

## **LEAH BROOKS**

Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Affairs  
George Washington University  
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### **CURRENT APPOINTMENTS**

- 2014- Assistant Professor of Public Policy and Public Administration,  
Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, George  
Washington University
- 2015- Assistant Professor of Economics (by courtesy), Department of Economics,  
George Washington University

### **PAST APPOINTMENTS**

- 2011-2013 Economist, Household and Real Estate Finance Section, Federal Reserve  
Board of Governors
- 2008-2011 Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Toronto  
Assistant Professor (by courtesy), School of Public Policy and Governance,  
University of Toronto
- 2009-2010 Visiting Scholar, Russell Sage Foundation
- July 2010 July Scholar, Russell Sage Foundation
- 2005-2009 Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, McGill University
- 2005-2007 Non-Resident Visiting Scholar, Lewis Center for Regional Policy Studies,  
UCLA

### **EDUCATION**

#### **University of California, Los Angeles**

- 2005 Ph.D., Economics

#### *Fields*

Public Economics, Urban Economics, Political Economy

*Dissertation Title*

Volunteering to be Taxed: Business Improvement Districts and the Local Provision of Public Goods

*Dissertation Committee*

Jean-Laurent Rosenthal and Janet Currie, Co-Chairs; Sandra Black and Paul Ong, Members

**University of Chicago**

1998 BA, Economics and Public Policy with Honors

**AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

2015 Aareal Award of Excellence in Research for “Vestiges of Transit”, declined due to travel limitations.

2011 Reis Best Paper Award, American Real Estate and Urban Economics International Meetings, for “From Today’s City to Tomorrow’s City: An Empirical Investigation of Urban Land Assembly”

2006 Honorable Mention, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Dissertation Award

2005 Second Runner-Up, National Tax Association Dissertation Prize

2004-5 NBER Non-Profit Dissertation Fellowship

2004 Poster Prize for “Volunteering to be Taxed,” Population Association of America Meetings

2003 Lincoln Institute for Land Policy Dissertation Award

2000-2004 Jacob Javits Graduate Fellowship

1994-1998 University of Chicago College Honors Scholarship

**GRANT PROPOSALS**

In years prior to 2014, only funded proposals

2015 John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation Major Research Grant, “Volunteering To Be Taxed: Assessing the Impact of Business Improvement Districts on Commercial and Residential Properties.” Co-Principal Investigator, denied \$148,000.

- 2015 Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, for “A Century of Change in Land Use Regulation.” Principal Investigator, awarded \$30,000
- 2015 University Facilitating Fund, George Washington University, for “The Local Impact of Containerization.” Principal Investigator, awarded \$8,000
- 2015 Policy Research Scholar, George Washington University Institute for Public Policy, for “The Local Impact of Containerization.” Awarded course release.
- 2011 Connaught New Faculty Grant, University of Toronto. Awarded \$CA 30,000
- 2010 David C. Lincoln Fellowship, “Estimating the Regulatory Land Tax in Boom and Bust.” Principal Investigator, Awarded \$60,000.
- 2009 University of Toronto Internal Graduate Expansion Grant, \$CA 12,000.
- 2008 Fonds de recherche sur la societe et al culture, “Where Political Economy Allows for Building Up Instead of Out: Land Use Regulation in Los Angeles.” Principal Investigator, awarded approx. \$CA 24,000.
- 2007 Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, for “Spending Within Limits.” Co-Principal Investigator, awarded approx. \$20,000.
- 2006 Russell Sage Foundation, “The Politics of Inequality: Neighborhood-Level Allocations of Community Development Block Grant Money.” Co-Principal Investigator, awarded \$145,000.
- 2006 John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation Major Research Grant, “Volunteering To Be Taxed: Assessing the Impact of Business Improvement Districts on Commercial and Residential Properties.” Co-Principal Investigator, awarded approx. \$80,000.
- 2003 Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, dissertation fellowship for “Volunteering To Be Taxed: Assessing the Impact of Business Improvement Districts on Commercial and Residential Properties.”

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Author order as published. Economics journals list authors in alphabetical order.

### **Refereed Journal Articles**

Brooks, Leah and Byron Lutz, "From Today's City to Tomorrow's City: An Empirical Investigation of Urban Land Assembly," *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, forthcoming. Approx. 50 pages.

Brooks, Leah, Yosh Halberstam and Justin Phillips, "Spending Within Limits: Evidence from Municipal Fiscal Restraints," *National Tax Journal*, June 2016 69(2), 315-352.

Brooks, Leah and Maxim Sinitsyn, "Where does the Bucket Leak? Sending Money to the Poor via the Community Development Block Grant Program," *Housing Policy Debate*, 2014 24 (2), 119-171.

Brooks, Leah and William C. Strange, "The Micro-Empirics of Providing Collective Goods: The Case of Business Improvement Districts," *Journal of Public Economics*. 2011 95 (11-12), 1358-1372.

Brooks, Leah, Justin Phillips and Maxim Sinitsyn, "The Cabals of a Few or the Confusion of a Multitude: The Institutional Trade-off Between Representation and Governance," *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, February 2011 3 (1), 1-24.

Brooks, Leah and Justin Phillips, "An Institutional Explanation for the Stickiness of Federal Grants," *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, August 2010 26(2), 243-264.

Brooks, Leah, "Volunteering to Be Taxed: Business Improvement Districts and the Extra-Governmental Provision of Public Safety," *Journal of Public Economics*, January 2008 92(1-2), 388-406.

Brooks, Leah, "Unveiling Hidden Districts: Assessing the Adoption Patterns of Business Improvement Districts in California," *National Tax Journal*, March 2007 60(1), 5-24.

Brooks, Leah "Does Spatial Variation in Heterogeneity Matter? Assessing the Adoption Patterns of Business Improvement Districts," *Review of Policy Research*, November 2006 23(6), 1219-1233.

### **Refereed Book Chapters**

Brooks, Leah and Rachel Meltzer, "Does a Rising Tide Compensate for the Secession of the Successful? Illustrating the Effects of Business Improvement Districts on Municipal Coeffers," in *The Changing Landscape of Local Public Revenues*, Cambridge: Lincoln Institute for Land Policy, 2010.

### **Reports, Policy Briefs and Other Publications**

Brooks, Leah and Byron Lutz, "Long-Dead Streetcars Still Shape L.A. Neighborhoods," *Zocalo Public Square*, September 23, 2014.

Brooks, Leah and Justin Phillips, "Locally-Imposed Tax and Spending Limits," *State Tax Notes*, November 16, 2009, 501-506.

Brooks, Leah and Justin Phillips, "Municipally-Imposed Tax and Expenditure Limits," *Land Lines* April 2009 21 (2), 8-13.

Invited comments on Ingrid Ellen, et al, "The Impact of Business Improvement Districts on Property Values: Evidence from New York City," *Brookings-Wharton Papers on Urban Affairs*, 2007, 32-35.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

Brooks, Leah and Byron Lutz, "Vestiges of Transit: Urban Persistence at Micro Scale." Submitted, June 2016.

Brooks, Leah, Nicolas Gendron-Carrier and Gisela Rua, "The Local Impact of Containerization."

Brooks, Leah and Byron Lutz, "A Century of Change in Land Use Regulation."

Brooks, Leah and Gisela Rua, "The Geography of Inequality."

## **PRESENTATIONS**

\* denotes invited, non-conference presentation; <sup>a</sup> denotes presentation by co-author

### *The Local Impact of Containerization*

Fourth Workshop on Urban Economics, Institut d'Economia de Barcelona, University of Barcelona, June 2016<sup>a</sup>

United States International Trade Commission, April 2016<sup>\*a</sup>

AREUEA/American Economic Association Meeting, January 2016

Federal Reserve International Trade conference, November 2015

North American Regional Science Council, November 2014

### *Where Does the Bucket Leak? Sending Money to the Poor via the Community Development Block Grant Program*

Urban Affairs Association, March 2014

AREUEA National Conference, May 2013

National Tax Association, November 2012

### *Vestiges of Transit: Urban Persistence at Micro Scale*

George Mason University School of Law, March 2015\*

Wagner School, New York University, February 2015\*

Drexel University, Economics Department, November 2014\*

Third Workshop on Urban Economics, University of Barcelona, June 2014

National Bureau of Economic Research, Urban Economics & Real Estate, Summer Institute, 2014

George Washington University, Economics Department, February 2014\*

AREUEA/American Economic Association Meeting, January 2014

Lincoln Institute for Land Policy Urban Economics Conference, May 2013

All-UC Economic History Conference, May 2013

UCLA Economics Alumni Conference, April 2013

North American Regional Science Council, November 2012

Federal Reserve Board Work-in-Progress Seminar, October 2012

AREUEA Mid-Year Conference, May 2012

AREUEA International Conference, July 2012

*Using Census of Governments Data to Study Municipal Political Economy*

Census of Governments Data Users Seminar, July 2010

*From Today's City to Tomorrow's City: An Empirical Investigation of Urban Land Assembly*

University of Oklahoma, December 2011\*

Regional Science Association, November 2011

NBER Summer Institute, Real Estate & Law and Economics Groups, July 2011

Planning Law and Property Rights, May 2011

American Economic Association, January 2011

Canadian Public Economics Group, May 2010

American Economic Association, Am. Real Estate and Urban Econ. Section, Jan. 2010

American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association Int'l Meeting, July 2009

*Does a Rising Tide Compensate for the Secession of the Successful? Simulating the Effects of Business Improvement Districts on Municipal Coffers*

Lincoln Institute for Land Policy Local Public Finance Conference, June 2009

*When Do Cities Bind Themselves? The Existence and Extent of Locally-Imposed Tax and Expenditure Limits*

5th Fiscal Federalism Conference, University of Barcelona Institute of Economics, June 2013

Federal Reserve System Regional Conference, October 2011

Regional Science Association, November 2009

Association for Public Policy and Management, November 2009

Wagner School, New York University, September 2009\*

University of Toronto CEPA Lunch, April 2009\*

National Tax Association, November 2008

*The Micro-Empirics of Providing Collective Goods: The Case of Business Improvement Districts*

Columbia Center for Urban Research and Policy, April 2010\*

UCLA Law and Public Finance Seminar, March 2010\*

Harvard University, Inequality and Social Policy, February 2010\*

National Tax Association, November 2009

University of Illinois at Chicago, December 2009\*  
CUNY Graduate Center, November 2009\*  
Philadelphia Federal Reserve Bank, October 2009\*  
NBER Summer Institute, Real Estate & Local Public Finance, July 2009  
Cornell University, October 2009\*  
American Economic Association, January 2009  
Southern Economics Association, November 2008  
Association for Public Policy and Management, November 2008  
University of Guelph, September 2008\*  
American Real Estate and Urban Economics International Conference, July 2008  
University of New South Wales, May 2008\*  
University of Sydney, May 2008\*  
Canadian Public Economics Group, May 2008

*The Cabals of a Few or the Confusion of a Multitude: The Institutional Trade-off Between Representation and Governance*

Australia National University, April 2008\*  
University of Toronto, March 2008\*  
George Washington University, November 2007\*  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, November 2007  
American Political Science Association Annual Meetings, August 2007  
American Real Estate and Urban Economics International Conference, July 2007  
Canadian Public Economics Group, June 2007

*An Institutional Explanation for the Stickiness of Federal Grants*

University of Toronto, March 2007\*  
Haas School, UC Berkeley, January 2007\*  
Carleton University, December 2006\*  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, November 2006  
National Tax Association, November 2006  
McMaster University, October 2006\*

*Unveiling Hidden Districts: Assessing the Adoption Patterns of Business Improvement Districts in California*

American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association – AEA Meeting, January 2007  
National Tax Association Conference, November 2006  
American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association Int'l. Meeting, July 2006

*Does Spatial Variation in Heterogeneity Matter? Assessing the Adoption Patterns of Business Improvement Districts*

DeVoe Moore Center Critical Issues Symposium, February 2006  
McGill Social Statistics Workshop, November 2005

*Volunteering to Be Taxed: Business Improvement Districts and the Extra-Governmental Provision of Public Safety*

National Bureau of Economic Research, Summer Institute, July 2006

American Economic Association, American Real Estate and Urban Econ. Section, Jan. 2006  
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Conference, November 2005  
National Tax Association Conference, November 2005  
Regional Science Association Meetings, November 2005  
American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association Int'l. Meeting, July 2005  
McGill University, 2005\*  
University of Toronto, 2005\*  
Harvard Business School, Business Government and the International Economy Unit, 2005\*  
UC Merced, 2005\*  
New York University, Wagner School of Public Service, 2005\*  
Canadian Public Economics Group, May 2005

## **PRESS**

*Vestiges of Transit: Urban Persistence at Micro Scale*

*Curbed: LA*, September 26, 2014

CityMetric, November 11, 2014

BigBadBroker, September 26, 2014.

*Volunteering to Be Taxed: Business Improvement Districts and the Extra-Governmental Provision of Public Safety*

*Los Angeles Business Journal*, July 3, 2006.

On background about Business Improvement Districts: *Los Angeles Times*, *Wall Street Journal*

About Washington DC's Metro: NewsTalk, NewsChannel8, June 10, 2016. [\[link\]](#)

## **PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND**

2003	Summer Intern, Center for Urban and Metropolitan Studies, Brookings Institution
2001	Summer Intern, RAND Corporation
1999-2000	Research Assistant, Economic Studies Section, Brookings Institution
1998-1999	Research Assistant, Economic Analysis Group, Antitrust Division, US Department of Justice

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**



## **George Washington University**

Intermediate Microeconomics (Public Administration 6085)  
Fall 2014 (x2), 2015 (x2)

Capstone (Public Administration 6019)  
Spring 2015

Econometrics for Policy Research (Public Administration 8022)  
Spring 2014, 2015

## **University of Toronto**

*Undergraduate*  
Urban Economics  
Full year, 2008-9, 2010-2011

*Graduate*  
Empirical Public Economics  
Fall 2009, Winter 2011

## **McGill University**

*Undergraduate*  
Urban Economics  
Winter 2006, 2007, 2008  
Public Economics  
Winter 2008

*Graduate*  
Empirical Public Economics  
Winter 2006, 2007, 2008

## **Other Teaching**

American Economic Association's Summer Program for Minority Students, Albuquerque  
Summer 2012

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

### **Manuscript Review**

*American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Journal of Political Science, Canadian Journal of Economics, Contemporary Economic*

*Policy, Economics of Governance, International Regional Science Review, International Tax and Public Finance, Israeli Science Foundation, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Housing Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Quantitative Criminology, Journal of Regional Science, Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency Journal of Urban Affairs, Journal of Urban Economics, Mercatus Policy Series, National Science Foundation, National Tax Journal, Policy Studies Journal, Progress and Planning, Public Budgeting and Finance, Public Finance and Management, Public Finance Review, Publius, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Russell Sage Foundation, Simulation and Gaming, Southern Economic Journal, Urban Studies*

### **Service to Scholarly Associations**

2013-2015 Board Member, American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association  
 2013-2015 Program Committee, American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association National Meeting  
 2010-2013 Board Member, National Tax Association  
 2010 Member, Organizing Committee, Canadian Public Economics Group Annual Meeting  
 2009 Organizer, Canadian Public Economics Group Annual Meeting  
 2009 Program Committee, American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association Annual Meeting  
 2006, 2012 Program Committee, National Tax Association Meetings

### **Other Professional Service**

2016- Member, Municipal Fiscal Health Experts Group, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy  
 2014-2016 Organizer & Founder, Washington DC Urban Economics Day

### **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

George Washington University only

2015 Chair, Committee on Increasing Applications, Trachtenberg School  
 2014, 2015 Manuscript Reviewer, *Policy Perspectives*  
 2015 Grader, Urban Policy Field Exam, Trachtenberg School  
 2014- Field Advisor, Urban Policy

### **DOCTORAL COMMITTEES**

George Washington University only

2015-2016 Committee Member, Chun Kuang, Department of Economics

2014-2016 Committee Member, Stephen Popick, Department of Economics  
2015- Committee Member, Rosa Lee, Trachtenberg School  
2015- Co-Chair, Cheng Xu, Department of Economics  
2015- Chair, Brett Theodos, Trachtenberg School  
2015 Co-Chair, Erik Stokan, Trachtenberg School  
2014 Committee Member, Sherida Powell, Department of Economics  
2014-2015 Committee Member, Dan Broxterman, Department of Economics  
2014 Committee Member, Megan Hatch, Trachtenberg School

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