

**Craig Sylvera**  
*Curriculum Vitae, Updated July 2022*

Email: [Craig.Sylvera@clev.frb.org](mailto:Craig.Sylvera@clev.frb.org)  
Phone: (504)491-8608  
Website: <https://c-sylvera.github.io/>

200 Euclid Ave  
Apt 809  
Cleveland, OH 44114

**Employment**

Research Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, 2022-present

**Graduate Education**

Vanderbilt University, Department of Economics  
Ph.D of Economics, August 2022

Dissertation Title: The Economic & Social Consequences of Black Mayoralities

M.A. in Economics, 2018

**Undergraduate Education**

University of New Orleans, New Orleans, LA  
B.S. in Finance, 2016

**Research Interests**

Primary: Labor and Demographic Economics  
Secondary: Urban Economics, Economic History

**Working Papers**

“BLACK MAYORS & BLACK COMMUNITIES”

Do Black communities economically benefit from the election of a Black mayor? Leveraging elections where a Black candidate wins mayor for the first time and that Black Americans often reside near each other, I use a stacked difference-in-differences strategy allowing for heterogeneous treatment effects by ZIP-code racial composition to estimate the effect breakthrough Black mayors have on location-specific economic activity. I find majority-Black ZIP codes experience gains in all areas of economic activity relative to non-Black communities. Gains to the number of businesses in majority-Black zip codes are found in industries where the mayor and department heads exert influence over city contracts suggesting these figures are influencing the distribution of city funds. To provide evidence these gains are experienced by Black residents, I turn to the decennial Census and American Community Survey and find a 27 percent reduction in the Black–White self-employment gap on average. However, there exists a positive relationship between the Black–White self employment gap and relative self-employment gains suggesting institutional and historical factors may limit Black economic progress in areas of high disparity. These findings suggest a role for the government to reduce Black–White disparities in entrepreneurship by eliminating informational and structural barriers to participation.

**Works-in-Progress**

“ECONOMIC IMPACT OF BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTESTS” (with Oscar O’Flaherty)  
“BLACK MAYORS & RACE-SPECIFIC ARRESTS”

## Presentations

### 2022

American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association National Conference  
Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland (virtual)

### 2021

Vanderbilt Empirical and Applied Microeconomics Seminar  
Missouri Valley Economics Association Conference

## Professional Activities

Reviewer: *Real Estate Economics*

## Grants, Fellowships, Honors, & Awards

Graduate School Travel Grant	2022
MVEA Award, Best Graduate Student Paper ( <i>Black Mayors &amp; Black Communities</i> )	2021
University Fellowship, Vanderbilt University	2016-present

## Teaching Experience

Vanderbilt University, Instructor

Econ 1010: Principles of Macroeconomics	2019
Econ 2160: Strategic Analysis	2020

Vanderbilt University, Teaching Assistant

### GRADUATE EXPERIENCE

Econ 8400: Introduction to Economic History, Prof. Peter Rousseau	2020
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### UNDERGRADUATE LEVEL

Econ 1010: Principles of Macroeconomics, Prof. Hojjatallah Ghandi	2021
Econ 1010: Principles of Macroeconomics, Prof. Heather Luea	2019, 2020
Econ 1500: Economic Statistics, Prof. Hojjatallah Ghandi	2021
Econ 1500: Economic Statistics, Prof. Heather Luea	2017
Econ 2220: Latin American Development, Prof. Ana de Vides Regina Andrade	2018, 2019

## Other Research Experience

Vanderbilt University, Research Assistant - Discovery Grant	2019
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