

Benjamin (Benji) Smith

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Education

Doctoral Candidate in Applied Economics, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania | Philadelphia, PA 2019 - Present

- Focus on urban, environmental, public, and education
- Amy Morse Prize, 2020, awarded to top first year student in Wharton Applied Economic Program
- Wharton Doctoral Education and Research Fellowship

University of Southern California | Los Angeles, CA 2012 - 2016

- B.A. in Economics and International Relations
- Trustee Scholar, USC's full-tuition scholarship
- Graduated *magna cum laude*
- Phi Beta Kappa Society

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“A Quarter Century of Mortgage Risk”
(with William Larson, Morris Davis, and Stephen Oliner), *Review of Finance*, May 2022.

Working Papers

“Paying for Proximity: Housing Markets and Charter Schools”
Second year paper. New draft on hold.

Research in Progress

“Household Mobility, Neighborhood Networks, and Gentrification”
(with Fernando Ferreira and Jeanna Kenney) Draft in progress and expected to be submitted in fall 2022.

“Urban Impacts of Liquid Markets: Water and Development in Urban Colorado”
Currently collecting data on fees developers pay to water providers to hook up to the municipal water system, and expect to present an update at an urban lunch in fall 2022. Current job market prospect.

Service and Teaching Experience

Organized urban lunch seminars, 2021-22
TA for BEPP 250 (teaching, grading) and REAL 708 (office hours, grading)
Referee: Journal of Urban Economics

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Advisors

Fernando Ferreira (Dissertation Advisor) | *C. F. Koo Professor*
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Joseph Gyourko | *Martin Bucksbaum Professor*
Gyourko@wharton.upenn.edu | (215) 898-3003

Gilles Duranton | *Dean's Chair in Real Estate Professor*
Duranton@wharton.upenn.edu | (215) 898-2859

Previous Experience

Research Associate, American Enterprise Institute Housing Center | *2016 –2019*

- Research assistant on “Residential land values in the Washington, DC metro area: New insights from big data.” *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 2017.
- Research assistant on “The Wealth Building Home Loan.” *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 2020.