

# KATHARINE L. SHESTER

Department of Economics  
Washington and Lee University  
Lexington, VA 24450  
shesterk@wlu.edu

---

## EDUCATION

PhD, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, 2011  
MA, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, 2008  
BA, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, 2005  
*Honors in Economics, Cum Laude*

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND AFFILIATIONS

2017- Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Washington and Lee University  
2016- Core Faculty Member, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Washington and Lee University  
2016- Core Faculty Member, Shepherd Program for the Interdisciplinary Study of Poverty and Human Capability, Washington and Lee University  
2013-2016 Affiliate Faculty Member, Shepherd Program for the Interdisciplinary Study of Poverty and Human Capability, Washington and Lee University  
2011-2017 Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Washington and Lee University

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Economic History, Demography, Labor Economics, Urban Economics

## HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Washington and Lee University, Nominee for H. Harris III Rising Star Award, 2016  
Washington and Lee University, Lenfest Summer Fellowship, 2012-2020  
Economic History Association, *Allan Nevins Prize* for the outstanding dissertation in U.S. or Canadian economic history, 2011  
Vanderbilt University, Department of Economics, *Rendigs Fels Award for Excellence in Teaching*, 2009  
Wake Forest University, *Presidential Scholarship*, 2001-2005  
Wake Forest University, *National Merit Scholarship*, 2001-2005

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Principles of Economics, American Economic History, Urban Economics,  
Women in the Economy

## **PUBLISHED AND FORTHCOMING PAPERS**

“Residential Segregation and Infant Health, 1970-2010” (with Gregory T. Niemesh) *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, Vol. 83 (July 2020).

“Concrete Measures: The Rise of Public Housing and Changes in the Fertility and Marriage Decisions of Young Women in the U.S.” (with Samuel K. Allen and Christopher Handy) *Journal of Population Economics*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (April 2019): 369-418.

“The Local Economic Effects of Public Housing in the United States, 1940-1970.” *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 73, No. 4 (December 2013): 978-1016.

“Slum Clearance and Urban Renewal in the United States,” (with William J. Collins). *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, Vol. 5, No. 1 (January 2013): 239-73. Revised version of NBER Working Paper 17458.

“American Public Housing’s Origins and Effects.” *The Journal of Economic History*, Vol. 72, No. 02 (June 2012): 490-493.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

“The Baby Boom and Educational Attainment” (with Christopher Handy), 2021. Under review.

“Accounting for Changes in Intergenerational Mobility” (with Christopher Handy), 2021. Under review.

“The Economic Effects of the Urban Development Action Grant Program” (with A. Joseph Guse), 2021.

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

“The Vietnam Draft and Women’s Educational Attainment” (with Christopher Handy)

“Elections, Stress, and Birth Outcomes” (with Christopher Handy)

## **BOOK REVIEWS AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

Review of *Debtor Nation: The History of America in Red Ink*, by Louis Hyman. Distributed by [www.eh.net](http://www.eh.net), November 2011.

Review of *Well Worth Saving: How the New Deal Safeguarded Home Ownership*, by Price Fishback, Jonathan Rose, and Kenneth Snowden. *Journal of American History* (2014) 101 (3): 974-975.

Review of *Building the Skyline: The Birth and Growth of Manhattan’s Skyscrapers*, by Jason M. Barr. Distributed by [www.eh.net](http://www.eh.net), February 2018.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Referee/Reviewer for:

*National Science Foundation, Journal of Urban Economics, Journal of Economic History, Explorations in Economic History, The Independent Review, Social Science History, The Review of Black Political Economy, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Columbia University Press*

Discussant of others’ research:

Economic History Association Meetings, 2015, 2017, 2021  
Southern Economic Association Meetings, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2018  
American Economic Association Meetings, 2012

Standing Committee on Education in Economic History, Economic History Association:  
Member, 2014-2016  
Chair, 2016-2017

### **SELECT UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

General Education Development Committee, Co-Chair — 2020 -  
President's Advisory Committee, Member — 2020-2023  
Provost Search Committee, Member — 2020  
Faculty Executive Committee, Member — 2015-2017

### **PRESENTATIONS OF RESEARCH**

- 2020:* Population Association of America Meetings  
    "The Baby Boom and Educational Attainment" (with Chris Handy)  
EALE/SOLE/AASLE World Conference  
    "The Baby Boom and Educational Attainment" (with Chris Handy)
- 2019:* Economic History Association Meetings (Atlanta, GA)  
    "The Baby Boom and Educational Attainment" (with Chris Handy)
- 2018:* Southern Economic Association Meetings (Washington, DC)  
    "Accounting for Changes in Intergenerational Mobility" (with Chris Handy)
- 2016:* Population Association of America Meetings (Washington, DC)  
    "Residential Segregation and Infant Health, 1970-2010." (with Greg Niemesh)
- 2015:* AALAC Economic History Conference (Middlebury, VT)  
    "Residential Segregation and Infant Health, 1970-2010." (with Greg Niemesh)  
Southern Economic Association Meetings (New Orleans)  
    "Residential Segregation and Infant Health, 1970-2010." (with Greg Niemesh)  
Davidson College (Davidson, NC)  
    "Concrete Measures: The Rise of Public Housing and Changes in the Fertility and  
    Marriage Decisions of Young Women in the U.S." (with Sam Allen and Chris Handy)
- 2014:* Southern Economic Association Meetings (Atlanta, GA)  
    "Concrete Measures: The Rise of Public Housing and Changes in the Fertility and  
    Marriage Decisions of Young Women in the U.S." (with Sam Allen and Chris Handy)
- 2012:* Washington, DC Economic History Seminar  
    "The Local Economic Effects of Public Housing in the United States, 1940-1970"  
Wake Forest University (Winston Salem, NC)  
    "The Local Economic Effects of Public Housing in the United States, 1940-1970"  
Yale Economic History Seminar (New Haven, CT)  
    "The Local Economic Effects of Public Housing in the United States, 1940-1970"  
Cliometrics Society Conference (Tucson, AZ)  
    "The Local Economic Effects of Public Housing in the United States, 1940-1970"  
Appalachian Spring World History Conference (Boone, NC)  
    "The Local Economic Effects of Public Housing in the United States, 1940-1970"  
Davidson College (Davidson, NC)  
    "The Local Economic Effects of Public Housing in the United States, 1940-1970"

- 2011: Economic History Association Meetings (Boston, MA)  
    “American Public Housing’s Origins and Effects”  
Southern Economic Association Meetings (Washington, DC)  
    “The Local Economic Effects of Public Housing in the United States, 1940-1970”
- 2009: Allied Social Science Association Meetings (San Francisco, CA)  
    “Slum Clearance and Urban Renewal in the United States” (with William J. Collins)  
Economic History Association Meetings (Tucson, AZ)  
    “Slum Clearance and Urban Renewal in the United States” (with William J. Collins)  
Southern Economic Association Meetings (San Antonio, TX)  
    “Slum Clearance and Urban Renewal in the United States” (with William J. Collins)

*Last updated: July 2021*