

# LEAH PLATT BOUSTAN

## MAILING ADDRESS

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Department of Economics  
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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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<https://economics.yale.edu/people/leah-boustan>

## EDUCATION

**Harvard University, Ph.D. in Economics, 2006**

**Princeton University, A.B. in Economics *summa cum laude*, 2000**

## EMPLOYMENT

### Yale University

Professor of Economics, 2025–present

### Princeton University

Robert E. Kuenne Professor of Economics and Humanistic Studies, 2023–2025

Professor of Economics, 2017–2025

Director, Industrial Relations Section, 2021–2024

### University of California Los Angeles

Professor of Economics, 2016–2017; Associate 2012–2016; Assistant 2006–2012

## POSITIONS

### National Bureau of Economic Research

Co-Director, Development of the American Economy Program, 2017–present

Faculty Research Fellow/Research Associate 2007–present

### American Economic Journal: Applied Economics

Co-editor, 2022–2026

### Journal of Urban Economics

Co-editor, 2017–2022; Editorial board, 2013–17

## BOOKS

*Streets of Gold: America's Untold Story of Immigrant Success*, PublicAffairs, 2022 (with Ran Abramitzky).  
Mention: New Yorker Best Books (2022); Forbes Best Books (2022); Behavioral Scientist (2022)

*Competition in the Promised Land: Black Migrants in Northern Cities and Labor Markets*, Princeton Univ Press, 2017. Award: Allan Sharlin (Social Science Hist Assn); Alice Hanson Jones (Econ Hist Assn)

*The Economic History of American Inequality: New Evidence and Perspectives*. co-edited with Martha Bailey and William J. Collins. University of Chicago Press, 2025

*Human Capital in History: The American Record*, co-edited with Carola Frydman and Robert A. Margo. University of Chicago Press, 2014.

**PUBLISHED AND FORTHCOMING PAPERS**

“Intergenerational Mobility over Two Centuries,” with Ran Abramitzky and Tamar Matiashvili. In *Handbook of Intergenerational Mobility*, eds. Steven Durlauf and Bhash Mazumder. Forthcoming.

“New Data and Insights in Regional and Urban Economics,” with Ran Abramitzky and Adam Storeygard. In *Handbook of Urban and Regional Economics*, eds. Dave Donaldson & Stephen Redding.

“The Political Fallout of Machine Tool Automation in the Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century United States,” with Jiwon Choi and David Clingingsmith. In *The Economic History of American Inequality: New Evidence and Perspectives*. University of Chicago Press, 2025.

“Immigrants and Their Children Assimilate into US Society and the US Economy, Both in the Past and Today,” with Ran Abramitzky. *PNAS Nexus* (2024).

“Law-abiding Immigrants: The Incarceration Gap Between Immigrants and the US-born, 1850-2020” with Ran Abramitzky, Elisa Jacome, Santiago Perez, Juan David Torres. *American Economic Review: Insights* (2024).

“Leaving the Enclave: Historical Evidence on Immigrant Mobility from the Industrial Removal Office,” with Ran Abramitzky and Dylan Connor. *Journal of Economic History* (2024).

“The Refugee Advantage: English-Language Attainment in the Early Twentieth Century” with Ran Abramitzky, Peter Catron, Dylan Connor, and Rob Voigt. *Sociological Science* (2023).

“White Flight from Asian Immigrants: Evidence from California Public Schools,” with Christine Cai. *Journal of Urban Economics: Insights* (2023).

“Condominium Development Does Not Lead to Gentrification” with Robert A. Margo, Matthew M. Miller, James M. Reeves and Justin Steil. *Journal of Urban Economics: Insights* (2023).

“The Effect of Immigration Restrictions on Local Labor Markets: Lessons from the 1920s Border Closure,” with Ran Abramitzky, Philipp Ager, Elior Cohen and Casper Worm Hansen. *American Economic Journal: Applied* (2023).

“Computational Analysis of 140 Years of U.S. Political Speeches Reveals More Positive but Increasingly Polarized Framing of Immigration,” with Ran Abramitzky, Chris Becker, Dallas Card, Serina Chang, Dan Jurafsky, Julia Mendelsohn and Rob Voigt. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 119.31 (2022).

“The Intergenerational Effects of a Large Wealth Shock: White Southerners after the Civil War,” with Philipp Ager and Katherine Eriksson. *American Economic Review*, 111.11 (2021): 3767–94.

“Automated Linking of Historical Data,” with Ran Abramizky, Katherine Eriksson, James Feigenbaum, and Santiago Pérez. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 59.3 (2021): 865–918.

“Intergenerational Mobility of Immigrants in the U.S. over Two Centuries,” with Ran Abramitzky, Elisa Jácome & Santiago Pérez. *American Economic Review*, 111 (2021): 580–608.

“Do Immigrants Assimilate More Slowly Today Than in the Past?,” with Ran Abramitzky and Katherine Eriksson. *American Economic Review: Insights*, 2 (2020): 125–41.

**PUBLISHED PAPERS, CONT.**

“Discrimination and the Returns to Cultural Assimilation in the Age of Mass Migration,” with Ran Abramitzky, Katherine Eriksson and Stephanie Hao. *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 110 (2020): 340–6.

“Variation in Women’s Success Across PhD Programs in Economics,” with Andrew Langan. *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 33 (2019), 23–42.

“To the New World and Back Again: Return Migration and Upward Mobility,” with Ran Abramitzky and Katherine Eriksson. *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*, 72 (2019) 300–322.

“Urbanization in the United States, 1800-2000,” with Devin Bunten and Owen Hearey. *Oxford Handbook of American Economic History*, ed. Louis Cain, Price Fishback, Paul Rhode. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2018).

“Immigration in American Economic History,” with Ran Abramitzky. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 55 (2017) 1311–45.

“Racial Differences in Health in Long-Run Perspective,” with Robert A. Margo. *Oxford Handbook of Economics and Human Biology*, ed. John Komlos. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2016).

“The Origin and Persistence of Black-White Differences in Women’s Labor Force Participation,” with William J. Collins. In *Human Capital in History: The American Record* (U of Chicago Press, 2014).

“A Nation of Immigrants: Assimilation and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration,” with Ran Abramitzky and Katherine Eriksson. *Journal of Political Economy*, 122 (2014) 467-506.

“A Silver Lining to White Flight? White Suburbanization and African-American Homeownership, 1940-80,” with Robert A. Margo. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 78 (2013) 71–80.

“The Effect of Rising Income Inequality on Taxation and Public Expenditures: Evidence from US Municipalities and School Districts, 1970-2000,” with Fernando Ferreira, Hernan Winkler and Eric Zolt. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 95 (2013), 1291–1302.

“Local Public Goods and the Demand for High-Income Municipalities,” *Journal of Urban Economics*, 76 (2013) 71–82.

“Population Trends as a Counterweight to Central City Decline,” with Allison Shertzer. *Demography* 50.1 (2013): 125–47.

“Europe’s Tired, Poor, Huddled Masses: Self-selection and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration,” with Ran Abramitzky and Katherine Eriksson, *American Economic Review* 102.5 (2012): 1832–56.

“Moving to Higher Ground: Migration Response to Natural Disasters in the Early Twentieth Century,” with Matthew E. Kahn and Paul W. Rhode, *AEA: Papers and Proceedings* (2012): 238–44.

“School Desegregation and Urban Change: Evidence from City Boundaries,” *American Economic Journal: Applied* 4.1 (2012): 85–108.

“Racial Residential Segregation in American Cities,” in *Oxford Handbook of Urban Economics and Planning*, ed. Nancy Brooks and Gerrit-Jan Knaap (Oxford University Press, 2011), 318–39.

**PUBLISHED PAPERS, CONT.**

“Was Postwar Suburbanization White Flight? Evidence from the Black Migration,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics* 125.1 (2010): 417–43.

“The Effect of Internal Migration on Local Labor Markets: American Cities During the Great Depression,” with Price Fishback and Shawn Kantor, *Journal of Labor Economics* 28.4 (2010): 719–46.  
Winner of the 2010 IPUMS Research award

“Job Decentralization and Postwar Suburbanization: Evidence from State Capitals,” with Robert A. Margo, *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs* (2009): 1–20.

“Competition in the Promised Land: Black Migration and Northern Labor Markets, 1940-1970,” *Journal of Economic History* 69.3 (2009): 756–83.

“Race, Segregation, and Postal Employment: New Evidence on Spatial Mismatch,” with Robert A. Margo, *Journal of Urban Economics* 65.1 (2009): 1–10.

“Were Jews Political Refugees or Economic Migrants? Assessing the Persecution Theory of Jewish Emigration, 1881-1914,” in *The New Comparative Economic History: Essays in Honor of Jeffrey G. Williamson*, ed. Tim Hatton, Kevin O’Rourke and Alan Taylor (MIT Press, 2007), 267–90.

“Black Migration, White Flight: The Effect of Black Migration on Northern Cities and Labor Markets,” *Journal of Economic History* 67.2 (2007): 484–88. (Dissertation summary)

**WORKING PAPERS**

“Computerized Machine Tools and the Transformation of US Manufacturing,” with Jiwon Choi and David Clingingsmith. Revise and resubmit at *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

“Finding John Smith: Using Extra Information for Historical Record Linkage,” with Ran Abramitzky, Harriet Brookes Gray, Katherine Eriksson, Santiago Perez & Myera Rashid. Revise and resubmit at *Review of Economics and Statistics*.

“Enclaves and Assimilation in the Age of Mass Migration: Evidence from Ethnic Catholic Churches,” with Ran Abramitzky and Osea Giuntella, NBER Working Paper 33362, Jan 2025.

“Intergenerational Mobility of Immigrants in 15 Destination Countries,” with Ran Abramitzky, Elisa Jacome, Mathias Jensen, Alan Manning, Santiago Perez and 32 co-authors. March 2025.

**HONORS, PRIZES AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2024	Fellow, Society of Labor Economists
2024	Engerman-Goldin Prize, Econ History Assn (Census Linking Project team)
2022	Fellow, Econometric Society
2019	IZA Young Labor Economist Award
2018, 2023	Graduate Economics Club, Best Advisor Award, Princeton University
2016–17	Russell Sage Foundation Research Project Award
2013–14	Research Fellow, Straus Institute at NYU School of Law
2012–14	Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship
2010–13	National Science Foundation Research Grant
2006–14 (x 4)	Distinguished Teaching Award, UCLA Economics Dept
2006	Alan Nevins Prize for best dissertation in American Economic History
2001–2004	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship

**GRADUATE ADVISEES (\* = CHAIR OR CO-CHAIR)**

2025	Marielle Cote-Gandreau, Pier Paolo Creanza*, Jing Wu*
2024	Allison Green* (London School of Economics), Hassan Sayed (Postdoc – University of Chicago), Carol Shou (Keystone Strategy)
2023	Rachel Fung* (Postdoc- University of Missouri), Quan Le (Harvard Business School), Matt Mleczko (Marquette Poli Sci) Hannah Postel* (Duke Public Policy), Karl Schulze* (Bureau of Labor Statistics), Atsushi Yamagishi (Hitotsubashi)
2022	Lukas Althoff* (Stanford), Jiwon Choi* (Brandeis), Stephanie Hao* (Revelio Labs), Jonas Jin (Northwestern, instruction), Chris Mills (Notre Dame)
2021	Emily Battaglia* (U Delaware)
2020	Cavit Baran* (Sabanci University), Elinor Cohen (Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City), Elisa Jacome* (Northwestern)
2019	Jessica Brown (U South Carolina), Mingyu Chen (Amazon), Andrew Langan* (Mathematica), Maria Lucia Yanguas (Cornerstone)
2017	Peter Catron (U Washington), Dylan Connor (Arizona State), Matthew Miller (Amazon), Colin Weiss (Fed Board)
2016	Devin Buntin (MIT Urban Planning), Owen Hearey (Analysis Group), Carlos Hernandez* (Universidad de Los Andes, now Colombian Ministry of Trade)
2015	Francisco Haimovich* (World Bank), Sandra Rozo (USC; now World Bank),
2014	Gabriela Rubio (UC-Merced, now Amazon)
2013	Katherine Eriksson* (Cal Poly; now UC-Davis), Molly Ball (Rochester)
2012	Matt Hill (Pompeu Fabra), Mohamed Saleh (Toulouse, now LSE)
2011	Allison Shertzer (Pittsburgh, now Phila. Fed), Hernan Winkler (World Bank)

**PUBLIC LECTURES, KEYNOTE TALKS AND INVITED TEACHING**

2025	Keynote Lecture, 6 <sup>th</sup> Workshop on Economics and Politics of Migration, Madrid
2025	American Dream Lecture, American Enterprise Institute
2025	Thomas S. Berry Lecture in Economic History, University of Richmond
2025	Keynote Lecture, RFBerlin Migration Forum
2024	Crafts Lecture, University of Warwick
2024	Keynote Lecture, Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries, Paris
2024	Calderwood Lecture in Economics, Wellesley College
2024	Levitt Center for Public Affairs Public Lecture, Hamilton College
2024	Combs Lecture, University of Notre Dame
2023	Edmund James Lecture, University of Illinois-Urbana Champaign
2023	Dartmouth Distinguished Lecture on Globalization
2023	Keynote, Race, Equity and Public Policy conference, University of Toronto
2023	Keynote, Latin American and Caribbean Econ Assn (LACEA) Migration Network
2023	Royal Economics Society, Hahn Lecture
2023	Harvard Economics Department, Harris Lecture
2023	Social Science Research Council Centennial Lecture
2023	Columbia University, Center for Political Economy, Big Ideas Book talk
2022	Israel Economic History Association, Keynote lecture, University of Haifa
2022	Friends of Economic History lecture, Northwestern University
2022	Henry Hart Rice Urban Policy Forum, New York University
2022	Romano lecture, SUNY Binghamton
2022	Keynote lecture, Migration and Organizations Conference, Wharton
2022	Wellington Burnham Lecture, Tufts University
2022	AEA Continuing Education, Quantitative Approaches to Economic History
2021	Sawyer Lecture, University of Rochester

**PUBLIC LECTURES, CON'T**

- 2021 Clair Wilcox Lecture, Swarthmore College
- 2021 Uppsala Lecture in Housing and Urban Research, Uppsala University, Sweden
- 2021 Hicks Lecture, Economic and Social History Workshop, Oxford University
- 2021 Keynote Lecture, NBER Economics of Immigration conference
- 2020 Urban Economics Association Lectures on Urban Economics
- 2019 Departmental seminar, MIT (Economics)
- 2019 W.J. Usery Distinguished Lecturer, Georgia State University
- 2019 Keynote, "Moving to Opportunity in Developing Countries," World Bank
- 2019 Keynote, Neighborhoods, Externalities and Inequality workshop, Copenhagen
- 2019 Public lecture, "Streets of Gold: Immigration and the American Dream," Trinity-Dublin
- 2018 Keynote, Urban Economics Association
- 2018 "The Economics and Ethics of Immigration," New York University
- 2018 Departmental seminar, Princeton University (Economics)
- 2018 Departmental seminar, UC-Berkeley (Economics)
- 2014 Mary MacKinnon Lecture, Canadian Network for Economic History
- 2013 Keynote, "Migration: Global Development, New Frontiers," University College London
- 2011 Institut d'Economia de Barcelona, Summer School in Immigration & Public Policy
- 2010 Public lecture, "Black Migration and the Transformation of American Cities," Dartmouth

**Updated: May 2025**