

NICHOLAS REYNOLDS
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Current position

University of Essex, Department of Economics
Lecturer, July 2020 - present

Education

PhD, Economics, Brown University, 2020
MA, Economics, Brown University, 2015
BA, Economics and Environmental Studies, Haverford College, 2011

Peer-reviewed publications

“The Broad Decline in Health and Human Capital of Americans Born after 1947”
American Economic Review: Insights
Lead article, June 2025

“Increased Mortality of White Americans and a Decline in the Health of Cohorts Born after WWII”
Journal of Human Resources
2025

“The Paper Trail of Knowledge Spillovers: Evidence from Patent Interferences”
(with Ina Ganguli and Jeffrey Lin) *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*.
April 2020

Working papers

“Patent Text and Long-Run Innovation Dynamics: The Critical Role of Model Selection”
(with Ina Ganguli, Jeffrey Lin, and Vitaly Meursault)
NBER WP, September 2024 (*Submitted*)
Presented at NBER Summer Institute 2025

“Candidate Origins of the Recent Stagnation in Midlife Mortality in the United States”
(with Sam Arenberg and Sam Stripling)
April 2025
Prepared for general science journals
Presented at NBER Summer Institute 2025

“Stunted Adolescence: The Anomalous Growth Pattern of Americans Born in the 1960s”
IZA Discussion Paper, July 2025 (*Submitted*)

“Local Average Cohort Effects”
October 2024

Selected work-in-progress

“The Cohort Signature of American Mortality Stagnation”
(with Sam Arenberg and Sam Stripling)

Updated October 2025

"Declining Invention Similarity: Theory, Implications, and Evidence"
(with Ina Ganguli, Vitaly Meursault, and Jeffrey Lin)

"Deindustrialization as a Double-edged Sword: Employment and Environmental Effects"
(with Michel Serafinelli)

"Sorting, Neighborhood Effects, and Intergenerational Mobility in Spatial Equilibrium"
(with Jeffrey Lin and Bryan Stuart)

Research grants

"Why did health and human capital decline for Americans born after 1947, and was there a similar decline in the United Kingdom and Canada?" BA/Leverhulme Small Research Grant, PI, £9,928

Non-academic writing

"What caused the American decline of the past 60 years?"
LSE Business Review, October 2025

Teaching Experience:

University of Essex:

Undergraduate Health Economics, 2021-2025
PhD Applied Research Methods (Causal Inference), 2021-2024
Masters-level Introduction to Economics and Public Policy (co-lecturer) 2023-2025

Brown University:

Labor and Population (PhD-level Empirical Methods and Causal Inference)
teaching fellow for Professor Kenneth Chay, 2018
1st Year PhD Macroeconomics
teaching fellow for Professor Neil Mehrotra and Professor Gauti Eggertson, 2016
teaching fellow for Professor Oded Galor and Professor Peter Howitt, 2015

Presentations

- 2025 NBER Summer Institute (Aging session and Innovation session, presented by coauthors)
- 2024 Scottish Economic Society Annual Meeting, Essen Health Economics Seminar, RWI - Leibniz Institute for Economic Research, European Economic Association Annual Meeting (cancelled)
- 2023 European Economic Association Annual Meeting
- 2022 Human Mortality Database Symposium
- 2021 NBER Summer Institute (Aging session and Health session), European Economic Association Annual Meeting, European Association of Labor Economics Annual Conference
- 2020 University of Essex, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research, Lehigh University, TRENDS meeting (at University of Michigan, sponsored by National Institute on Aging), Max Planck/NBER Workshop on Ageing and Health (planned but cancelled due to Covid)

Updated October 2025

2019 Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Human Mortality Database Symposium (Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research), Population Health Science Research Workshop (University of Pennsylvania)

2018 Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Population Health Science Research Workshop (Boston University)

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2024-, Research Fellow, IZA, Institute of Labor Economics
2022-, Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (D2)
2019-2020, Demography Trainee of NIH T32 Training Grant
2017-2019, NBER Predoctoral Fellow, Economics of an Aging Labor Force
2016-2017, Demography Trainee of NIH T32 Training Grant
2017, 3rd Year Paper Prize, Brown Economics
2016, Graduate Teaching Award, Brown Economics
2016, Distinction, 2nd Year Field Exam, Brown Economics

Doctoral supervisees

Aitor Irastorza-Fadrique, University of Essex, 2023
Placement: Institute for Fiscal Studies
(co-supervisor)
Elena Faieta, University of Essex, in progress
(co-lead supervisor)
Pavel Tupketov, University of Essex, in progress
(co-lead supervisor)

Referee service

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS), Journal of Urban Economics, European Economic Review, Journal of Economic Inequality, Rapid Reviews: COVID-19

References:

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