

**T. WILLIAM LESTER**  
**CURRICULUM VITAE**  
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## **Education**

Ph.D., City & Regional Planning University of California, Berkeley— Dec. 2009

M.U.P.P, University of Illinois at Chicago—May 2001

B.A. (*Magna Cum Laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*), Urban Studies and Economics, University of Pennsylvania—May 1999

## **Professional Experience**

*Associate Professor*, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (July 2016-present)

*Assistant Professor*, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill (Fall 2010-July 2016)

*Visiting Scholar*, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, University of California, Berkeley, Spring 2014.

*Assistant Chair*, Donald Vial Center for Employment in the Green Economy, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, University of California, Berkeley. (August 2009- June 2010.)

*Postdoctoral Fellow*, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment. (August 2009- June 2010.)

## **Awards and Honors**

American Planning Association, Best Paper Award (runner up), *Journal of the American Planning Association* (JAPA)

Urban Affairs Association, Best Paper Award for 2014 in the *Journal of Urban Affairs*.

Chester Rapkin Award, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP), for best paper published in 2012 in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research* (JPER).

Faculty Fellow, Institute for the Environment, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, current.

Scholar in Residence, Center for Urban and Regional Studies, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Spring 2013.

Junior Faculty Development Award, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2011-2.

University of California, Institute for Labor and Employment, Labor and Employment Research Fund (LERF) Dissertation Fellowship, 2008.

Kaye Bock Memorial Award for Citizenship to the Department, 2007.

Michael B. Teitz Fellowship, Department of City and Regional Planning, 2006.

Department of City and Regional Planning, Departmental Fellowship, 2005-2006.

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award, Fall 2004.

UIC Urban Planning and Policy Program, Masters Project entitled "Searching for Racial Integration in Chicago's Neighborhoods- Evidence from Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) Data from the 1990s." selected by faculty as one of three best projects.

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Delta Chapter of Pennsylvania, May 1999.

Norman Glickman Award for Best Urban Studies Senior Seminar Paper, May 1999

## Book Chapters

Persky, Joseph, Kurban, Haydar and **Lester, T. William**. 2000. "The Impact of Federal and State Expenditures on Residential Land Absorption in Metropolitan Chicago: A Quantitative Case Study", in *Suburban Sprawl: Public Policy and Private Decisions*, Wim Wiewel and Joseph Persky (eds.). pp. 228-255.

## Refereed Publications

### Published/In Press

Doussard, Marc, Shrock, Greg, and **Lester, T. William**. *Forthcoming*. "Did U.S. Regions with Manufacturing Design Generate More Production Jobs in the 2000s? New Evidence on Innovation and Regional Development." *Urban Studies*.

Dube, Arindrajit, **Lester, T. William** and Reich, Michael. 2016 "Minimum Wage Shocks, Employment Flows and Labor Market Frictions" *Journal of Labor Economics*. 34(3) 663-704. DOI: 10.1086/685449

Hartley, Daniel, Kaza, Nikhil, **Lester, T. William**. 2016. "Are America's Inner Cities Competitive? Evidence from the 2000s." *Economic Development Quarterly*, 30(2) 137-158. DOI: 10.1177/0891242416638932

**Lester, T. William** and Nguyen, Mai. 2016. "The Economic Integration of Immigrants and Regional Resilience" *Journal of Urban Affairs*. 38(1) 42-60. DOI: 10.1111/juaf.12205

BenDor, Todd and **Lester, T. William**. 2016 “Estimating the Size and Impact of the Ecosystem Restoration Economy” *Public Library of Science (PLOS ONE)*, June 17, 2015 DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0128339

BenDor, Todd, Livengood, Avery, and **Lester, T. William**, Davis, Adam, Logan Yonavjak 2015. “Defining and Evaluating the Restoration Economy,” *Restoration Ecology*. 23(3) 209-219. DOI: 10.1111/rec.12206.

**Lester, T. William**, Little, Mark, Jolley, Jason. 2015 “Assessing the Economic Impact of Alternative Biomass Uses: Biofuels, Wood Pellets, and Energy Production” *Journal of Regional Analysis and Policy*, 45(1): 36-46.

**Lester, T. William** 2014 “The Role of History in Redistributive Policy Discourse: Evidence from Living Wage Campaigns in Chicago and San Francisco” *Journal of Urban Affairs* 36(4): 783-806. DOI: 10.1111/juaf.12075 (**winner of 2014 JUAF Best Paper Award**)

**Lester, T. William**, Kaza, Nikhil and Kirk, Sarah 2014. “Making Room for Manufacturing: Understanding Threats to Industrial Land Conversion in Cities” *Journal of the American Planning Association*. 79(4): 295-313. DOI 10.1080/01944363.2014.915369 (**runner up for JAPA 2014 Best Paper Award**)

**Lester, T. William** and Hartley, Daniel 2014. “The Long Term Employment Impacts of Gentrification in the 1990s” *Regional Science and Urban Economics*. 45(1): 80-89. DOI: 10.1016/j.regsciurbeco.2014.01.003

**Lester, T. William**. 2014. “Chicago’s Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Program: Does it pass the ‘But-For’ Test? Evidence Using Time Series Data” *Urban Studies*. 51(4): 655-674. DOI: 10.1177/0042098013492229.

**Lester, T. William**, Lowe, Nichola, and Freyer, Alan. 2014. “Mediating Incentive Use: A Time-Series Assessment of Economic Development Deals in North Carolina” *Economic Development Quarterly*. 28(2): 132-146. DOI: 10.1177/0891242413514771

**Lester, T. William**. 2013. “Dedicating New Real Estate Transfer Taxes for Energy Efficiency: A Revenue Option for Scaling up Green Retrofit Programs” *Energy Policy*. November 2013, 62(1): 809–820. DOI: 10.1016/j.enpol.2013.07.050

Kaza, Nikhil, **Lester, T. William** and Rodriguez, Daniel. 2013. “The Green Building Contagion” *Urban Studies*. December 2013, 50(16): 3262-3282. DOI:10.1177/0042098013484540

**Lester, T. William** and Reckhow, Sarah. 2013. “Network Governance and Regional Equity: Shared Agendas or Problematic Partners?” *Planning Theory*. May 2013 12(2). DOI: 10.1177/1473095212455189.

**Lester, T. William.** 2012. “Labor Standards and Local Economic Development—Do Living Wage Provisions Harm Economic Growth?” *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. Fall 32(3): 331-348. DOI: 10.1177/0739456X12451599 (**selected for ACS P Chester Rapkin Best Paper Award**)

**Lester, T William.** 2011 “The Impact of Living Wage Laws on Urban Economic Development Patterns and the Local Business Climate: Evidence from California Cities,” *Economic Development Quarterly*. August 25(7): 237-254. DOI: 0891242411409205.

Chapple, Karen, Kroll, Cynthia, **Lester, T. William** and Montero, Sergio. 2011. “Innovation in the Green Economy: An Extension of the Regional Innovation System Model”, *Economic Development Quarterly*. February 25(1): 5-25. DOI: 10.1177/0891242410386219.

Dube, Arindrajit, **Lester, T. William** and Reich, Michael. 2010. “Minimum Wage Effects Across State Borders: Evidence from Contiguous Counties” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, November 92(4): 945-64. DOI: 10.1162/REST\_a\_00039 (**Recognized by ISI Web of Science as a “Highly Cited Paper”**)

Chapple, Karen and **Lester, T. William.** 2010. “The resilient regional labour market: The US case” *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*. 3(1): 85-104. DOI: 10.1093/cjres/rsp031

Pastor, Manuel, **Lester, T. William**, and Scoggins, Justin. 2009. “Why Regions? Why Now and Who Cares” *Journal of Urban Affairs*. 31(3): 269-296. DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-9906.2009.00460.x.

McMillen, Daniel P. and **Lester, T. William.** 2003. “Evolving Subcenters: Employment and Population Density in Chicago, 1970-2020” *Journal of Housing Economics*, 12(1): 60-81. DOI: 10.1016/S1051-1377(03)00005-6.

### **Under review**

**Lester, T. William** “Restructuring Restaurant Work: The impact of labor standards on employment practices in the restaurant industry: learning from extreme case comparisons” *Industrial Relations* (submitted April 2016).

### **Works in Progress**

**Lester, T. William** and Kaza, Nikhil. “Splintered Metropolitan Opportunity? Re-Examining the Relationship between Suburban Employment Centers and Inner City Job Opportunity”

**Lester, T. William** “Replacing Truth with Social Hope and Progress with Re-description: Can the Pragmatist Philosophy of Richard Rorty Help Reinvigorate Planning?”

## Other Academic Publications

**Lester, T. William** (2016) “Inside monopsony: Employer responses to higher labor standards in the full service restaurant industry” *Washington Center For Equitable Growth Working Paper Series*. WP2016-02. March 2016. 30pp. <http://equitablegrowth.org/inside-monopsony-employer-responses-higher-labor-standards-full-service-restaurant-industry/>

**Lester, T. William** and Brun, Lukas (2015) “Quantifying the Value of Place-Based Exchange Within A Global Production Network: The Case of High Point North Carolina’s Furniture Market” *Regions*. 297(1): 16-18.

**Lester, T. William** “2013 Chester Rapkin Award for the Best Article in Volume 32: “Labor Standards and Local Economic Development: Do Living Wage Provisions Harm Economic Growth?” Commentary in *Journal of Planning Education and Research* (Summer 2014).

Chapple, Karen and **Lester, T. William**. 2009. “Resilience in the Green Economy: Innovation and Adaption to Climate Change Legislation in California Regions” *Center for Community Innovation, Working Paper*..

Chapple, Karen and **Lester, T. William**. 2007. “Emerging Patterns of Regional Resilience” *Building Resilient Regions Working Paper, Institute for Urban and Regional Development*.

Chapple, Karen, Spaid, Erica, and **Lester, T. William**. 2007. "Shaping a Mixed-Income Future: Lessons from Richmond, California." *Institute of Urban and Regional Development Working Paper*. Berkeley, CA: UC-Berkeley.

Dube, Arindrajit, **Lester, T. William** and Eidlin, Barry, “Firm Entry and Wages: Impact of Wal-Mart Growth on Earnings Throughout the Retail Sector” (August 7, 2007). Available at SSRN: <http://dx.doi.org.libproxy.lib.unc.edu/10.2139/ssrn.841684> (471 downloads to date)

**Lester, T. William** and Chapple, Karen. 2005. “Rising Income Inequality and the Changing Economic Geography of U.S. Metropolitan Areas in the 1990s: Do Regional Institutions Make a Difference?” *Community Vitality Online White Paper Series, Michigan State University*.

## Refereed Conference Presentations

“Improving Labor Standards in the Restaurant Industry: A Comparative Study” Presented at the joint Labor and Employment Research Association (LERA)/Allied Social Science Association (ASSA)/American Economics Association (AEA) Conference. San Francisco, CA. Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016.

“Are America’s Inner Cities Competitive Again? Evidence from the 2000s” Presented at the

55<sup>th</sup> Annual Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Conference, Houston, TX, October 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015.

“Raising the Bar: How Local Labor Standards Reshape Employment Practices in the Restaurant Industry” Presented at the pre-organized session “Low-Wage Work in the American City”: Association of American Geographers (AAG) Conference, Chicago, IL. April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

“Are America’s Inner Cities Competitive Again? Evidence from the 2000s” Presented at the 45th Annual Urban Affairs Association Conference, Miami, FL April 10th, 2015.

“Inside Monopsony: A Mixed-Methods Approach to Understanding How Labor Standards Shape Employment Practices in the Restaurant Industry” Presented at: Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) annual conference October 30<sup>th</sup> 2014.

“Inside Monopsony: A Mixed-Methods Approach to Understanding How Labor Standards Shape Employment Practices in the Restaurant Industry” Labor and Employment Research Association (LERA) Conference, Portland, OR. June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

“Estimating the Size and Impact of the Restoration Economy” Presented at the Industry Studies Association (ISA) Conference, Portland, OR. May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

“The Long Term Employment Impacts of Gentrification in the 1990s” Presented at the Urban Affairs Association (UAA) Conference, San Antonio, TX. March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2014.

“Replacing Truth with Social Hope and Progress with Re-description: Can the Pragmatist Philosophy of Richard Rorty Help Reinvigorate Planning?” Presented at the Association of European Schools of Planning (AESOP) Conference, July 14<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> 2013, Dublin, Ireland.

“The Role of History in Redistributive Policy Discourse: Evidence from Living Wage Campaigns in Chicago and San Francisco” Presented at the Urban Affairs Association Conference, April 3-5<sup>th</sup>, 2013, San Francisco, CA.

“The Long Term Employment Impacts of Gentrification in the 1990s” Presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Conference, November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012, Cincinnati, OH.

“The Impact of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) on Economic Development in Chicago: Addressing the “But-For” Question with Time Series Data” Presented at: World Planning Schools Congress, Perth, Australia, July 4-7th, 2011.

“When are Economic Development Incentives Successful: Evidence from a Time-series Analysis from North Carolina” Presented at the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) Conference, Salt Lake City, UT, October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

“Dedicating New Real Estate Transfer Taxes for Energy Efficiency: A Revenue Option

for Scaling up Green Retrofit Programs” Policy Paper to be Presented at: Big Ideas for Job Creation Conference (a joint project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the UC Berkeley Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, Berkeley, CA June 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2011.

“The Politics and Economics of Changing Labor Market Institutions at the Urban Scale: The Living Wage Movement in Chicago and San Francisco” Presented at: Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) annual conference October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

“Innovation in the Green Economy: The Mix of Innovation, Industries, and Regions in an Emerging Industry” Presented at the Industry Studies Annual Conference Chicago, IL May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

“Resilience in the Green Economy: Innovation and Adaption to Climate Change Legislation in California Regions” Presented at: Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) annual conference October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009, Crystal City, VA.

“The Impact of Living Wage Laws on Urban Economic Development Patterns and the Local Business Climate: Evidence from California Cities” Presented at: Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) annual conference, July 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Chicago, IL.

“Why Regions? Why Now? and Who Cares?” Presented at: Urban Affairs Association Annual Conference, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Baltimore, MD.

“The Living Wage Movement: Changing Labor Market Institutions and the Impact on Urban Economic Development, Evidence from California Cities”, Presented at: Association of American Geographers Annual Conference, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008, Boston, MA.

“Emerging Patterns of Regional Resilience” with Dr. Karen Chapple. Presented at: Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) annual conference, Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>, 2006, Ft. Worth, TX.

## **Additional Invited Presentations**

“Are America’s Inner Cities Competitive? Evidence from the 2000s” Presentation at Revisiting the Promise and Problems of Inner City Economic Development. A summit hosted by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC), and the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research. Detroit, MI. September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

“Estimating the Size and Impacts of the Ecological Restoration Economy” Presentation to the North Carolina Coastal Commission’s Coastal Restoration as Economic Development Task Force. Chapel Hill, NC. August, 28<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

“The State of Low Wage Work in North Carolina” Presentation for the UNC Center for Poverty Work and Opportunity, Wilson Library, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015.

- “Labor Standards and their Impact on Urban Economic Development” Invited Presentation, University of Pennsylvania, Department of City and Regional Planning, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2015.
- “Debating the Moral and Economic Reasons for Increasing the Minimum Wage” UNC School of Law, January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2015.
- “Research Highlights from the Minimum Wage Debates” Working Group for Economic Development, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2014.
- “The Minimum Wage Debates” Debate participant opposing chief economist from the Heritage Foundation. Washington Policy Center. University of Washington and Gonzaga University. April 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2014. Seattle and Spokane, WA.
- “Replacing Truth with Social Hope and Progress with Re-description: Can the Pragmatist Philosophy of Richard Rorty Help Reinvigorate Planning?” Presented at the Department of City and Regional Planning Colloquium, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. University of California, Berkeley.
- “Economic Impact of the International Home Furnishings Market” High Point, NC. Presentation of findings to elected officials and gathered press. October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
- “Making Room for Manufacturing: Understanding Threats to Industrial Land Conversion in Chicago, IL” Presented at Harbin Institute of Technology, Harbin, China. June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013.
- “The Economic Integration of Immigrants: The Links between Economic Structure, Institutions and Regional Resilience” (with Mai Nguyen) Building Resilient Regions Research Network Symposium, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2013, Washington D.C.
- “Business Incentives: Where They Work and Where They Don’t” North Carolina Policy Watch Crucial Conversations Series. September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Raleigh, NC.
- “The Job(s) of Retrofitting Cities: Job Creation Estimates from State and Local Governmental Energy Efficiency Policies in the U.S.” Presented at Guizhou University, Guizhou Province, China in conjunction with the Eco-Forum Global. Guiyang. July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2012.
- “Mediating Incentive Use: A Time-Series Assessment of Economic Development Deals in North Carolina” UNC Working Group on Economic Development (WGED). Chapel Hill, NC. February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012.
- “The Impact of Living Wage Laws on Urban Economic Development Patterns and the Local Business Climate: Evidence from California Cities” Invited lecture to: Research Department, Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2010.



“The Impact of Living Wage Laws on Employment in California Cities” Presented at: Institute for Research on Labor and Employment (IRLE) Fall 2009 seminar series. Sept, 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Berkeley, CA

“The Living Wage Movement: The Impact on Urban Economic Development in California Cities” Job talk presentation to the Department of City and Regional Planning, University of North Carolina, January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009, Chapel Hill, NC.

“Suburban Employment Subcenters and the Jobs-Affordable Housing Mismatch: A Detailed Description of the Policy Problem, 1990-2000” Presented at: *Interpreting Neighborhood Change in Chicago*, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2003, Chicago, IL

## **Professional reports and planning tools**

“Economic Impacts of the North Carolina Aquariums” with Carolyn Fryberger. February, 2014. Prepared for the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR)

“Economic Impact Analysis of The International Home Furnishings Market In High Point, NC” September, 2013. Prepared for the High Point Market Authority.

“Economic Impact Analysis of Biofuels Alternatives in Pitt County, North Carolina” April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013. (with Mark Little, Jen Slessinger and G. Jason Jolly) Kenan Institute for Private Enterprise.

“[Mediated Incentives: Making North Carolina's Economic Development Incentive Programs Work Better through Strategic Investments](#)” October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012. (with Nichola Lowe and Allan Freyer). North Carolina Budget and Tax Center.

“[Retrofitting Homes](#)” Nov. 2011. A Policy Brief for the Big Ideas for Job Creation Project, a project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation and the UC Berkeley Institute of Research on Labor and Employment.

“California Workforce Education & Training Needs Assessment For Energy Efficiency, Distributed Generation, and Demand Response” (Co-author), March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Prepared for the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC).

“Creating Good Jobs in Our Communities: How Higher Wage Standards Affect Economic Development and Employment” (with Ken Jacobs). November 2010. Prepared for the Center for American Progress Action Fund

“The Economic Consequences of Proposed California Budget Cuts” Policy Brief, Center for Labor Education and Research, UC Berkeley, May 2010. With Ken Jacobs and Laurel Lucia.

- “Innovating the Green Economy in California Regions” A Report for the U.S. Economic Development Administrations, Draft, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009. With Karen Chapple, Malo Hutson, Cynthia Kroll and Larry Rosenthal.
- “A Downward Push: The Impact of Wal-Mart Stores On Retail Wages And Benefits” With Arin Dube and Barry Eidlin - UC Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, 2007
- “Gasoline Station Divorcement Legislation: Economic Impact Report”, Office of Economic Analysis, City and County of San Francisco, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007. Lead author.
- “2002 Metropolis Index” Prepared for Chicago Metropolis 2020. Lead researcher from the University of Illinois at Chicago.
- “2002 Chicago Affordable Housing Factbook”, Prepared for the Chicago Rehab Network.
- “The Economic and Fiscal Benefits of O’Hare Airport Expansion to Bensenville and Elk Grove Village, Illinois”, Economic Impact Study Prepared for the City of Chicago. March, 2002. Co-authored with Ron Baiman, Joseph Persky, Nik Theodore.
- “Assessing Comparative Advantage in Chicago’s Manufacturing Sector: A Profile of Existing Firms and the Impact of their Retention on Chicago’s Workers and Neighborhoods” Prepared for the City of Chicago Department of Planning and Development, 2002. Lead author.
- “Employment Subcenter Identification Project: Final Summary Report”, Prepared for the Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission, 2002. Co-authored with Daniel McMillen.
- “Economic Development Evaluation Model”, City of Chicago, Department of Planning and Development, 2001. Developed an Excel based cost-benefit model for planners to evaluate impacts of subsidized projects in Chicago and its seven neighborhood planning districts.
- “The Regional Analysis and Target Industry Identification Project”, State of Illinois, Department of Commerce and Community Affairs, (September, 2000) Developed the *Industry Targeting Analysis Application* in Excel that assists economic developers in selecting high impact industries in the State of Illinois.

## **Press Engagements and Public Service**

- January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2016 “How worker-friendly laws changed life as a server in San Francisco restaurants” *Washington Post*. (<https://t.co/oeJHZOm9Rz>)
- April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 “Furniture Market organizers fear economic backlash from N.C. boycott” *Associate Press*. (<http://www.thetimesnews.com/article/20160415/NEWS/160419344>)
- March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2015 “Some Triangle restaurants decide to pay employees a living wage” *Raleigh News and Observer* (<http://www.newsobserver.com/living/food-drink/article16188116.html>)

March 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015 “Wanted: Higher-paying jobs” *Triangle Business Journal*.  
<http://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/print-edition/2015/03/13/wanted-higherpaying-jobs.html>

August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014 “The Future of Minimum Wage Will Be Decided in Cities” *New Republic*  
(<http://www.newrepublic.com/article/118912/city-specific-minimum-wage-policies-are-increasing>)

June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014 “Background Briefing with Ian Masters-States and Cities Move Ahead on Minimum Wage” ([20 minute radio interview](#)) KPFA Los Angeles and syndicated on 100 stations in the U.S.

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2014. Expert testimony provided on California SB935 (Minimum Increase to \$13.00/hour). Senate Industrial and Labor Relations Committee, Sacramento, CA.

February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014 “Raising the Minimum Wage” *The State of Things*, WUNC, NPR Radio affiliate, Chapel Hill, NC. <http://wunc.org/post/raising-minimum-wage#>

February 10<sup>th</sup> 2014 “Today on Your Call: Who would benefit from a minimum wage hike?” *Your Call*. KALW Radio San Francisco. <http://kalw.org/post/today-your-call-who-would-benefit-minimum-wage-hike>

November 14, 2013. “Do TIFs Create More Jobs? New Study: ‘No’ ” *Chicago Magazine*,  
<http://www.chicagomag.com/city-life/November-2013/Do-TIFs-Create-Jobs-A-New-Study-Says-No/>

May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 “Why Won't This McDonalds Move 20 Feet Into Lower-Wage Idaho?” Northwest News Network, Oregon Public Broadcasting.  
<http://www.opb.org/news/article/npr-why-wont-this-mcdonalds-move-20-feet-into-lower-wage-idaho/>

March 27<sup>th</sup>, 2013. (provided expert opinion), *90.7FM WFAE Charlotte NPR affiliate*.  
“Foreign Investment Created 7,000 NC Jobs In 2011.”  
<http://wfae.org/post/foreign-investment-created-7000-nc-jobs-2011>

February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2013 “Raising the minimum wage: Trickle-up economics” *The Economist*.  
<http://www.economist.com/news/united-states/21571894-president-proposes-hefty-increase-minimum-wage-trickle-up-economics>

January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013. (interviewed about research) *National Public Radio*. “New Year Brings Minimum-Wage Hikes In 10 States.”  
<http://www.npr.org/2013/01/01/168348945/new-year-brings-minimum-wage-hikes-in-10-states>

November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2012. Public testimony before the *City of New York* Contracts Committee

hearing on the Revised Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act (Proposed Int. No. 251-A).

May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2011. Public testimony before the City of New York Contracts Committee hearing on the Fair Wages for New Yorkers Act (Proposed Int. No. 251-A).

Radio New Zealand interview on *Places* (broadcast nationally). April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

[http://www.radionz.co.nz/search?mode=results&queries\\_all\\_query=minimum+wage](http://www.radionz.co.nz/search?mode=results&queries_all_query=minimum+wage)

## Op-Ed/Blogs/Pubic Writing

Lester, T. William March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016 “The consequences of higher labor standards in full service restaurants” *WCEG Equatablog*. (<http://equitablegrowth.org/the-consequences-of-higher-labor-standards-in-full-service-restaurants/>)

**Lester, T. William**, Madland, David, Odum, Jackie Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 “Raising the Minimum Wage Would Help, Not Hurt, Our Economy” *Center for American Progress Action Fund*. <http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/labor/news/2013/12/03/80222/raising-the-minimum-wage-would-help-not-hurt-our-economy/>

**Lester, T. William** and Lowe, Nichola. Dec. 29<sup>th</sup>, 2012 “Business incentives, OK, but smarter ones for North Carolina.” *Raleigh News and Observer*. <http://www.newsobserver.com/2012/12/29/2569965/business-incentives-ok-but-smarter.html>

**Lester, T. William**, Madland, David, and Bunker, Nick. June 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011. “An Increased Minimum Wage Is Good Policy Even During Hard Times” [http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2011/06/higher\\_minimum\\_wage.html](http://www.americanprogressaction.org/issues/2011/06/higher_minimum_wage.html)

May 11<sup>th</sup> 2011. “An Assessment of Methods and Findings of the New York City Economic Development Corporation’s Living Wage Study” co-authored with 12 others. National Employment Law Project. <http://www.nelp.org/page/-/Justice/2011/AssessmentEDCStudyMay2011.pdf?nocdn=>

## Academic Teaching Experience

*Instructor*, “PLAN 714- Urban Spatial Structure” Fall 2011-2016. Department of City and Regional Planning, UNC Chapel Hill. (32, 44, 31, 42, 36, 51 students respectively).

*Instructor*, “PLAN 720- Planning Methods,” Fall 2015, Department of City and Regional Planning, UNC Chapel Hill (39 students).

*Instructor*, “PLAN 771- Development Planning Techniques”, Spring 2011, 2012, 2013, 2015 Department of City and Regional Planning, UNC Chapel Hill. (11, 12, 14, and 21 students respectively)

*Instructor*, “PLAN 89- Urban Growth, Structure, and the Response to Economic Crises (First Year Seminar)”, Spring & Fall 2011, Spring 2015, Department of City and Regional Planning, UNC Chapel Hill. (16, 18, and 21 students respectively)

*Instructor*, “PLAN 823” *Workshop in Economic Development*, Fall 2014, Department of City and Regional Planning, UNC Chapel Hill. (10 students). Project: “[The State of Low-Wage North Carolina](#)”

*Instructor*, “PLAN 823” *Workshop in Economic Development*, Fall 2013, Department of City and Regional Planning, UNC Chapel Hill. (8 students). Project: “Hog Dollars: Strategies for Re-using North Carolina’s Hog Waste Stream for Economic Development in Eastern North Carolina.”

*Organized Independent Doctoral Study* “PLAN 896 – How Planning Research Matters: Contextualized Knowledge, Applied Phronesis, and Social Hope” Spring 2013 (2 doctoral students)

*Instructor*, “PLAN 823” *Workshop in Economic Development*, Fall 2010, Department of City and Regional Planning, UNC Chapel Hill. Project: “Leveraging UNC to Promote Entrepreneurship and Business Expansion in Orange County, NC.” (7 students).

*Co-instructor*, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley. (Fall 2005). Course Title: “Methods of Planning Data Analysis, CP204A” Supervisors: Dr. Karen Chapple, Dr. Robert Cervero.

*Graduate Student Instructor* Department of City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley. (Fall 2004). Course Title: “Methods of Planning Data Analysis, CP204A” Supervisors: Dr. Karen Chapple, Dr. John Landis.

*Graduate Student Instructor*, Department of City and Regional Planning, University of California, Berkeley. (Spring 2005). Course Title: “Workshop in Regional Analysis, CP225” Supervisors: Dr. Karen Chapple.

## **Advising**

*Masters Project Adviser/Reader:*

2016:

Michael Hogan- “*Building economic resilience through diversification in natural resource based economies*”

Andrew Trump- “*Feasibility of Redeveloping Historic Psychiatric Hospital Campuses: A Case Study of Broughton Hospital in Morganton, North Carolina*”

2015:

Adam Levin- “*Picking a Winner: Arts and Culture-Based Economic Development and Downtown Revitalization in Small Towns*”

Maggie Parker- *“Defining the ‘Tipping Point’ for Downtown Rocky Mount”*  
 Steven Reilly- *“Fostering Downtown Living: Overcoming Financial Barriers to Downtown Residential Development”*  
 Cara Wittekind- *“Planning for Racially Equitable (Re)Development: Leveraging the Power of Neighborhood Social and Commercial Centers in Urban Communities Of Color”*

2014:

Adrienne Heller- *“Following The Work: Transformation Of Emergent Groups Into Formal Community Organizations In Post-Disaster Recovery”*  
 Bill King- *“The Economic Development Impacts of Streetcars: Measuring the Impact of Streetcar Projects and Identifying the Factors Necessary for Stimulating Development in Streetcar Corridors”*

2013:

Patrick Nerz- *“Untangling Innovation; Barriers and Facilitators to Spinoff Creation at UNC-Chapel Hill”*  
 Connie Chan- *“Is the NYC Zoning Resolution Overly Restrictive on Manufacturing? Making the Case for Manufacturing in the Mixed Use Equation”*  
 Monisha Kurana- *“Opportunities for Freight Oriented Development In Durham County, North Carolina”*

2012:

Michael Chasnow- *“Strategies to Spur the Residential Energy Efficiency Retrofit Market”*  
 Lauren Wang- *“A Transportation Equity and Regional Job Assessment of the Triboro RX”*  
 Travis Green- *“Shifting Employment and Fractured vs. Contiguous Urban Growth”*  
 Jason Kajer (reader)- *“Reinventing U.S. Foreign Aid: How the Millennium Challenge Corporation is Addressing Aid Effectiveness”*

2011:

Lindsay Moriarty- *“An Empirical Study of the Emergence and Policy Implications of the Food Truck Industry in the Research Triangle Region”*  
 Aaron Nousaine- *“Defining a Critical Mass Threshold for Agricultural Support Services: An Economic Assessment of Western North Carolina”*  
 Fredrick Davis- *“Does Preservation Pay? A look at Historic Preservation as an Alternative Tool for Economic Development in Small and Rural Communities in North Carolina”*

#### *Doctoral Students*

Lindsay Mauer-Braun (exam committee)  
 Henry McCoy (exam committee, dissertation committee)  
 Allison Forbes (exam committee)  
 Amanda Whittemore Martin (exam committee)  
 Augustus Anderson (dissertation committee)  
 Mary Donnegan (dissertation committee)  
 Tony Sease (exam committee: planning theory, dissertation committee)  
 Alan Freyer (exam and dissertation committee: research design)  
 Joshu Shiu, (exam committee: research design)  
 Eric Vergel (exam committee: research methods, dissertation committee)

Louis Merlin (dissertation committee)

**Funded Research and Grants (Total Grant Award Listed, % for Lester as PI, or co- PI)**

Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation (\$58,280, UNC direct 100%). “National Study of Economic Development Incentives” (March 1<sup>st</sup> 2016, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2017)

National Science Foundation (\$50,000, \$12,896 (UNC direct), 50%). Early-concept Grants for Exploratory Research (EAGER) “Collaborative Research: Examining Links Between Innovation and Economic Development Using Business R&D and Innovation Survey Microdata” (September 2015- August 2017)

Washington Center for Equitable Growth (\$14,000 (UNC direct), 100%). “Inside Monopsony: A Mixed-Methods Approach to Understanding How Labor Standards Shape Employment Practices in the Restaurant Industry.” July 2014- June 2015.

North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (\$8,949, 100%) “Economic Impact of North Carolina’s Aquariums” November 2013-April 2014.

The Blue Moon Foundation (\$55,000, 40%) “Exploring and Understanding the Restoration Economy” (co-PI with Todd BenDor) Spring 2014.

The Walton Family Foundation (\$30,000, 40%) “Exploring and Understanding the Restoration Economy” (co-PI with Todd BenDor) April-August 2013.

The Urban Institute and The Brookings Institution’s What Works Collaborative (\$75,000. 40%) *Principal Investigator* (with Nikhil Kaza). “Incubator Study on Land Use and Industrial Preservation” ) August 2012-2013.

Scholar in Residence AY 2012-13, Center for Urban and Regional Studies (CURS), University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. (Course buyout approx. \$15,000). Project Title: “Inside Monopsony: A Mixed Methods Approach to Understanding Local Labor Market Dynamics”

Annie E. Casey Foundation/UC Berkeley (\$1,500, 100%) “Big Ideas for Job Creation” paper award.

Junior Faculty Development Award (\$7,500), College of Arts and Sciences, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Project Title: “Explaining the Geography of the Green Economy”

W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2011 (\$5,000, 100%) Project Title: "When Are Economic Development Incentive Grants Successful? Evidence from a Time-series Analysis of North Carolina’s State and Local Recruitment Deals."

## Academic Research Experience

*Assistant Chair*, Donald Vial Center for Employment in the Green Economy, California Needs Assessment of Workforce Issues for Energy Efficiency, Demand-Side Management, Renewable Energy and the Green Economy, Funded by Southern California Edison (\$1.1 million). August 2009-July 2010.

*Postdoctoral Fellow*, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment. August 2009- July 2010.

*Graduate Student Researcher*, Innovation in California's Green Economy Project, Funded by the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA). Center for Community Innovation (CCI), (Spring 2009) for Dr. Karen Chapple, University of California, Berkeley.

*Graduate Student Researcher*, Institute for Research on Labor and Employment (IRLE), (Fall 2006-Spring 2008) for Dr. Michael Reich and Dr. Arin Dube, University of California, Berkeley.

*Graduate Student Researcher*, Institute for Urban and Regional Development (IURD). (Spring 2004-Summer 2008) for Dr. Karen Chapple and Dr. Margaret Weir, University of California, Berkeley.

*Community Innovation Fellow*, Center for Community Innovation, Spring 2006-Fall 2010.

## Professional Practice

### *Consulting Clients*

Civic Ventures  
Think NC First  
Center for Labor Research and Education, University of California, Berkeley.  
Blue Green Alliance  
Duke University Center for Globalization, Governance and Competitiveness.  
High Point Market Authority, High Point, NC  
South by North Strategies, Inc.  
City of Oakland, Central Estuary Area Plan.  
Sonoma County Living Wage Coalition  
Ford Foundation

*Staff Economist*, City of San Francisco, Office of Economic Analysis, (October 2007-February 2008).

*Associate*, ICF Consulting, Inc. (Nov. 2005-Sept. 2006)  
Projects: San Francisco Economic Strategy Project (Proposition I); Film Industry Strategy.



*Research Analyst*, Center for Regional Employment Strategies (CRES), (Dec. 2002-May 2004) Research center affiliated with the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor AFL-CIO.

*Economic Development Planner*, University of Illinois at Chicago, Center for Urban Economic Development. (June 2001-Dec. 2002).

*Intern*, City of Chicago, Department of Planning and Development, Neighborhoods Division, Central Area. (May-November 2000).

*Intern*, Woodstock Institute, Chicago, IL. (May- August 1998)

## **Academic Service**

UNC Department of City and Regional Planning, Chair, Curriculum Committee, Fall 2015-Spring 2016.

UNC Department of City and Regional Planning, Data Czar, Fall 2014- Spring 2016.

UNC Department of City and Regional Planning, Phd Program Committee, Spring 2013-Spring 2014.

UNC Department of City and Regional Planning, Strategic Planning Implementation Committee, Spring 2013- Spring 2014.

UNC Department of City and Regional Planning, Faculty Seminar Organizer, 2012-2015.

Faculty Advisor, *Carolina Planning Journal*. 2012-13.

Editorial Board:

*Journal of Planning Education and Research (2015-2017)*

Referee/Reviewer:

*Berkeley Planning Journal*

*B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy*

*British Journal of Industrial Relations*

*Cities*

*Columbia University Press*

*Economic Development Quarterly*

*Industrial and Labor Relations Review*

*Industrial Relations*

*Journal of the American Planning Association*

*Journal of Labor Economics*

*Journal of Planning Education and Research*

*Journal of Urban Affairs*

*Journal of Regional Science*

*Public Administration Review*

*Planning Theory*  
*Regional Science and Urban Economics*  
*Research Policy*  
*Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada*  
*University of California Press*  
*Urban Affairs Review*  
*Urban Studies*  
*WorkingUSA*

## **Contact information**

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