

Jesse McDevitt-Irwin

Collegiate Assistant Professor, University of Chicago
Harper-Schmidt Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts
jrmcirwin@uchicago.edu · [jrmcirwin.github.io](https://github.com/jrmcirwin)
[Google Scholar](#) · ORCID [0000-0002-2174-2121](#) | *Updated: October 2026*

Academic Positions

Collegiate Assistant Professor, Social Sciences Division, University of Chicago 2025–2029
Harper-Schmidt Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts

Postdoctoral Scholar, Center for Economic History, Northwestern University 2024–2025

Education

Ph.D., Sustainable Development, Columbia University 2024

M.A., Economics, University of British Columbia 2017

B.A., Applied Economics, Queen's University 2016

Publications

McDevitt-Irwin, Jesse, and James R. Irwin. “Infant Mortality among US Whites in the 19th Century: New Evidence from Childhood Sex Ratios.” *Demographic Research* 52: 303–350. 2025

McDevitt-Irwin, Jesse. “Child Anemia and the 2008 Food Price Crisis in Senegal.” *Demographic Research* 51: 637–668. 2024

Working Papers

López Araiza, Sergio, and Jesse McDevitt-Irwin. “The Hidden Costs of Mass Deportations: Early-Life Mortality and the 1930s Mexican Repatriation.” October 2026

Works in Progress

“Comparing the JMP Drinking Water Ladder and HWISE Scale in the 2022–23 Mozambique DHS.” With Sera Young and Indira Bose.

“Sex Ratio at Birth and the HIV Epidemic in South Africa.” With Jenny Trinitapoli.

“Black Health in Slavery and Freedom: New Evidence from Childhood Sex Ratios.” With James R. Irwin.

“Solving the Antebellum Puzzle: New Evidence from Childhood Sex Ratios.”

Research Infrastructure

Historical African Census Digitization Project

2026–

Construction of a harmonized dataset from published African census reports, 1950–present, extracted from scanned PDF sources. Research assistant: Maria Coca.

Invited Talks

European Society of Historical Demography

December 2025

Presentations

Water and Health Conference, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (poster) 2026

Social Science History Association 2025

Northwestern Economic History Seminar 2024

Population Association of America, Annual Meeting 2023

Northwestern Economic History Workshop 2023

University of Chicago Demography Workshop 2023

Canadian Economic Association, Canadian Network of Economic History 2021, 2022

Awards and Fellowships

Harper-Schmidt Fellow, Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts, University of Chicago 2025–2029

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship 2021–2023

Wu Fellowship, Columbia University 2018–2019

Dean's Fellow, Columbia University 2018–2023

Teaching

University of Chicago — Collegiate Assistant Professor 2025–

SOSC 16100 / 16200 / 16300, Global Society. Three-quarter Core social sciences sequence; two sections per year. Culminates in an independent research project with a 6,000-word paper.

University of Chicago — Lecturer 2023–2024

SOSC 16300, Global Society III.

Northwestern University — Lecturer 2025

ECON 323-2, Economic History of the United States since 1865. 62 students; designed from scratch. US demographic history using IPUMS full-count census microdata and R.

ANT 390, Methods in Global Health. Seminar, co-taught with Sera Young; led the R instruction.

Service and Professional Activity

Discussant, Canadian Economic Association Conference, Canadian Network of Economic History 2022
President, Sustainable Development Doctoral Society, Columbia University 2020–2021
Member, Population Association of America; Social Science History Association

Affiliations

Population Research Center, University of Chicago 2025–
Center for Economic History, Northwestern University 2023–
West African Research Center, Dakar, Senegal 2022

Technical and Language Skills

R; historical census microdata, Demographic and Health Surveys, historical vital statistics
English (native); French (fluent); Spanish (B2); Wolof (intermediate)