

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics
University of Warwick
Gibbet Hill Rd
Coventry, CV4 7AL

j.fenske@warwick.ac.uk
www.jamesfenske.com
Citizen of Canada
Permanent Resident of the UK

EMPLOYMENT

2016– Professor, Department of Economics, University of Warwick
Research Associate, Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy
2014–2016 Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Oxford
2010–2013 University Lecturer, Department of Economics, University of Oxford

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Yale University, 2010
M.Phil., Economics, Yale University, 2007
M.A., Economics, Yale University, 2005
B.A. (Hons), Economics, Queen's University, 2004

I. RESEARCH

PUBLISHED RESEARCH

- Dust and Death: Evidence from the West African Harmattan
with A. Adhvaryu, P. Bharadwaj, A. Nyshadham and R. Stanley
Forthcoming, Economic Journal
- 2024 Fetal Origins of Mental Health: Evidence From Africa
with A. Adhvaryu, N. Kala and A. Nyshadham
Economic Development and Cultural Change
- 2023 Railways, Development and Literacy in India
with L. Chaudhary *Journal of Economic History*
- 2023 Tradition and Mortality: Evidence from Twin Infanticide in Africa
with S. Wang *Journal of Development Economics*
- 2023 Conflict and the formation of political beliefs in Africa
with A. Adhvaryu *Economic Development and Cultural Change*
- 2023 Railways and Cities in India
with N. Kala and J. Wei *Journal of Development Economics*
- 2022 Demographic Shocks and Women's Labor Market Participation: Evidence from the
1918 Influenza Pandemic in India
with B. Gupta and S. Yuan *Journal of Economic History*
- 2022 Pre-Colonial Warfare and Long-Run Development in India
with M. Dincecco, A. Menon, and S. Mukherjee, *Economic Journal*

- 2021 Resources, Conflict, and Economic Development in Africa
with A. Adhvaryu, A. Nyshadham, and G. Khanna
Journal of Development Economics
- 2021 Linguistic Distance and Market Integration in India
with N. Kala, *Journal of Economic History*
- 2020 The Green Revolution and Infant Mortality in India
with P. Bharadwaj, R. Mirza and N. Kala, *Journal of Health Economics*
- 2019 Is Africa Different? Historical Conflict and State Development
with M. Dincecco and M. Onorato, *Economic History of Developing Regions*
- 2019 Early-life circumstance and adult mental health
with A. Adhvaryu and A. Nyshadham, *Journal of Political Economy*
- 2018 Polygamy and child mortality: Historical and modern evidence from Nigeria's Igbo
with V. Arthi, *Review of Economics of the Household*
- 2017 Oil and ethnic inequality in Nigeria
with I. Zurimendi, *Journal of Economic Growth*
- 2017 1807: Economic shocks, conflict and the slave trade
with N. Kala, *Journal of Development Economics*
- 2016 Intra-household labor allocation in colonial Nigeria
with V. Arthi, *Explorations in Economic History*
- 2015 African polygamy: Past and present
Journal of Development Economics
- 2015 Climate and the slave trade
with N. Kala, *Journal of Development Economics*
- 2014 Trees, tenure and conflict: Rubber in colonial Benin
Journal of Development Economics
- 2014 The battle for rubber in Benin
Economic History Review
- 2014 Ecology, trade, and states in pre-colonial Africa
Journal of the European Economic Association
- 2014 *Imachi nkwu*: Trade and the commons
Journal of Economic History
- 2013 Does land abundance explain African institutions?
Economic Journal
- 2013 Revealed preference tests of the Cournot model
with A. Carvajal, R. Deb, and J. Quah, *Econometrica*
- 2013 "Rubber will not keep in this country": Failed development in Benin, 1897-1921
Explorations in Economic History
- 2012 Partition, migration and jute cultivation in India
with P. Bharadwaj, *Journal of Development Studies*
- 2012 Land abundance and economic institutions: Egba land and slavery, 1830-1914
Economic History Review
- 2011 Land tenure and investment incentives: Evidence from West Africa
Journal of Development Economics
- 2010 *L'Étranger*: Status, property rights and investment incentives in Côte d'Ivoire
Land Economics

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2023 An Adaptation of the Narrow Corridor
Review essay, *Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice*
- 2022 Monsoon Economies: India's History in a Changing Climate
Book review, *Economic History Review*
- 2019 Freedom's Debtors
Book review, *Journal of Economic History*
- 2017 Environmental Economic History
with N. Kala, Literature review, *The Long Economic Shadow of History*
- 2016 Economic Growth and Measurement Reconsidered
Book review, *Journal of Economic History*
- 2014 A nonparametric analysis of multi-product oligopolies
with A. Carvajal, R. Deb, and J. Quah, *Economic Theory*
- 2014 Debt and Slavery in the Mediterranean and Atlantic Worlds
Book review, *Journal of Economic History*
- 2012 History, Historians and Development Policy: A Necessary Dialogue
Book review, *Economic History Review*
- 2011 Property rights in rural West Africa: Causes and consequences
Dissertation summary, *Journal of Economic History*
- 2010 The causal history of Africa: A response to Hopkins
Literature review, *Economic History of Developing Regions*

WORKING PAPERS

- Missing Women in Colonial India
with B. Gupta and C. Neumann
Revise and Resubmit, Economic History Review
- Conflict and Gender Norms
with M. Dincecco, B. Gupta, and A. Menon
- Railways and the European Fertility Transition
with C. Ciccarelli and J. Martí-Henneberg
- How Rules and Compliance Impact Organizational Outcomes: Evidence from Delegation in Environmental Regulation
with N. Kala and M. Haseeb
- The Columbian Exchange and Conflict in Asia
with M. Dincecco and A. Menon
- Attribution Bias by Gender: Evidence from a Laboratory Experiment
with A. Castagnetti and K. Sharma
- Economic shocks and unrest in French West Africa
with C. Christian

HONORS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 Award for Excellence in Refereeing for the Journal of Economic History
- 2023 Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL) Major Research Grant
- 2020 Economic Journal Referee Prize
- 2019 Philip Leverhulme Prize
- 2018 Economic History Society Carnevali Small Research Grant

- 2017 British Academy Small Research Grant
- 2016 British Academy Wiley Prize in Economics
- 2014 John Fell Fund
- 2010 Alexander Gerschenkron Prize
- 2009 Robert M. Leylan Fellowship in the Social Sciences
- 2008 Coca-Cola World Fund at Yale Grant; Georg W. Leitner Program in International and Comparative Political Economy Grant; John F. Enders Fund Grant; Sasakawa Research Award
- 2007 Georg W. Leitner Program in International and Comparative Political Economy Grant; Gilder Lehrman Center Graduate Research Fellowship; MacMillan Center Dissertation Research Grant; Ryoichi Sasakawa Young Leaders' Fellowship
- 2006 Economic History Association Exploratory Travel and Data Grant; MacMillan Center Pre-Dissertation Grant

II. TEACHING

COURSES TAUGHT

- 2018- Dissertation Research Methods (lectures)
- 2018- Topics in Economic History (lectures)
- 2017- The World Economy: History and Theory (lectures and classes)
- 2017- Development Economics (lectures)
- 2016-2017 Topics in Economic History and Development (lectures)
- 2014-2016 Quantitative Methods II (lectures)
- 2013-2016 Foundations of Development (lectures)
- 2012-2016 Economic History I: The Great Divergence (lectures)
- 2011-2016 British Economic History since 1870 (lectures and tutorials)
- 2015-2016 Economic History II: Money, Finance and Cycles in History (lectures)
- 2012-2015 MSc Economics for Development (tutorials)
- 2010-2012 Economic Growth in History (lectures)

PHD SUPERVISION

Current students: Yuchen Lin, Junxi Liu, Priyama Majumdar

- 2024 Carlos Cardona Andrade, Jinlin Wei (HKUST)
- 2023 Velichka Dimitrova (UCL Associate Lecturer (Teaching)), Cora Neumann (UBS), Gianni Marciante (University of Bologna Postdoc), Jian Xie (Southern University of Science and Technology)
- 2022 Ashish Aggarwal (Analysis Group), Amit Chaudhary (Polygon Technology), Mariana Racimo (Charles River Associates), Karmini Sharma (Stanford Post-Doc and Imperial College Business School), Song Yuan (Zhejiang University)
- 2020 Muhammad Haseeb (University of Bristol), Andrea Tulli (University of Tübingen)
- 2019 Jose Corpuz (University of York Teaching Fellowship), Martina Miotto (CERGE-EI Prague Post-Doc)
- 2018 Letizia Borgomeo (Office for Students), Daniel Brown (GiveWell), Paula Lopez-Pena (Yale-JPAL Post-Doc), Karan Nagpal (ID Insight)

- 2017 Viviana Perego (World Bank Young Professionals Program)
- 2016 Leander Heldring (Harvard Postdoc), Rinchan Mirza (University of Namur Postdoc)
- 2015 Vellore Arthi (University of Essex), Cornelius Christian (St. Francis Xavier University)

ADDITIONAL TEACHING

- 2011– Supervision of several undergraduate and master’s level theses at the University of Oxford and the University of Warwick.
- 2023 Lectures on “Economic History” at the University of Rome Tor Vergata.
- 2022 Lecture on “On Origins of African States” for the Wheeler Institute’s “African History through the lens of Economics” Course.
- 2021–2022 Economic History Society Residential Training Course for Postgraduate Students
- 2015 Lecture on “Causality in Economic History” for the class “What Happened and Why?” at the University of Oxford.
- 2014 Lecture on “Warfare in African History” for the Summer School in Economic Growth at the University of Warwick.
- 2013 Guest Lectures on “Globalization” and “Genetics, Ethnicity and Conflict” at the University of Michigan; Lecture on “Environmental History” for the Summer School in Economic Growth at the University of Warwick.
- 2011 Lecture on “Environmental History” at the University of Michigan.
- 2010 Lecture on “Economic Development in Africa” for the Yale “Teaching of Africa” program.

III. SERVICE

GENERAL SERVICE

- 2018– PhD Placement
- 2020–2022 Co-organizer, Economic History of Developing Regions Virtual Seminar
- 2016–2018 Junior Hiring Committee (chair in 2017-18)
- 2015–2017 Program Committee for Royal Economic Society Conference
- 2013–2016 Co-organizer, CSAE Research Workshop
- 2012–2016 Deputy Director, Centre for the Study of African Economies
- 2012–2016 Member, Examining Committee for Politics, Philosophy and Economics
- 2012 Member, CSAE UNLTF Recruitment Committee
- 2011-2013 Co-organizer, Applied Microeconomics Seminar
- 2011–2016 Member, MPhil Admissions Committee for Economics
- 2011–2016 Co-organizer, Economic and Social History Seminar
- 2010-2013 Member, Examining Committee for Economic and Social History

EDITORIAL BOARDS

- 2020– Economic History of Developing Regions
- 2019– Journal of Comparative Economics
- 2018– Journal of Economic Growth
- 2015– Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics

2015–2018 Explorations in Economic History
 2012–2015 Journal of African Economies
 2010–2016 Oxford Economic Papers

REFEREEING

Agricultural Economics, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Business History, Canadian Journal of Development Studies, Canadian Journal of Economics, Canadian Journal of History, Cliometrica, Cross-Cultural Research, Demographic Research, Econometrica, Economic and Social Research Council, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Economic History of Developing Regions, Economic History Review, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Economic Modelling, Economic Policy, Economic Research Southern Africa, Economics Bulletin, Economics and Human Biology, Energy Journal, Environment and Development Economics, Erdkunde: Archive for Scientific Geography, European Journal of Political Economy, European Review of Economic History, Forest Policy and Economics, Global Food Security, International Journal of Peace and Development Studies, Israel Science Foundation, Journal of African Economies, Journal of African History, Journal of Aggression Conflict and Peace Research, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic History, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Institutional Economics, Journal of International Development, Journal of International Economics, Journal of International Relations and Development, Journal of Law and Conflict Resolution, Journal of Law and Economics, Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, Journal of West African History, Labour Economics, Land Economics, Leverhulme Trust, National Science Foundation, Nature Human Behaviour, Open Book Publishers, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Oxford Development Studies, Oxford Economic Papers, Palgrave Pivot, PLOS One, Public Choice, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Research Data Journal for the Humanities and Social Sciences, Research in Globalization, Review for Review of Development Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economics of the Household, Review of Industrial Organization, Social Sciences, South African Journal of Economics, Southern Economic Journal, U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation, The World Economy, World Bank Economic Review, World Development