

Matthew J. D. Curtis

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Education	University of California, Davis Ph.D., Economics Committee: Gregory Clark (Chair), Katherine Eriksson, Santiago Pérez	Expected 2021
	Tufts University, B.A. Quantitative Economics and Mathematics Magna Cum Laude with High Thesis Honors	2012
Fields	Economic History, Labor Economics, Economic Development	
Publications	Twins Support Absence of Parity-Dependent Fertility Control in Pretransition Populations with Gregory Clark and Neil Cummins. <i>Demography</i> .	2020
Teaching	Associate instructor Economic Development World Economic History Since the Industrial Revolution	Planned 2021 2019
	Teaching assistant US Economic History after 1865 World Economic History before the Industrial Revolution History of the United States since 1865 World Economic History before the Industrial Revolution World Economic History since the Industrial Revolution Poverty, Inequality, and Public Policy US Economic History before 1865	2018, 2019, 2020 2019 2019 2019 2017 2017 2016
Relevant Positions	Graduate Student Researcher Research assistant for Gregory Clark Co-instructor (informal) for economic history research seminar Research assistant for Katherine Eriksson	2017 – 2020 2020 2018
	Senior Research Assistant Federal Reserve Bank of Boston Research assistant for Christopher Foote	2012 – 2015
Fellowships,	GSA Travel Award, UC Davis	2020

Honors and Awards	Travel Grant, UC Davis Economics Department	2019
	Exploratory Travel and Data Grant, Economic History Association	2018
	ISS Summer Research Support Award, UC Davis	2017
	Grad Scholars Fellowship, UC Davis	2016
	Phi Beta Kappa, Tufts Chapter, Delta of Massachusetts	2012
	Daniel Ounjian Prize in Economics, Tufts Economics Department	2011

Conference Presentations	Economic History Society Annual Conference	2021 (Planned)
	All UC Economic History Graduate Student Workshop	2019, 2020
	“Sex ratios and missing girls in history” Conference	2020
	Economic History Association Annual Meeting Poster Session	2020
	Economic History Society New Researcher Online Sessions	2020
	YSI Economic History Graduate Seminar	2020
	LSE Graduate Economic History Seminar	2020
	European Historical Economics Society Conference	2019
	Annual Cliometric Conference	2019
	Mountain West Economic History Conference	2019
CAGE, EHES, and IAS Summer School	2017	

Working Papers

The her in inheritance: marriage and mobility in Quebec 1800–1970 (Job Market Paper)

When did spouses begin to strongly match on economic ability? Many believe it is a modern development, a consequence of rising female employment and education levels. Using a large new dataset from Quebec, I find that marriage in Quebec was highly assortative as far back as the early 19th century. Moreover, assortment was not merely matching between similar families, but instead depended on the human capital of both men and women as individuals. Finally, I show that the abilities of women mattered as much as that of their husbands for the outcomes of their children. Strongly assortative marriage had always been important because the human capital of women mattered as much as that of men for marriage and mobility.

Before the fall: Child quantity and quality in pre-demographic transition Quebec 1620–1850

While it plays a key role in theories of the transition to modern economic growth, there are few estimates of the quantity-quality trade-off from before the demographic transition. Using a uniquely suitable new dataset of vital records, I use two instrumental variables — twin births and aggregate infant mortality shocks — to estimate the trade-off in Quebec between 1620 and 1850. I find strong evidence of a trade-off between family size and child literacy, albeit a relatively modest one.

Works in Progress

Commodities’ Production Function and Human Capital: Evidence from Puerto Rico with Mateo Uribe-Castro

**Was There A Crisis? Living Standards in Lower Canada,
1775 to 1850** with Vincent Geloso

**Treating the filles like a roi? Gender differences in child mortality,
Quebec 1620–1850.**

References

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Professor

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