



## Ran Abramitzky

Senior Associate Dean for Social Sciences, Stanford Federal Credit Union Professor of Economics, and Senior Fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

### Bio

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#### BIO

Ran Abramitzky is the Stanford Federal Credit Union Professor of Economics and Senior Associate Dean of the Social Sciences at Stanford University. His research in economic history and applied microeconomics focuses on immigration, social mobility, and inequality. An important strand of his research centers on constructing large-scale historical datasets to trace the long-run trajectories of immigrants and U.S.-born families, offering new perspectives on the American Dream.

His work has informed academic research, appeared in major media, and contributed to public discussions and policy debates on economic opportunity and immigration. He is a research associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research and a senior fellow at the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, and previously served as co-editor of *Explorations in Economic History*.

His honors include a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Sloan Fellowship, an honorary doctorate from the University of Southern Denmark, Stanford's Economics Department and Dean's Awards for Distinguished Teaching, and grants from the National Science Foundation and the Russell Sage Foundation. He is the author of *The Mystery of the Kibbutz* (2018), which received the Gyorgi Ranki Biennial Prize, and coauthor, with Leah Boustan, of *Streets of Gold* (2022), named among the best books of the year by *The New Yorker*, *Forbes*, and *Behavioral Scientist*. He received his PhD in economics from Northwestern University.

#### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Economics
- Senior Fellow, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR)

#### ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- The Stanford Federal Credit Union Professor of Economics, Stanford, (2022- present)
- Senior Associate Dean of the Social Sciences, Stanford University, (2020- present)
- Professor, Stanford, (2019- present)
- Senior Fellow, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR), (2015- present)
- Vice Chair, Economics Department, Stanford, (2014-2020)
- Faculty Senate, Stanford, (2014-2016)
- Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), (2013- present)
- Associate Professor, Stanford, (2013-2019)

- Stanford Faculty Scholar, Stanford, (2013-2014)
- Research Fellow, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, (2012-2012)
- Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), (2011-2013)
- Faculty Fellow, Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR), (2007-2015)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Stanford University, (2005-2013)
- Dissertation Fellowship, Crown Family Center for Jewish Studies, Northwestern, (2004-2005)
- Teaching Assistant Fellow, Searle Center for Teaching Excellence, Northwestern, (2004-2005)
- Dissertation Fellowship, Northwestern University, (2003-2004)
- Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, MMSS program, (2003-2004)
- Graduate Research Fellowship, Northwestern University, (2003-2003)
- Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, Department of Economics, (2000-2003)
- University Fellowship, Northwestern University, (1999-2000)
- Rector's Fellowship, School of Business Administration, Hebrew University, (1998-1999)
- Teaching Assistant, Hebrew University, Department of Economics, (1997-1999)

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- Guggenheim Fellowship, The John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation (2026)
- Honorary Doctorate, University of Southern Denmark (2025)
- NSF, "Colleges and Upward Mobility in the US Over the Last Century," \$500,000, National Science Foundation (2022-2025)
- RSF, "Colleges and Upward Mobility in the US Over the Last Century," \$166,553, Russell Sage Foundation (2022-2023)
- Ranki Biennial Prize for the best book in European Economic History in 2018/2019, Economic History Association (2019)
- RSF, "Cultural Assimilation during the Age of Mass Migration," \$105,000, Russell Sage Foundation (2016–2017)
- Excellence in Refereeing Award, American Economic Review (2016)
- Excellence in Refereeing Award, American Economic Review (2013)
- Dean's Award for Distinguished Teaching, Stanford University (2012)
- Excellence in Refereeing Award, Quarterly Journal of Economics (2012)
- NSF grant, "Economic Outcomes and Self-selection in the Age of Mass Migration," \$447,750, National Science Foundation (2010-2013)
- Economics Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award, Stanford University (2009)
- NSF Grant, "The Selection and Incentive Effects of Equal-Sharing," \$219,342, National Science Foundation (2007-2010)
- Alexander Gerschenkron Prize for the best dissertation in economic history, Economic History Association (2006)
- Dissertation Award, Economic History Association (2004)
- Pre-Dissertation Award, Economic History Association (2003)
- Teaching Assistant Awards, Northwestern University (2003)
- Teaching Assistant Awards, Northwestern University (2002)
- Teaching Assistant Awards, Northwestern University (2001)
- Department of Economics Award, Hebrew University (1998-1999)
- Dean's List, Hebrew University (1998)
- Dean's List, Hebrew University (1997)
- Program for Outstanding Students, Economics Department, Hebrew University (1996-1999)
- Dean's List, Hebrew University (1996)

## **BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Co-editor, Explorations in Economic History (2015 - 2019)
- Member, Scientific Committee, World Bank and the Center for Global Development, conferences on Migration and Development (2012 - present)
- Member, Committee on education in economic history, Economic History Association (2013 - 2016)
- Member, Editorial Board, Journal of Economic History (2013 - 2017)
- Co-director, Summer Institute for High School Economics Teachers (2013 - present)
- Member, Program Committee, European Economic Association (EEA) annual meetings (2013 - 2013)
- Member, Program Committee, Economic History Association (EHA) annual meetings (2012 - 2012)
- Member, Program Committee, World Bank and the Center for Global Development, 5th Int'l Conf. on Migration and Development (2013 - 2013)
- Economic History Association (EHA) Representative to the Allied Social Science Association (ASSA), Economic History Association (2009 - 2011)
- Referee, American Economic Review
- Referee, Quarterly Journal of economics
- Referee, Econometrica
- Referee, Journal of Political Economy
- Referee, Review of Economic Studies
- Referee, Journal of Economic History
- Referee, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics
- Referee, American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics
- Referee, Review of Economics and Statistics
- Referee, International Economic Review
- Referee, Journal of Public Economics
- Referee, Journal of Labor Economics
- Referee, Journal of Development Economics
- Referee, Journal of Human Resources
- Referee, Economic Journal
- Referee, Journal of European Economic Association
- Referee, Games and Economic Behavior
- Referee, Demography
- Referee, Journal of Population Economics
- Referee, Journal of Comparative Economics
- Referee, Population and Development
- Referee, Review
- Referee, Population Research and Policy Review
- Referee, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy
- Referee, Scandinavian Journal of Economics
- Referee, Economic Development and Cultural Change
- Referee, Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics
- Referee, Economic Quarterly [Hebrew]
- Referee, National Science Foundation

- Referee, Israel Science Foundation
- Referee, Falk Institute
- Job Market Placement Officer, Stanford University (2013 - 2013)
- Member, Undergraduate Policy Committee, Stanford University (2012 - 2013)
- Transfer Credit Policy, Stanford University (2012 - 2013)
- Member, Graduate Admission Committee, Stanford University (2006 - 2007)
- Member, Junior Recruiting Committee, Stanford University (2005 - 2006)

## PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., Northwestern University , Economics (2005)
- M.A., Northwestern University , Economics (2000)
- B.A, Hebrew University, Israel , Economics and Business (1998)

## LINKS

- Ran Abramitzky - Website: <http://web.stanford.edu/~ranabr/>

## Teaching

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### COURSES

#### 2025-26

- Economic History Seminar: ECON 325 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Topics in Economic History: ECON 229 (Win)

#### 2024-25

- Economic History Seminar: ECON 325 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Topics in Economic History: ECON 229 (Win)

#### 2023-24

- Big Ideas: Conversations with Stanford's Own Nobel Laureates & MacArthur "Genius" Fellows: CHEM 5, ECON 3, SOC 5 (Aut)
- Economic History Seminar: ECON 325 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Topics in Economic History: ECON 229 (Win)

#### 2022-23

- Economic History Workshop: ECON 325 (Aut, Win, Spr)
- Topics in Economic History: ECON 229 (Win)

## STANFORD ADVISEES

### Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Alvaro Calderon, Juliette Coly, Tamar (Tamri) Matiashvili, Alexia Olaizola, Monia Tomasella

### Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Kyra Frye

### Postdoctoral Research Mentor

Ahmet Gulek

## Publications

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### PUBLICATIONS

- **Finding John Smith: Using Extra Information for Historical Record Linkage** *EXPLORATIONS IN ECONOMIC HISTORY*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L., Gray, H., Eriksson, K., Perez, S., Postel, H., Rashid, M., Simon, N.  
2026; 101
- **Expression at the edge: Free speech boundaries amidst the Gaza crisis.** *Science advances*  
Abramitzky, R., Grossman, G., Lelkes, Y., Mansour, H., Mitts, T.  
2026; 12 (16): eaea5427
- **Economic Crisis and Disillusionment from Socialism: Evidence from a Quasi-Natural Experiment** *JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION*  
Abramitzky, R., Ben-Porath, N., Lavy, V., Palgi, M.  
2026
- **Law-Abiding Immigrants: The Incarceration Gap between Immigrants and the US-Born, 1870-2020** *AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW-INSIGHTS*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L., Jacome, E., Perez, S., Torres, J.  
2024; 6 (4): 453-471
- **Immigrants and their children assimilate into US society and the US economy, both in the past and today.** *PNAS nexus*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L.  
2024; 3 (10): pgae344
- **To Each According to Their Space-Need: Communes in Outer Space** *SPACE POLICY*  
Weinersmith, K. L., Weinersmith, Z. A., Abramitzky, R., Lehr, J.  
2024; 67
- **The Effect of Changes in the Skill Premium on College Degree Attainment and the Choice of Major** *JOURNAL OF LABOR ECONOMICS*  
Abramitzky, R., Lavy, V., Segev, M.  
2024
- **The Refugee Advantage: English-Language Attainment in the Early Twentieth Century** *SOCIOLOGICAL SCIENCE*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L., Catron, P., Connor, D., Voigt, R.  
2023; 10: 769-805
- **The Effect of Immigration Restrictions on Local Labor Markets: Lessons from the 1920s Border Closures** *AMERICAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL-APPLIED ECONOMICS*  
Abramitzky, R., Ager, P., Boustan, L., Cohen, E., Hansen, C. W.  
2023; 15 (1): 164-191
- **Computational analysis of 140 years of US political speeches reveals more positive but increasingly polarized framing of immigration.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*  
Card, D., Chang, S., Becker, C., Mendelsohn, J., Voigt, R., Boustan, L., Abramitzky, R., Jurafsky, D.  
2022; 119 (31): e2120510119
- **Automated Linking of Historical Data** *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC LITERATURE*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L., Eriksson, K., Feigenbaum, J., Perez, S.  
2021; 59 (3): 865-918
- **The long-term spillover effects of changes in the return to schooling & nbsp;** *JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ECONOMICS*  
Abramitzky, R., Lavy, V., Perez, S.  
2021; 196
- **Intergenerational Mobility of Immigrants in the United States over Two Centuries** *AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L., Jacome, E., Perez, S.  
2021; 111 (2): 580-608

- **Were Jews in interwar Poland more educated?** *JOURNAL OF DEMOGRAPHIC ECONOMICS*  
Abramitzky, R., Halaburda, H.  
2020; 86 (3): 291–304
- **Discrimination and the Returns to Cultural Assimilation in the Age of Mass Migration**  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L., Eriksson, K., Hao, S.  
AMER ECONOMIC ASSOC.2020: 340–46
- **Do Immigrants Assimilate More Slowly Today than in the Past?** *American economic review. Insights*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L., Eriksson, K.  
2020; 2 (1): 125–41
- **To the New World and Back Again: Return Migrants in the Age of Mass Migration** *ILR REVIEW*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L., Eriksson, K.  
2019; 72 (2): 300–322
- **TO THE NEW WORLD AND BACK AGAIN: RETURN MIGRANTS IN THE AGE OF MASS MIGRATION.** *Industrial & labor relations review*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L., Eriksson, K.  
2019; 72 (2): 300-322
- **The Mystery of the Kibbutz: Egalitarian Principles in a Capitalist World**  
Abramitzky, R.  
Princeton University Press.2018
- **To the New World and Back Again: Return Migrants in the Age of Mass Migration** *Industrial and Labor Relations Review*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L., Eriksson, K.  
2018
- **Immigration in American Economic History** *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC LITERATURE*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L.  
2017; 55 (4): 1311–45
- **Economics and the Modern Economic Historian** *Journal of Economic History*  
Abramitzky, R.  
2015; 75:4: 1240-1251
- **BOOK TRANSLATIONS AS IDEA FLOWS: THE EFFECTS OF THE COLLAPSE OF COMMUNISM ON THE DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE** *JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION*  
Abramitzky, R., Sin, I.  
2014; 12 (6): 1453-1520
- **HOW RESPONSIVE IS INVESTMENT IN SCHOOLING TO CHANGES IN REDISTRIBUTIVE POLICIES AND IN RETURNS?** *ECONOMETRICA*  
Abramitzky, R., Lavy, V.  
2014; 82 (4): 1241-1272
- **A Nation of Immigrants: Assimilation and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration** *JOURNAL OF POLITICAL ECONOMY*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L. P., Eriksson, K.  
2014; 122 (3): 467-506
- **A Nation of Immigrants: Assimilation and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration.** *The journal of political economy*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L. P., Eriksson, K.  
2014; 122 (3): 467-506
- **How Responsive is Investment in Schooling to Changes in Redistribution Policies and in Returns?** *Econometrica*  
Abramitzky, R., Levy, V.  
2014; 82 (4): 1241–1272
- **Have the poor always been less likely to migrate? Evidence from inheritance practices during the age of mass migration** *JOURNAL OF DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L. P., Eriksson, K.

2013; 102: 2-14

- **Have the poor always been less likely to migrate? Evidence from inheritance practices during the age of mass migration.** *Journal of development economics*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L. P., Eriksson, K.  
2013; 102: 2-14
- **ON THE OPTIMALITY OF LINE CALL CHALLENGES IN PROFESSIONAL TENNIS** *INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC REVIEW*  
Abramitzky, R., Einav, L., Kolkowitz, S., Mill, R.  
2012; 53 (3): 939-963
- **Europe's Tired, Poor, Huddled Masses: Self-Selection and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration.** *The American economic review*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L. P., Eriksson, K.  
2012; 102 (5): 1832-1856
- **Europe's Tired, Poor, Huddled Masses: Self-Selection and Economic Outcomes in the Age of Mass Migration** *AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW*  
Abramitzky, R., Boustan, L. P., Eriksson, K.  
2012; 102 (5): 1832-1856
- **Marrying Up: The Role of Sex Ratio in Assortative Matching** *AMERICAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL-APPLIED ECONOMICS*  
Abramitzky, R., Delavande, A., Vasconcelos, L.  
2011; 3 (3): 124-157
- **Lessons from the Kibbutz on the Equality-Incentives Trade-off** *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES*  
Abramitzky, R.  
2011; 25 (1): 185-207
- **On the (lack of) Stability of Communes: An Economic Perspective** *Oxford Handbook of the Economics of Religion*  
Abramitzky, R.  
edited by McCleary, R.  
Oxford University Press.2011: 169–189
- **Risk, Incentives, and Contracts: Partnerships in Rio de Janeiro, 1870-1891** *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC HISTORY*  
Abramitzky, R., Frank, Z., Mahajan, A.  
2010; 70 (3): 686-715
- **Is Hanukkah Responsive to Christmas?\*** *ECONOMIC JOURNAL*  
Abramitzky, R., Einav, L., Rigbi, O.  
2010; 120 (545): 612-630
- **The effect of redistribution on migration: Evidence from the Israeli kibbutz** *JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ECONOMICS*  
Abramitzky, R.  
2009; 93 (3-4): 498-511
- **The limits of equality: Insights from the Israeli kibbutz** *QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS*  
Abramitzky, R.  
2008; 123 (3): 1111-1159
- **The limits of equality: Insights from the Israeli Kibbutz**  
Abramitzky, R.  
CAMBRIDGE UNIV PRESS.2007: 527–27
- **Migration and human capital: Self-selection of indentured servants to the Americas** *JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC HISTORY*  
Abramitzky, R., Braggion, F.  
2006; 66 (4): 882-905
- **Vanderbilt Family** *Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History*  
Abramitzky, R.  
Oxford University Press.2004

- **"Du Pont Family", "Kettering Charles", "Lenin Vladimir Ilich", "Lewis John L.", "Malthusian and neo-Malthusian Theories"** *Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History*  
Abramitzky, R., Braggion, F.  
Oxford University Press.2004