

# Benjamin R. Lester

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## Employment

### *Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia*

Senior Economic Advisor and Economist, 2014-  
Economic Advisor and Economist, 2013-2014  
Senior Economist, 2011-2012

### *University of Western Ontario*

Associate Professor (with tenure) and Bank of Montreal Professor, 2011-2012  
Assistant Professor, 2007-2011

## Education

### *University of Pennsylvania*

PhD, Economics, 2007: "Essays on Liquidity and Prices"  
Committee: Randall Wright, Ken Burdett, Andrew Postlewaite, Jan Eeckhout

### *Cornell University*

BA, Economics, 2002 (magna cum laude)

## Publications in Refereed Journals

- (1) "Settlement Systems," *The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*: Volume 9, Issue 1 (Contributions), Article 17, 2009
- (2) "Directed Search with Multi-vacancy Firms," *Journal of Economic Theory*, 145, 2108–2132, 2010
- (3) "Information and Prices with Capacity Constraints," *American Economic Review*, 101 (4), 1591–1600, 2011
- (4) "Information and Liquidity" (with A. Postlewaite and R. Wright), *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*, 43 (s2), 355–377, 2011
- (5) "Information Acquisition and the Exclusion of Evidence in Trials" (with N. Persico and L. Visschers), *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 28 (1), 163–182, 2012.
- (6) "Information, Liquidity, Asset Prices, and Monetary Policy" (with A. Postlewaite and R. Wright), *Review of Economic Studies*, 79 (3), 1208–1238, 2012.
- (7) "Trading Dynamics in Decentralized Markets with Adverse Selection" (with B. Camargo), *Journal of Economic Theory*, 153, 534–568, 2014
- (8) "Meeting Technologies and Optimal Trading Mechanisms in Competitive Search Markets" (with L. Visschers and R. Wolthoff), *Journal of Economic Theory*, 155, 1–15, 2015
- (9) "Competing for Order Flow in OTC Markets" (with G. Rocheteau and P.O. Weill), *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*, 47 (s2), 77–126, 2015
- (10) "Information Spillovers, Gains from Trade, and Interventions in Frozen Markets" (with B. Camargo and K. Kim), *Review of Financial Studies*, 29 (5), 1291–1329, 2016
- (11) "Excess Reserves and Monetary Policy Implementation" (with R. Armenter), *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 23, 212–235, 2017

- (12) "Competing with Asking Prices" (with L. Visschers and R. Wolthoff), *Theoretical Economics*, 12, 731-770, 2017
- (13) "Screening and Adverse Selection in Frictional Markets" (with A. Shourideh, V. Venkateswaran, and A. Zetlin-Jones), *Journal of Political Economy*, 1, 338-377, 2019
- (14) "A Model of the Federal Funds Market: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" (with G. Afonso and R. Armenter), *Review of Economic Dynamics*, 33, 177-204, 2019
- (15) "Frictional Intermediation in Over-the-Counter Markets" (with J. Hugonnier and P.O. Weill), *Review of Economic Studies*, 87 (3), 1432-1469, 2020.
- (16) "Corporate Bond Liquidity During the Covid-19 Crisis (with M. Kargar, D. Lindsay, S. Liu, P.O. Weill, and D. Zuniga), *Review of Financial Studies*, 34 (11), 5352-5401, 2021.
- (17) "Heterogeneity in Decentralized Asset Markets" (with J. Hugonnier and P.O. Weill), *Theoretical Economics*, 17, 1313-1356, 2022.
- (18) "Marketmaking with Search and Information Frictions" (with A. Shourideh, V. Venkateswaran, and A. Zetlin-Jones), *Journal of Economic Theory*, 212, 2023

### Unpublished Papers and Work in Progress

- (19) "Sequential Search for Corporate Bonds" (with M. Kargar, S. Plante, and P.O. Weill), *revise and resubmit, Journal of Finance*
- (20) "The Heterogeneous Impact of Referrals on Labor Market Outcomes" (with D. Rivers and G. Topa), *revise and resubmit, Review of Economic Studies*
- (21) "Inventory, Marketmaking, and Liquidity in OTC Markets" (with A. Cohen, M. Kargar and P.O. Weill), *revise and resubmit, Journal of Economic Theory*
- (22) "Signals, Interviews, and Discrimination in the Labor Market" (with P. Gottardi, R. Michaels, and R. Wolthoff)

### Other Publications

- (1) "Breaking the Ice: Government Interventions in Frozen Markets," *Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Business Review*, Q4, 19-25, 2013
- (2) "Why Ask? The Role of Asking Prices in Transactions," *Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Business Review*, Q4, 1-4, 2015
- (3) "Implementing Monetary Policy in a Changing Federal Funds Market," *Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Economic Insights*, Q2, 15-20, 2019
- (4) "When COVID-19 Reached the Corporate Bond Market," *Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Economic Insights*, Q3, 2-9, 2021
- (5) "It's Not Just Who You Know, It's How You Know Them," *Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia Economic Insights*, Q1, 12-17, 2024

### Editorial Duties

Associate Editor, *Journal of Economic Theory*, January 2023 – present  
 Associate Editor, *Theoretical Economics*, July 2018 – present  
 Associate Editor, *International Economic Review*, April 2018 – present  
 Guest Editor, *Review of Economic Dynamics*, Special Issue on "Fragmented Financial Markets"

### Grants, Honors, and Awards

*University of Pennsylvania*

Hiram C. Haney Fellowship Award in Economics (best third year paper), 2006

Sidney Weintraub Memorial Fellowship in Economics, 2005–2006  
Lawrence Robbins Prize (best first year student), 2003  
University of Pennsylvania Fellowship, 2002–2007

*University of Western Ontario*

Marilyn Robinson Award for Excellence in Teaching, 2011  
SSHRC Standard Research Grant, 2010-2013 (\$62,500 CAD)  
Nominated for SSHRC Aurora Prize, 2010  
John C. Polanyi Prize in Economics, 2010 (\$20,000 CAD)  
Bank of Montreal Professorship, 2010–2015 (\$125,000 CAD)  
Ontario Undergraduate Student Alliance Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2010  
The University of Western Ontario's Award of Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, 2010  
Undergraduate Student Council Teaching Honour Roll, 2009  
Professor of the Year, Economics Department, 2008  
Academic Development Fund New Research & Scholarly Initiative Award, 2008-9 (\$8,300 CAD)

## Teaching

*University of Pennsylvania*

Search Theory and Applications (PhD): 2019, 2020, 2023  
Search Theory in Financial Markets (PhD): 2015, 2016, 2017

*Queens University*

Search Theory in Financial Markets (PhD): 2017

*University of Western Ontario*

Advanced Monetary Theory (undergraduate): 2008  
Senior Seminar in Economic Policy (undergraduate): 2008-2009, 2009-2010  
Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate): 2007, 2008, 2009  
Search Theory and Applications (PhD): 2008, 2009, 2010

## Advising

*PhD Students with First Placement (\*=main advisor)*

Joonbae Lee, Penn, 2019 (Placement: Korea Institute for Information Society and Development)  
Junyuan Zou, Penn, 2019 (Placement: INSEAD)  
Ni Wang, Penn, 2021 (Placement: IMF)  
Sean McCrary, Penn, 2023 (Placement: Ohio State University)  
Assa Cohen, Penn, 2023 (Placement: Yeshiva University)  
Joao Ritto, Penn, 2024 (Placement: University of Toronto)  
Juan Sagredo, Penn, 2024 (expected)

## Other Professional Activities

*Short-term Visits*

Cowles Foundation, Yale University, April, 2018  
Becker-Friedman Institute, University of Chicago, March, 2018  
Princeton University, January-May, 2018  
European University Institute, October, 2017  
Queens University, June, 2017  
Federal Reserve Bank of New York, March, 2011

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, March, 2011  
Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, February, 2011  
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, August, 2010  
University of Michigan, October, 2009

#### *Conference Committees and Workshop Coordinator*

Program committee, "Financial Stability Considerations for Monetary Policy," Federal Reserve Bank of New York, September 2022  
Program committee, "Summer Workshop on Money, Banking, Payments and Finance," 2022, 2023  
Program Committee, SFS Cavalcade, 2021, 2022, 2023  
Co-organizer, "Liquidity in Fixed Income Markets," August, 2020  
Co-organizer, "The Impact of Post-Crisis Regulation on Financial Markets," March, 2020  
Co-organizer, Special Issue of *Review of Economics Dynamics* on "Fragmented Financial Markets," March 2018  
Co-organizer, Philadelphia Macro Workshop, 2017-  
Workshop coordinator, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2016-2019  
Co-organizer, Search and Matching Workshop, 2011-present  
Program Committee, Society for Economic Dynamics, 2012, 2014  
Co-organizer, Canadian Macro Study Group, 2010  
Money/macro workshop coordinator, Western Ontario, 2007-8, 2009-11

#### *Other Service at University of Western Ontario*

Member, Graduate Studies Awards Committee, 2007-2008  
Member, Appointments Committee, 2009-2010, 2010-2011  
Faculty-at-Large, Committee on Academic Policy, 2009-2010

#### *Referee*

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies\*, Journal of Finance, Review of Financial Studies, Journal of Monetary Economics, International Economic Review, Journal of Economic Theory, Review of Economic Dynamics, RAND Journal of Economics, American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, Games and Economic Behavior, Management Science, Economic Theory, B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics, Theoretical Economics, Canadian Journal of Economics, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, European Economic Review, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Journal of Economics, National Science Foundation, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada  
(\*Awarded 2014 Excellence in Refereeing Award)

## **Seminars, Conference Presentations, and Discussions**

#### *Invited Seminars*

Pre-2017: FRB New York, Bank of Canada (2), FRB Cleveland, Penn, Washington University in St. Louis, Michigan (Finance), Western Ontario, Queens, Fed Board, Michigan (Econ), Rochester, UCLA, FRB Minneapolis, Toronto, Wisconsin, Waterloo, Simon Fraser, FRB Richmond, FRB St. Louis, FRB New York (2), Financial Econ Workshop at NYU, FRB Philadelphia, Georgetown, UC-Irvine, UC- Davis, Universidad Carlos III, Iowa, Wharton Brownbag, Rutgers, Penn State (2), Western Ontario, NYU, Princeton, Iowa, Yale, Carnegie-Mellon, FRB Chicago (2), Wisconsin (Finance), UNC-Duke, UBC, Bern, Lausanne, Purdue, Arizona State, Fed Board, Yeshiva, EUI, Einuadi, Bocconi, Villanova, Ohio State  
2017: University of Calgary, San Francisco Fed, Queens, EUI, Cornell, Wharton Brownbag, Carnegie Mellon  
2018: Princeton brownbag, NY Fed, University of Chicago, Yale University, Boston College, Stony Brook, Oxford, UCL, Royal Holloway  
2019: Toronto, Waterloo, Bank of Canada, Federal Reserve Board, Johns Hopkins, Western Ontario  
2020: Search and Matching in Macro and Finance, University of Georgia, Wharton Brownbag lunch

2021: UC-Irvine, Emory, Universidad Diego Portales  
2022: Wharton Brownbag lunch, FRB St. Louis, Vanderbilt, INSEAD  
2023: UCL, Bank of Canada, FRB Philadelphia, FRB Richmond, Wharton Brownbag lunch, Drexel  
2024: Ohio State\*, National University Singapore\*, Singapore Management University\*, University of Virginia\*

### *Conference Presentations*

Workshop on Money, Banking, and Payments, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, 2005 & 2006  
Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Vancouver, 2006  
Search and Matching Workshop; University of Pennsylvania, 2007  
Conference on Trading Frictions in Asset Markets, University of California-Santa Barbara, 2007  
National Bureau of Economic Research Summer Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2008  
Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2008  
Midwest Macroeconomics Meetings, University of Pennsylvania, 2008  
North American Summer Meetings of the Econometric Society, Carnegie Mellon, 2008  
Search and Matching Workshop, University of Pennsylvania, 2008  
Research on Money and Markets Conference, University of Toronto, 2008  
Cowles-Caress Conference on General Equilibrium and Applications, Yale University, 2009  
Midwest Macroeconomics Meetings, Michigan State University, 2010  
Canadian Economic Theory Conference, McGill, 2010  
Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Montreal, 2010  
Summer Workshop on Money, Banking, and Payments, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 2010  
Search and Matching Workshop; Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2011  
Meetings of the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory, Portugal, 2011  
Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Belgium, 2011  
Canadian Macro Study Group, University of British Columbia, 2011  
Canadian Economic Theory Conference, University of Toronto, 2012  
Search and Matching Workshop, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia, 2012  
Essex Economics Workshop, University of Essex, 2012  
Advances in Macro-Finance, Tepper/LAEF Conference, UC Santa Barbara, 2012  
Housing-Urban-Labor-Macro Conference, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2013  
NBER Summer Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2013  
Meetings of the Society for the Advancement of Economic Theory, Paris, 2013  
Summer Workshop on Money, Banking, and Payments, FRB Chicago, 2013  
Wharton Conference on Liquidity and Financial Crises, Wharton, 2013  
Conference on Money and Banking, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2013  
QED Frontiers of Macroeconomics Workshop, Queens University, 2014  
European Search and Matching Conference, Edinburgh University, 2014  
Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Toronto, 2014  
Kiyotaki-Wright 25th Anniversary Conference, UC Santa Barbara, 2014  
NYU Search Theory Workshop, NYU, 2015  
Norges Bank Conference on Banking and Financial Intermediation, Oslo, 2015  
Monetary Policy Implementation and Transmission in the Post-Crisis Period, Fed Board, 2015  
Money, Banking, and Asset Markets Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2016  
5th Rome Conference on Macroeconomics, EIEF, Rome, 2016  
Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Toulouse, France, 2016  
Montreal Workshop on Markets with Frictions, Montreal, Canada, 2017  
Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2017  
Money, Banking, and Asset Markets Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2017  
*Review of Economic Dynamics* conference, special issue on Fragmented Financial Markets, Philadelphia, 2018  
Wharton Conference on Liquidity and Financial Fragility, Philadelphia, 2018  
Macro Workshop at the University of Chile, Santiago, Chile 2018  
DC Search and Matching Workshop, Washington DC, 2019  
NYU Financial Theory and Experiments Conference, New York, 2019  
NBER Summer Institute, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 2019  
Conference in honor of Ken Burdett, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2019  
Search and Matching in Macro and Finance, Virtual, 2020  
Financial Stability and the Coronavirus Pandemic, Virtual, 2020  
Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Minneapolis, 2021  
System Conference on Financial Institutions, Regulations, and Markets, Virtual, 2021  
Barcelona School of Economics Summer Forum, Barcelona, 2022  
Workshop on Financial Networks, University of Essex, 2022  
North American Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, New Orleans, 2023  
18<sup>th</sup> Central Bank Conference on the Microstructure of Financial Markets, Washington D.C., 2023  
NYU Search and Matching Conference, New York, December 2023  
Meetings of the Society for Economic Dynamics, Barcelona, 2024\*

## Discussions

- AEA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, 2008: "Elastic Money, Inflation, and Interest Rate Policy" by A. Head and J. Qiu
- Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis, 2009: "The Hot Potato Effect" by E. Nosal
- Conference on Money and Banking, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2009: "Collateral Policy in a World of Round-the-Clock Payment" by C. Kahn
- Advances in Macro-Finance, Tepper/LAEF Conference, Carnegie Mellon, 2010: "Liquidity and Asset Market Dynamics" by G. Rocheteau and R. Wright
- Conference on Money and Banking, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2011: "Liquidity and the Threat of Fraudulent Assets" by Y. Li, G. Rocheteau, and P.O. Weill
- Conference on Money and Banking, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2012: "Information, Tranching, and Liquidity" by E. Farhi and J. Tirole
- Multiple Equilibria and Financial Crises, NYU, 2016: "A Simple Model of Monetary Exchange with Sticky and Dispersed Prices" by K. Burdett, A. Trejos, and R. Wright
- AFA Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2017: "Endogenous Specialization and Dealer Networks" by A. Neklyudov and B. Sambalaibat
- Day Ahead Conference on Financial Markets and Institutions, Philadelphia, 2018, "Can the US interbank market be revived?" by Antoine Martin, Kyungmin Kim, and Ed Nosal
- Review of Economic Dynamics* conference, special issue on Fragmented Financial Markets, Philadelphia, 2018, "Posted Prices, Search and Bargaining" by Derek Stacey
- Stern/Salomon Microstructure Meeting, 2021, "Monetary Policy Transmission in Segmented Markets" by J. Eisenschmidt, Y. Ma, and A. Zhang
- SFS Cavalcade, 2021, "Information Chasing versus Adverse Selection in Over-the-Counter Markets" by C. Wang, G. Pinter, and J. Zou
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Junior Search and Matching Workshop, 2023. "Trading Relationships in Over-the-Counter Markets" by Alex Maciocco.
- MacroFinance Society meeting, 2024, "Liquidity and Investment in General Equilibrium" by N. Caramp, J. Kozlowski, and K. Teeple\*

\* = scheduled