

# Benjamin R. Lester

Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia  
Ten Independence Mall  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Phone: 215-574-6276  
Email: Benjamin.Lester@phil.frb.org  
Website: benjaminrlester.com

## 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.

### Unpublished Papers and Work in Progress

- (18) "Marketmaking with Search and Information Frictions" (with A. Shourideh, V. Venkateswaran, and A. Zetlin-Jones)
- (19) "The Heterogeneous Impact of Referrals on Labor Market Outcomes" (with D. Rivers and G. Topa)
- (20) "Inventory, Marketmaking, and Liquidity in OTC Markets" (with A. Cohen, M. Kargar and P.O. Weill)
- (21) "Signals, Interviews, and Discrimination in the Labor Market" (with P. Gottardi 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

### Editorial Duties

Associate Editor, *Theoretical Economics*, July 2018 – July 2024  
 Associate Editor, *International Economic Review*, April 2018 – April 2024  
 Guest Editor, *Review of Economic Dynamics*, Special Issue on "Fragmented Financial Markets"

### Grants, Honors, and Awards

*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)

*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

## **Teaching**

*University of Pennsylvania*

Search Theory and Applications (PhD): 2019, 2020  
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)

## **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*

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-2009: FRB New York, Bank of Canada, FRB Cleveland, Penn, Washington University in St. Louis, Michigan (Finance), Western Ontario, Queens, Fed Board, Michigan (Econ), Rochester  
2010: UCLA, FRB Minneapolis, Toronto, Wisconsin, Waterloo, Simon Fraser  
2011: FRB Richmond, FRB St. Louis, FRB New York, Financial Econ Workshop at NYU, FRB Philadelphia, Georgetown, UC-Irvine, UC- Davis, Universidad Carlos III, Iowa, Wharton Brownbag  
2012: FRB Philadelphia, Wharton Brownbag  
2013: Wharton Brownbag, Rutgers, Penn State (2), Western Ontario, NYU, Princeton, Iowa, Yale, Carnegie-Mellon  
2014: FRB Chicago, FRB Philadelphia, Wisconsin (Finance), UNC-Duke, Wharton Brownbag, UBC  
2015: FRB New York, Bern, Lausanne, Purdue, Arizona State, Fed Board, Yeshiva, EUI, Einuadi, Bocconi, Villanova, Wharton Brownbag  
2016: Ohio State, FRB Chicago, Bank of Canada, Penn 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\*, Venderbilt\*, INSEAD\*

#### *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

### *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

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