

# JAMES SIODLA

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Economics Department  
Colby College  
5245 Mayflower Hill  
Waterville, ME 04901

Phone: 207-859-5245  
Email: [jrsiodla@colby.edu](mailto:jrsiodla@colby.edu)  
Web: [jamessiodla.com](http://jamessiodla.com)  
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## EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor of Economics, Colby College, 2021–present  
Associate Chair, Department of Economics, Colby College, 2022–2023  
Assistant Professor of Economics, Colby College, 2013–2021

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of California – Irvine, 2013  
B.A. in Economics (*cum laude*), California State University – Chico, 2003  
A.S. in Business Administration, Victor Valley College – Victorville (CA), 2001  
A.A. in Liberal Arts, Victor Valley College – Victorville (CA), 2001

## RESEARCH AREAS

Economic History, Urban Economics

## PUBLICATIONS

“Debt Restrictions and Municipal Indebtedness in American Cities: Evidence from the Roaring Twenties” (with Samara Gunter), *Journal of Institutional Economics*, 18 (2022): 937–952.

“Firms, Fires, and Firebreaks: The Impact of the 1906 San Francisco Disaster on Business Agglomeration,” *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 88 (2021): 103659. [Lead article]

“Debt and Taxes: Fiscal Strain and US City Budgets during the Great Depression,” *Explorations in Economic History*, 76 (2020): 101328.

“Clean Slate: Land-Use Changes in San Francisco after the 1906 Disaster,” *Explorations in Economic History*, 65 (2017): 1–16. [Awarded the 2018 Larry Neal Prize for best article published in previous year]

“Razing San Francisco: The 1906 Disaster as a Natural Experiment in Urban Redevelopment,” *Journal of Urban Economics*, 89 (2015): 48–61.

## WORKING PAPERS

“Ghost Towns and Big Cities: Historical Mining and Economic Activity in the American West” (with Jason Dunn, former student)

## **RESEARCH IN PROGRESS (NASCENT PAPERS)**

“An Economic History of Large Fires in American Cities”

“Building a City on a Shaky Foundation? Debt- vs. Tax-Funded 1920s Capital Investments and 1930s and 1940s US Municipal Finances” (with Samara Gunter)

“Municipal Socialism in the United States, 1900–1940” (with Tate Twinam)

## **TEACHING**

Colby College: Economic History of the US, Institutions in Economic History, Principles of Macroeconomics, Urban Economics, The City in Economic History (senior seminar)

UC Irvine: Probability and Statistics in Economics

## **HONORS AND AWARDS**

Charles A. Lave Paper Prize for Creative Modeling in Social Sciences, UC Irvine (2012)

Ken Small Award for Best Ph.D. Student in Transportation and Urban Economics, UC Irvine (2012)

Art DeVaney Best Paper Award, UC Irvine (2012)

George R. and Cathleen Hill Economics Fellowship, UC Irvine (Spring 2012)

Social Sciences Associate Dean’s Fellowship for Academic Excellence, UC Irvine (Winter 2011)

## **FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

Haynesville Project Grant, Colby College (2023, 2024)

Social Sciences Division Research Grant, Colby College (2014)

Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies (2012–2013)

Research Grant, All-UC Group in Economic History (2011, 2012)

Summer Research Fellowship, UC Irvine (2011, 2012)

## **CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS**

2024 Eastern Economic Association, Boston

2023 Social Science History Association, Washington D.C.

Economic History Association, Pittsburgh

Werner Troesken Memorial Conference, Pittsburgh

Western Economic Association International, San Diego

2022 Social Science History Association, Chicago

Western Economic Association International, Portland

2021 Urban Economics Association (virtual)

2019 Economic History Association, Atlanta

Eastern Economic Association, New York

2018 Liberal Arts Colleges Economic History Workshop, Mt. Holyoke College

2017 Social Science History Association, Montreal

Western Economic Association International, San Diego

Economic and Business History Society, Oklahoma City

- 2016 Urban Economics Association, Minneapolis
- 2015 Economic History Association, Nashville
- 2014 Urban Economics Association, Washington D.C.  
 George Mason University (seminar)  
 Canadian Network for Economic History, Trent University  
 International Society for New Institutional Economics, Duke University  
 West Virginia University (seminar)  
 ASSA/AEA, Philadelphia
- 2013 NBER Summer Institute: Development of the American Economy, Cambridge  
 ASSA/AEA, San Diego
- 2012 Urban Economics Association, Ottawa  
 Canadian Network for Economic History, Banff  
 All-UC Group in Economic History Graduate Student Workshop, UC Davis  
 UC Irvine (seminar)  
 Economic History Association, Vancouver  
 Institute for Humane Studies Scholarship and a Free Society Seminar, Towson  
 International Society for New Institutional Economics, USC  
 Ronald Coase Institute Workshop on Institutional Analysis, Beijing  
 All-UC Group in Economic History Conference, UCLA  
 Economic and Business Historical Society, Las Vegas

#### **PROFESSIONAL AND SERVICE ACTIVITIES**

College committee service: Advisory Committee for Faculty Personnel Policy, Institutional Review Board, Library Committee (chair), various hiring committees

Memberships: Economic History Association, Social Science History Association, Urban Economics Association

Referee: *Annals of Regional Science*, *Economic Inquiry*, *European Review of Economic History*, *Essays in Business and Economic History*, *Explorations in Economic History*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice*

#### **NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT**

Real Property Appraiser, Assessor's Office, Tulare County (CA), 2004–2008