

John A. O'Trakoun

CONTACT INFORMATION

Research Department
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CURRENT AFFILIATION

Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Richmond, Virginia USA

- Senior Policy Economist, Research Department (September 2020 - present)

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Ford Motor Company, Dearborn, Michigan USA

- Senior Economist, Corporate Economics and Strategic Issues (August 2015 - August 2020)

U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, District of Columbia USA

- Senior Economist, International Affairs and Trade (October 2014 - August 2015)
- Economist, International Affairs and Trade (August 2013 - October 2014)

The World Bank, Washington, District of Columbia USA

- Short Term Research Consultant, Development Research Group (June 2010)

American Enterprise Institute, Washington, District of Columbia USA

- Research Intern, Foreign and Defense Policy Studies (January 2008 - April 2008)

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts USA

- Teaching Fellow: Statistics (Spring 2011)
- Teaching Assistant: Principles of Macroeconomics (Spring 2013), Econometrics (Fall 2012), Principles of Microeconomics (Spring 2012), Statistics (Fall 2011, Fall 2010), Mathematics for Economists (PhD course) (Fall 2009)
- Research Assistant: Professor Fabio Schiantarelli (Summer 2010), Professor Susanto Basu (Summer 2010), Professor Eyal Dvir (Summer 2009)

American University, Washington, District of Columbia USA

- Supplemental Instructor: Calculus (January 2006 - May 2007)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Economics, Macroeconomics, Political Economy, Applied Econometrics

EDUCATION

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts USA

Ph.D., Economics, May 2013

- Committee: Fabio Ghironi (chair), Christopher Baum, Robert Murphy
- Dissertation: "Essays on Conflict, Corruption, and International Trade Politics"
- Area of Study: International Economics, Political Economy, Applied Econometrics

M.A., Economics, May 2010

American University, Washington, District of Columbia USA

B.A., International Studies, B.S., Statistics, May 2008

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2019 Young Economist Scholarship, National Association for Business Economics (NABE)
- 2018 Abramson Award, NABE
- Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award, 2013
- Graduate Fellow, Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, 2012-2013
- Full tuition scholarship and stipend, September 2008 – August 2013
- Graduated *summa cum laude* with University Honors, 2008
- **School of International Service** Outstanding Scholarship at the Undergraduate Level, 2008
- J. William Fulbright Scholarship (2008, declined)
- Phi Beta Kappa, Zeta of Washington D.C., 2007
- American University Presidential Scholar, 2004 – 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Academic / Peer-Reviewed:

- “The State Strikes Back: the end of economic reform in China? by Nicholas R. Lardy” (2019), *Business Economics*, 54(4): 262-264.
- “The impact of trade on growth in the Great Lakes states” (2018), *Economics Bulletin*, 38(4): A171.
- “China’s Belt and Road Initiative and regional perceptions of China” (2018), *Business Economics*, 53(1): 17-24.
 - Winner of 2018 Abramson Award for best article appearing in *Business Economics*, Oct. 2017-July 2018.
- “New perspectives on corruption contagion” (2017), *Journal of International Trade & Economic Development*, 26(5): 552-565.
- “Food Price Uncertainty and Political Conflict” (2015), *International Finance*, 18: 299-320. doi: 10.1111/inf. 12073.

Government (listed as key contributor) / Policy studies:

- GAO-16-64: OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION: Additional Actions Could Improve Monitoring Process. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-64>.
- GAO-15-300: AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT: Eligibility Process and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-300>.
- GAO-15-194: DEFENSE BASE ACT INSURANCE: State Department Should Evaluate Its Open Market System and Incorporate Leading Practices into Any Future Single Insurer Solicitation. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-194>.
- GAO-15-161: FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS: Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Should Continue to Improve Its Monitoring of Environmental Commitments. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-161>.
- GAO-14-722R: AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT: Observations on Competitiveness and Diversification of U.S. Imports from Beneficiary Countries. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-722R>.
- GAO-14-575: CONFLICT MINERALS: Stakeholder Options for Responsible Sourcing Are Expanding, but More Information on Smelters Is Needed. <http://gao.gov/products/GAO-14-575>.
- GAO-14-546: UNITED NATIONS: Key Compensation Elements Should Be Reviewed to Address Costs and Sustainability. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-546>.
- GAO-14-355: FOREIGN AID: USAID Has Increased Funding to Partner-Country Organizations but Could Better Track Progress. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-355>.
- GAO-14-277: INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID: Prepositioning Speeds Delivery of Emergency Aid, but Additional Monitoring of Time Frames and Costs Is Needed. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-277>.

Blogs/Media/Other non-academic:

- Interviewed in Kiernan, John S. (January 2020) "Cheap Car Insurance in 2019." WalletHub. <https://wallethub.com/cheap-car-insurance/#expert=john-a-o-trakoun>.
- O'Trakoun, J. (8 February 2016) "Inequality in Michigan: Not As Bad As You Think." *Viewpoint*: 2016-04. Mackinac Center for Public Policy. <http://www.mackinac.org/archives/2016/VP2016-04.pdf>.
- Interviewed in Bernardo, Richie. "2015's Metro Areas that Most and Least Resemble the U.S." WalletHub. <https://wallethub.com/edu/metro-areas-that-most-and-least-resemble-the-us/6109/#john-o-trakoun+>.

OTHER
INFORMATION

Professional Affiliations: American Economic Association,
Economics of National Security Association,
National Association for Business Economics,
Detroit Association for Business Economics

Presentations: "D is for Doctorate," oSTEM 9th Annual Conference (2019),
"Market & Consumer Dynamics: Can China's Growth Pace Be
Maintained," Original Equipment Suppliers Association (2019),
"Inside China: Understanding China's Current and Future
Automotive Industry," University of Michigan (2018),
U.S. Government Accountability Office (2013),
International Political Economy Society (2013)

Referee for: *Business Economics* (2018), Mackinac Center for Public Policy (2015)

Software: R, Tableau, Alteryx, Stata, L^AT_EX, MATLAB, Java, SPSS, CSS/HTML

Citizenship: United States of America

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

Last updated: September 2020