

GRANT GOEHRING

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2026 (expected)
Dissertation Title: *Essays in Economic History*
Dissertation Committee: Robert Margo, James Feigenbaum, and David Lagakos

B.A., Economics (*High Honors*), Mathematics Minor, Oberlin College, 2018

General Course, Economic History, London School of Economics, 2016-2017

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Applied Microeconomics, Economic History, Health Economics

PUBLICATIONS

“[Fallen Women: Recessions and the Supply of Sex Work](#),” *Journal of Public Economics*, (2025) 247: 105405.

“[The Progressive Era War on Vice: Public Health Consequences of Closing Red-Light Districts](#),” *Journal of Economic History*, Forthcoming.

WORKING PAPERS

“[Contagious Cargo: Health Externalities from Livestock Trade during Early Globalization](#),” October 2025. Job Market Paper.

“[Prostitution Regulation and the Fight Against Sexually Transmitted Infections Before Modern Medicine](#),” (with Walker Hanlon), June 2025, Submitted.

“[Constituent-Representative Interaction Outside of Elections: Theory and Evidence from the Early U.K. Women’s Rights Movement](#),” (with Walker Hanlon), May 2025.

“[Technology Adoption and Career Concerns: Evidence from the Adoption of Digital Technology in Motion Pictures](#),” (with Filippo Mezzanotti & Avri Ravid), Conditionally Accepted, Review of Corporate Finance Studies, June 2025.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Rise of Women Corporate Executives and Directors over the Twentieth Century” (with Richard Baker, Carola Frydman, Eric Hilt, and Lior Shabtai)

“The Effects of Corporate Directors since World War 2: Evidence from Unanticipated Director Deaths” (with Richard Baker, Carola Frydman, and Eric Hilt)

PRESENTATIONS

NBER Summer Institute (DAE & PE), Boston, MA, 2025
Economic History Association, Philadelphia, PA 2025
NBER Summer Institute (DAE), Boston, MA 2024
Southern Economic Association, Washington, DC 2024
Econometric Society Europe, Newcastle, UK 2024
Economic History Association, Sacramento, CA 2024
Econometric Society North America, Nashville, TN 2024
Social Science History Association, Washington, DC 2023
Southern Economic Association, New Orleans, LA 2023

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

NBER Gender in the Economy Dissertation Fellowship, 2025/26 AY
Rosenstein-Rodan Prize, 2025 (best paper in development economics by a BU PhD student)
Albert Rees Award, 2018 (best undergraduate thesis in economics at Oberlin College)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant. Northwestern University (Kellogg), Finance Department. 2018-2020.
Research Intern. Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. Summer 2016 & Summer 2017.

REFeree EXPERIENCE

Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, American Journal of Health Economics, Explorations in Economic History

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Introductory Macroeconomics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024

COMPUTER SKILLS: R, STATA, MATLAB, PYTHON, LaTeX

CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS: US Citizen

REFERENCES

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Contagious Cargo: Health Externalities from Livestock Trade during Early Globalization (Job Market Paper)

Trade requires the movement of goods across space, which increases the risk of disease transmission. When such externalities are significant, trade restrictions may improve welfare. I examine a nineteenth-century episode of globalization to assess the effectiveness of trade restrictions in mitigating health externalities. By the 1870s, Britain was importing over a million live animals annually for domestic consumption. Officials associated these imports with animal disease outbreaks and responded with a series of trade restrictions. I find that import bans on European sheep in the early 1890s actually increased outbreaks of sheep scab, a mite-borne disease, among domestic sheep. This increase was driven by a shift toward new trading partners, primarily in the Americas, where sheep scab was highly prevalent. Other less severe policies, such as requiring imported sheep to be slaughtered upon entry, were effective at reducing disease. The import bans also had negative economic effects by increasing the price of meat in British cities. The episode highlights the importance of understanding downstream general equilibrium effects when designing trade restrictions.

Fallen Women: Recessions and the Supply of Sex Work (*Journal of Public Economics*)

This paper studies how recessions impact the supply of sex work. I consider a historical recession that affected British cotton textile production, an industry that employed a significant number of women and was geographically localized. To measure the size of the market for sex, I digitized new data on the locations of establishments where sex work occurred across Britain. The recession led to 12 more establishments per 100,000 people in exposed counties, an increase of approximately 20 %. Informal establishments, such as pubs, accounted for three-fourths of the increase while brothels accounted for approximately 25 %. I provide suggestive evidence that an outward shift in supply contributed to the increase.

The Progressive Era War on Vice: Public Health Consequences of Closing Red-Light Districts (*Journal of Economic History, Forthcoming*)

In the late 1800s, city leaders in the United States established red-light districts to contain prostitution. Progressive Era reformers argued these districts harmed public health, prompting their closure in the 1910s. This paper analyzes how closing the red-light districts affected neighborhood composition and public health. I find infant mortality from premature births and congenital defects increased after closure, which is consistent with an increase in congenital syphilis. There was also no increase in homicide deaths, suggesting the districts did not increase crime. These findings suggest the public health concerns raised by reformers were likely overstated.

Prostitution Regulation and the Fight Against Sexually Transmitted Infections Before Modern Medicine (*with Walker Hanlon, Submitted*)

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) were pervasive historically, yet we have little quantitative evidence on the health burden they imposed or the effectiveness of public health policies addressing them. This paper examines the health effects of Britain's Contagious Disease Acts, a canonical nineteenth-century policy to combat STIs. These acts required registration, periodic physical examination, and forced isolation of sex workers. We show that this policy substantially reduced infections, mortality, and childlessness in regulated districts, but at the cost of severely violating sex workers rights. This was achieved by shrinking the market for sex and reducing the infection rate among sex workers.