

Vellore Arthi

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CURRENT APPOINTMENTS	Associate Professor of Economics (Tenured), University of California, Irvine Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Faculty Affiliate, Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA) Research Affiliate, Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) Faculty Affiliate, UCI Center for Population, Inequality, & Policy (CPIP)	2025 — 2025 — 2021 — 2020 — 2019 —
PREVIOUS APPOINTMENTS	Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) Assistant Professor of Economics, University of California, Irvine Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Essex Visiting Associate Research Scholar, Columbia Business School	2021 - 2025 2018 - 2025 2016 - 2018 Fall 2017
EDUCATION	D.Phil. Economic & Social History, University of Oxford Associate of the Department of Economics, Harvard University M.Sc. Economic & Social History, University of Oxford B.A. (with honors) Economics, University of Southern California	2016 2015 2012 2009
FIELDS OF INTEREST	Primary: Labor Economics, Health Economics, Economic History Secondary: Development Economics, Economic Demography	
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	<p>“The Decline of Child Stunting in 122 Countries: A Systematic Review of Child Growth Studies Since the Nineteenth Century” (with Eric B. Schneider, Juliana Jaramillo-Echeverri, et al.), Forthcoming, <i>BMJ Global Health</i>.</p> <p>“Deliberate Surrender? The Impact of Interwar Indian Protection” (with Markus Lampe, Ashwin Nair, & Kevin O’Rourke), <i>Economic Journal</i>, 2024, 134(657): 23-47. (Featured Article).</p> <p>“Recessions, Mortality, and Migration Bias: Evidence from the Lancashire Cotton Famine” (with Brian Beach & W. Walker Hanlon), <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i>, 2022, 14(2): 228-255.</p> <p>“Infant Feeding and Post-Weaning Health: Evidence from Turn-of-the-Century London” (with Eric B. Schneider), <i>Economics and Human Biology</i>, 2021, 43: 101065.</p> <p>“Disease, Downturns, and Wellbeing: Economic History and the Long-Run Impacts of COVID-19” (with John Parman), <i>Explorations in Economic History</i>, 2021, 79: 101381.</p> <p>““The Dust Was Long In Settling”: Human Capital and the Lasting Impact of the American Dust Bowl,” <i>Journal of Economic History</i>, 2018, 78(1): 196-230.</p> <p>“Not Your Average Job: Measuring Farm Labor in Tanzania,” (with Kathleen Beegle, Joachim De Weerdt, & Amparo Palacios-López), <i>Journal of Development Economics</i>, 2018, 130: 160-172.</p>	

“Polygamy and Child Mortality: Historical and Modern Evidence from Nigeria’s Igbo,” (with James Fenske), *Review of Economics of the Household*, 2018, 16(1): 97-141.

“Intra-Household Labor Allocation in Colonial Nigeria,” (with James Fenske), *Explorations in Economic History*, 2016, 60: 69-92.

WORKING
PAPERS

“Ordinary Life Insurance: The Best-Performing Financial Asset of the 1930s” (with Gary Richardson & Mark Van Orden), *NBER Working Paper #34385*, 2025.

“Community Transmission of Financial Behavior: The Legacy of the Freedman’s Savings Bank” (with Gary Richardson & Mark Van Orden), 2025. (Formerly *NBER Working Paper #32576*, 2024).

“Estimating the Recession-Mortality Relationship When Migration Matters” (with Brian Beach & W. Walker Hanlon), *NBER Working Paper #23507*, 2017.

WORKS IN
PROGRESS

“Ordinary Lives: Retirement, Savings, and Insurance in America, 1861 to 1941” (with Gary Richardson & Mark Van Orden)

“Early-Career Trajectories during the Great Depression: Evidence from Large-Scale Longitudinal Microdata” (with Gary Richardson & Mark Van Orden)

“Local Economic Activity and Gubernatorial Election Outcomes, 1896-2020: Evidence Using Novel Deposits Data” (with Romeo Ignacio & Gary Richardson)

“Inheriting Good Credit: Race, Socioeconomic Status, and Cosigning Relationships in the Transition to Adulthood” (with Asia Bento)

“How Demographics, Place, and Rules Impact Portfolio Composition: Data from the Historical Survey of Consumer Finances and Implications for the Distribution of Wealth” (with Jack Liebersohn & Gary Richardson)

“The Macroeconomy, Labor Markets, and Economic Mobility from the Civil War to Today: New High-Frequency Data on Local Economic Shocks” (with Katherine Eriksson & Gary Richardson)

OTHER
PUBLICATIONS

Book review of *Controlling Contagion: Epidemics and Institutions from the Black Death to Covid* (by Sheilagh Ogilvie), Forthcoming, *Journal of Economic Literature*.

Book review of *Savings and Trust: The Rise and Betrayal of the Freedman’s Savings Bank* (by Justene Hill Edwards), *Journal of Economic History*, 2025, 85(2): 608-610.

“2023 Allan Nevins Prize Competition of the Economic History Association” (Prize Session Remarks), *Journal of Economic History*, 2024, 84(2): 593-627.

“Health and Development,” in *An Economist’s Guide to Economic History* (ed. Matthias Blum & Chris Colvin), London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2018.

“Human Capital Formation and the American Dust Bowl” (Dissertation Summary), *Journal of Economic History*, 2018, 78(2): 575-610.

Book review of *Prelude to the Dust Bowl: Drought in the Nineteenth-Century Southern Plains* (by Kevin Z. Sweeney), *EH.Net*, 2017.

Book review of *Female Economic Strategies in the Modern World* (ed. Beatrice Morning), *EH.Net*, 2013.

“Mobile Financial Services in Tanzania,” (with Lara Fleischer and Martina Song), *Internal report to the Bank of Tanzania*, 2012.

RESEARCH GRANTS	Russell Sage Foundation Trustee Grant (co-PI, \$138,719) 2406-49093: <i>Inheriting Good Credit: Race, Socioeconomic Status, and Cosigning Relationships in the Transition to Adulthood</i> (Co-PI: Asia Bento)	2025 - 2027
	National Science Foundation SES Grant (PI, \$472,000) SES-2417559: <i>How Demographics, Place, and Rules Impact Portfolio Composition: Data from the Historical Survey of Consumer Finances and Implications for the Distribution of Wealth</i> (Co-PIs: Jack Liebersohn, Gary Richardson)	2024 - 2027
	National Science Foundation Collaborative Grant (PI, \$491,000) SES-2049393/SES-2049401: <i>The Macroeconomy, Labor Markets, and Economic Mobility from the Civil War to Today: New High-Frequency Data on Local Economic Shocks</i> (Co-PIs: Katherine Eriksson, Gary Richardson)	2021 - 2025
	Institute for Research on Poverty Extramural Small Grant on Poverty, Retirement, and Disability Research (PI, \$45,000) <i>The Unintended Consequences of Roosevelt's Reforms: Retirement Savings, Peacetime Inflation, and the Persistence of Racial Wealth Inequality in the US</i>	2023 - 2024
	Center for Retirement Research Steven H. Sandell Grant (PI, \$45,000) <i>The Unintended Consequences of Roosevelt's Reforms: Retirement Savings, Peacetime Inflation, and the Persistence of Racial Wealth Inequality in the US</i>	2023 - 2024
	Russell Sage Foundation Trustee Grant (co-PI, \$122,045) 2011-29614: <i>Explaining Black Socioeconomic Mobility After the Great Depression</i> (Co-PIs: Katherine Eriksson, Gary Richardson)	2021 - 2024
	UCI Center for Population, Inequality, & Policy Incentive Grant (\$15,000)	2024
	UCI Center for Population, Inequality, & Policy Seed Grant (\$5,000 × 2)	2020, 2024
	UCI Proposal Writing Institute Seed Grant (\$8,000)	2020
	UCI Social Sciences Assistant Professor Research Award (\$4,970)	2018
SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS	British Academy/Leverhulme Small Research Grant (£9,990)	2017 - 2018
	University of Essex Executive Dean Fund Grant (£5,000)	2018
	Economic History Association Arthur H. Cole Grant (\$4,955)	2017
	Arnold Fund Research Grant (£1,000)	2015
	Economic History Society Graduate Research Grant (£500 × 2)	2013, 2015
	Merton College Supplementary Travel Grant (£300)	2015
	Royal Economic Society Conference Grant (£300)	2014
	Royal Historical Society Postgraduate Research Support Grant (£300)	2014
	Merton College Graduate Research Grant (£300 × 2)	2013, 2014
	The History Project Research Grant (\$845)	2013
Excellence in Refereeing Award, <i>Journal of Economic History</i> Meritorious Reviewer Award, <i>Australian Review of Economic History</i>		2022
		2022

Excellence in Refereeing Award, <i>Explorations in Economic History</i>	2021
International Economic History Association Dissertation Prize Finalist	2018
Economic History Association Nevins Dissertation Prize	2017
Royal Economic Society Junior Fellowship	2015 - 2016
Amy Mary Preston Read Scholarship	2015 - 2016
European Research Council Studentship (full funding)	2012 - 2015
Merton College Overseas Student Supplementary Award	2012 - 2015
Dacre Trust Research Award	2013, 2014, 2015
Rajiv Kapur Research Award	2014
University of Oxford Vice Chancellor's Scholarship	2013
University of Southern California Trustee Scholarship (full tuition)	2005 - 2009

PRESENTATIONS

2027; Scheduled • University of Chile (Santiago) • Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Santiago)

2026; Scheduled • UCLA Economic History Mini-Conference (Los Angeles)

2025 • London School of Economics (London) • University of Oxford (Oxford) • Warwick University (Coventry) • Pomona College (Claremont)

2024 • Economic History Association Annual Conference [Dissertation Session Co-Chair] (Sacramento) • NBER DAE Spring Meetings (Cambridge) • Caltech (Pasadena)

2023 • National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Workshop on the Dynamics of Climate and the Macroeconomy [Panelist] (Washington, D.C.) • Chicago Fed Monetary and Financial History Workshop (Chicago) • Economic History Association Annual Conference [Dissertation Session Convenor] (Pittsburgh) • All-California Labor Economics Conference [Presenter & Discussant] (Santa Barbara) • University of Southern California (Los Angeles) • Northwestern University (Evanston) • Grinnell College (Grinnell) • University of Maryland Baltimore County (Baltimore) • Washington Area Economic History Seminar (Baltimore) • Seattle Economics Council (Seattle) • Center for Population, Inequality, & Policy Brownbag (Irvine) • Applied Micro Brownbag, University of California, Irvine (Irvine)

2022 • NBER Summer Institute, DAE (Cambridge) • CEPR Economic History Symposium (Odense) • Pacific Northwest Regional Economic Conference [Keynote] (Hood River) • Economic History Association Annual Conference [Discussant] (La Crosse) • “The Rise and Fall of Laissez Faire” Book Conference [Discussant] (Evanston) • Yale University (New Haven) • Columbia University (New York) • University of British Columbia (Vancouver) • Peking University (Beijing)

2021 • Economic History Association Annual Conference (Tucson) • Economic History Society Annual Conference (Virtual) • Bureau of Labor Statistics West Region Data Users’ Conference (Virtual) • H2D2, University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) • Vanderbilt University (Nashville) • University of Connecticut (Storrs) • McMaster University (Hamilton) • San Francisco State University (San Francisco) • UC Center Sacramento (Sacramento) • Applied Micro Brownbag, University of California, Irvine (Irvine)

2020 • AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting [Discussant] (San Diego) • CESR, University of Southern California (Los Angeles) • Reserve Bank of India (Mumbai) • **Postponed or canceled due to COVID-19** • Economic History Society Annual Conference (Oxford) • IFN Workshop (Stockholm) • Demography & Development Workshop (Irvine) • Australian National University (Canberra) • University of Sydney (Sydney) • University of Adelaide (Adelaide) • CDASA, University of California, Irvine (Irvine)

2019 • AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting [Discussant] (Atlanta) • 5th Annual TSE/IAST History Conference (Toulouse) • Economic History Association Annual Conference

[Discussant] (Atlanta) • University of California, Merced (Merced) • University of California, Riverside (Riverside)

2018 • World Economic History Congress [Presenter & Dissertation Session] (Boston) • Economic History Association Annual Conference [Discussant] (Montreal) • All-California Labor Economics Conference (Los Angeles) • Class, Gender, and Childhood in Economic Development (Oxford) • Economic History Society Annual Conference (Keele) • Sound for Seniors Economic History Workshop [Keynote] (Helsinki) • Irvine-Waseda Workshop (Irvine) • Bristol History Workshop (Bristol) • Queen's University Belfast (Belfast) • Dondena Centre, Università Bocconi (Milan)

2017 • AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting [Presenter & Session Co-Organizer] (Chicago) • NBER Cohort Studies Meeting (Los Angeles) • Economic History Association Annual Conference [Dissertation Session & Discussant] (San Jose) • Economic History Society Annual Conference (Egham) • SDU Workshop on Applied Microeconomics (Odense) • Conference on Labour Markets and Living Standards in Britain, 1870-1960 (Colchester) • University of Warwick (Coventry) • University of Massachusetts, Amherst (Amherst) • University of California, Davis (Davis) • University of Michigan (Ann Arbor) • Columbia University (New York) • Cornell University (Ithaca) • RAND (Santa Monica)

2016 • AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting [Presenter & Session Co-Organizer] (San Francisco) • Economics and Human Biology Conference (Tuebingen) • IZA/DFID Growth and Labour Markets in Low-Income Countries Research Conference (Oxford) • European Social Science History Conference (Valencia) • Health and Gender: Global and Economic Perspectives Workshop (Colchester) • University of Essex (Colchester) • University of Oxford (Oxford)

2015 • Northeast Universities Development Consortium (Providence) • World Economic History Congress (Kyoto) • Economic History Society Annual Conference (Telford) • Economic History Association Annual Conference [Poster] (Nashville) • Royal Economic Society PhD Presentation Meetings (London) • Oxford-Warwick-LSE Research Workshop (Oxford) • Centre for the Study of African Economies Research Workshop (Oxford) • Harvard University (Cambridge) • Royal Holloway, University of London (Egham) • University of Oxford (Oxford)

2014 • AEA/ASSA Annual Meeting (Philadelphia) • Economic History Association Annual Conference (Columbus) • Cliometrics Annual Conference (Clemson) • European Social Science History Conference (Vienna) • World Bank (Washington, D.C.) • University of Cambridge (Cambridge) • London School of Economics (London) • Paris School of Economics (Paris) • University of Oxford (Oxford)

2013 • Centre for the Study of African Economies Annual Conference (Oxford) • Economic History Society Annual Conference (York) • BFWG Research Presentation Day (London) • Centre for Economic and Business History Postgraduate Conference (Nottingham) • Economic History Society Residential Training Course (Manchester) • University of Oxford (Oxford) • Merton College (Oxford)

OTHER
RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE

Short Term Consultant, World Bank	2014 - 2016
ERC Research Assistant, Professor Kevin O'Rourke, Oxford	2012 - 2015
Development Strategy Intern, United Nations Development Programme	2013
Research Assistant, Dr James Fenske, Oxford	2011 - 2012
Consultant, Bank of Tanzania	2011 - 2012
Research Assistant, Dr Kristin Diehl, USC	2006 - 2009

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	Business Technology Analyst, Deloitte Consulting Media Arts Planning Intern, TBWA\Chiat\Day Business Management Associate Intern, General Mills Strategic Planning Intern, TBWA\Media Arts Lab	2009 - 2011 2009 2008 2007
SERVICE	Editorial Service Editorial Board, <i>Explorations in Economic History</i> Co-Editor, <i>Economic History of Developing Regions</i> Editorial Board, <i>Feminist Economics</i>	2025 — 2023 — 2020 - 2022
Refereeing		
	<i>Agricultural Economics</i> • <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i> • <i>American Economic Review</i> • <i>American Economic Review: Insights</i> • <i>American Journal of Agricultural Economics</i> • <i>Australian Economic History Review</i> • <i>British Academy</i> • <i>BMJ Open</i> • <i>Cliometrica</i> • <i>Econometrica</i> • <i>Economic History Review</i> • <i>Economic Journal</i> • <i>Economic Modelling</i> • <i>Economics and Human Biology</i> • <i>European Review of Economic History</i> • <i>Explorations in Economic History</i> • <i>Feminist Economics</i> • <i>Food Policy</i> • <i>Health Economics</i> • <i>Journal of Economic History</i> • <i>Journal of Environmental Economics and Management</i> • <i>Journal of Human Resources</i> • <i>Journal of Population Economics</i> • <i>Journal of Public Economics</i> • <i>J-PAL/CEGA</i> • <i>Labour Economics</i> • <i>Labour: Review of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations</i> • <i>National Science Foundation</i> • <i>Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics</i> • <i>Palgrave Macmillan</i> • <i>Pearson</i> • <i>Public Health</i> • <i>Quarterly Journal of Economics</i> • <i>Regional Science and Urban Economics</i> • <i>Review of Economics and Statistics</i> • <i>Review of Economic Studies</i> • <i>Review of Economics of the Household</i> • <i>Social Science and Medicine</i> • <i>Social Science Quarterly</i> • <i>Technology in Society</i> • <i>World Bank Economic Review</i>	
Other Professional Service		
	Committee on Research in Economic History, Economic History Association Board of Trustees, Cliometric Society ASSA Program Committee, Cliometrics Society Dissertation Session Committee Co-Chair, Economic History Association Nevins Dissertation Prize Convenor, Economic History Association ASSA Program Committee, Economic History Association Organizing Committee, PhD Mentoring Workshop for Women/ Non-Binary Students in Economics Organizing Committee, All-California Labor Economics Conference Membership Sub-Committee, Economic History Society Membership Committee, Economic History Association Council, Economic History Society Awards Committee, Economic History Society Co-Organizer, Class, Gender, & Childhood Conference (Oxford) Co-Organizer, Labour Markets & Living Standards Conference (Essex) Student Representative to the Council, Economic History Society	2025 — 2024 — 2024 — 2023 - 2024 2022 - 2023 2020 - 2022 2022 2021 2019 - 2020 2017 - 2020 2017 - 2020 2016 - 2019 2017 - 2018 2016 - 2017 2013 - 2016
Departmental, College, & University Service		
	Executive Committee, UCI Center for Population, Inequality, & Policy Committee for Faculty Diversity, Inclusion, and Development, UCI Core Faculty, PPE Masters Program, UCI Academic Personnel (Merits) Committee, Dept. of Economics, UCI Junior Recruiting Committee, Dept. of Economics, UCI Co-Organizer, Departmental Seminar Series, University of Essex D.Phil. Representative, Graduate Joint Consultative Committee, ESH Co-Organizer, Oxford ESH Graduate Seminar Series	2025 — 2025 — 2019 — 2025 - 2026 2018/9, 2020/1 2016 - 2017 2013 - 2014 2013 - 2014

Interviewer, Merton College Undergraduate Admissions 2012 - 2014
Co-Organizer, 20th Annual Oxford ESH Graduate Workshop 2012

TEACHING

UC Irvine Teaching		
Dissertation Research (PhD)	2021 —	
Development Economics (PhD)	2020 —	
Health and Development in Historical Perspective (PhD)	2019 —	
Independent Study (PhD); Individual Study (Undergraduate)	2019 —	
Development Economics (Undergraduate)	2019 —	
Economics of the Environment II (Undergraduate)	2019 —	
Essex Teaching		
Strategies of Economic Development (Undergraduate)	2016 - 2018	
Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate)	2016	
Oxford Teaching		
Microeconomics (Undergraduate)	2016	
British Economic History Since 1870 (Undergraduate)	2016	
Development Economics (Undergraduate)	2013 - 2016	
Quantitative Methods 2 (Masters/PhD)	2015	
Labor Economics (Undergraduate)	2014	
International Economics (Undergraduate)	2012 - 2014	
Econometrics (Undergraduate)	2013	
Approaches to History: Economics (Undergraduate)	2013	
Macroeconomics (Undergraduate)	2012	
Training & Certification		
Associate Fellow, Higher Education Academy (UK Teaching Accreditation)	2014	
Oxford Divisional Teaching Training	2013	

ADVISING

Ph.D. Advising (* denotes chair/co-chair)
Advitha Arun (Expected 2028) • Emily Anderson (Expected 2026) • Levi Edwards (Expected 2026) • Daniel Tracht (Expected 2026) • Vandana Ramakrishnan (Expected 2026) • Mark Van Orden* (2025, Stanford Postdoc) • Paul Lowood (2025, Texas Tech Postdoc) • Manasvi Sharma* (2024, FLAME University Pune) • Yoonjung Kim (2022, Korea Institute for International Economic Policy) • Mark Hup (2021, Peking University) • Neil Bennett (2020, U.S. Census Bureau) • Pierre Rialland* (2018, Alterfin)

Other Advising

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Supervisor (UC Irvine, 1 Thesis, 2019) • Masters Dissertation Supervisor (Essex, 2 Dissertations, 2018) • Undergraduate Dissertation Supervisor (Essex, 10 Dissertations, 2016-2017)