestern University, CFPB |
| <b>Refereeing</b>    | <i>American Economic Review: Insights</i>                                                                                             |
| <b>Citizenship</b>   | United States                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Computing</b>     | R, Julia, Python                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Languages</b>     | English (native)                                                                                                                      |

*This version: October 9, 2026*