Stanford



Logan Istre

Research and Teaching Fellow, HOOVER RESEARCH

Bio

BIO

Logan Istre is a research and teaching fellow with the Hoover Institution's History Lab at Stanford University. A historian of American political economy, ideas, and institutional development, he studies how Americans sought to reshape civic life during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. His scholarship combines political, economic, and intellectual history to examine the connections between popular movements, organized interests, and political leaders.

His forthcoming book, Farmers, Unite! The Movement that Remade Rural America, recovers a broad farmers' movement between 1850 and 1920 whose organizations and institutional ambitions extended beyond electoral Populism. Through cooperatives, agricultural associations, educational networks, and government agencies, rural Americans pursued a sustained effort to transform the social conditions of rural life. The book connects nineteenth-century agrarianism to the development of modern political-economic institutions, reassessing the relationship between organized farmers and the modern American state. It asks how popular aspirations became durable governing arrangements and how reformers negotiated the tensions between democratic participation, organizational leadership, and administrative expertise.

Istre's other work extends these concerns across constitutional politics, economic thought, and regional institutional development. Articles like "Bench over Ballot: The Fight for Judicial Supremacy and the New Constitutional Politics, 1910–1916," and "The Enigma of San Francisco: Henry George and the Historians" have appeared in the Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era. Istre's most recent article in the Journal of Southern History, "The Planter's Leviathan: State Power and the Redemption of Southern Agriculture, 1865–1880," demonstrates how Southern planters came to embrace federal economic intervention after the Civil War. Other work examines the relationship between historic American Populism and contemporary debates about populist politics. He received his PhD in US History from Louisiana State University in May 2026 and previously taught high school in New Orleans.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Research and Teaching Fellow, HOOVER RESEARCH

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **The Planter's Leviathan: State Power and the Redemption of Southern Agriculture, 1865-1880** *JOURNAL OF SOUTHERN HISTORY*
  Istre, L.
  2026; 92 (4): 679-720

- **The Enigma of San Francisco: Henry George and the Historians** *JOURNAL OF THE GILDED AGE AND PROGRESSIVE ERA*
  Istre, L. S.
  2025; 24 (1): 73-92
- **Bench over Ballot: The Fight for Judicial Supremacy and the New Constitutional Politics, 1910-1916** *JOURNAL OF THE GILDED AGE AND PROGRESSIVE ERA*
  Istre, L.
  2021; 20 (1): 2-23