

# Werner Troesken

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## Current and Past Positions:

Professor, Economics, University of Pittsburgh, 2008-Present  
Professor, Economics, George Mason University, 2007-2008  
Professor, History, University of Pittsburgh, 2004-2007  
Visiting Associate Professor, GSB, University of Chicago, 2003-2004  
Co-Director, Center for Population Economics, University of Chicago, 2003-2004  
Associate Professor, History, University of Pittsburgh, 1998-2003  
Faculty Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2002-  
National Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University, 1999-2000  
Assistant Professor, History, University of Pittsburgh, 1992-98  
John M. Olin Faculty Fellow, University of Arizona, 1995-96

## Education:

B.S., Economics, May 1986. Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI.  
M.A., Economics, December 1988. Washington University, St. Louis, MO.  
Ph.D., Economics, June 1992. Washington University, St. Louis, MO.

## Research Interests:

Economic History

## Editorial Positions:

Editorial Board, *Journal of Economic History*, 2003-2006; 2009-2013  
Editorial Board, *Explorations in Economic History*, 2009-2013  
Editorial Board, *Social Science History*, 1996-1999.

## Books:

*The Pox of Liberty: How the Constitution Left Americans Rich, Free, and Prone to Infection.*  
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2015.  
*The Great Lead Water Pipe Disaster.* Cambridge: MIT Press, 2006.  
*Water, Race, and Disease.* Cambridge: MIT Press, 2004. (Alice Hanson Jones Prize)

*Why Regulate Utilities? The New Institutional Economics and the Chicago Gas Industry, 1849-1924.* Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 1996.

**Articles and Book Chapters:**

- “Typhoid Fever, Water Quality, and Human Capital Formation,” *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 76, no. 1 (March 2016): 41-75. Co-authors: Brian Beach, Joseph P. Ferrie, and Martin Saavedra.
- “Lead, Mortality, and Productivity,” *Review of Economics and Statistics*, vol. 96, no. 3 (July 2014): 458-70. Joint with Karen Clay (Carnegie Mellon University) and Michael Haines (Colgate University).
- “Post-Reconstruction African-American Labor Supply: Health and Added Worker Effects in Urban Families,” *Journal of Interdisciplinary History*, vol. 44, no. 2 (August 2013): 181-208. Co-author: John Murray (Rhodes College)
- “Cognitive Disparities, Lead Plumbing, and Water Chemistry: Prior Exposure to Water-Borne Lead and Intelligence Test Scores Among World War Two Army Enlistees,” *Economics and Human Biology*, vol. 10, no. 1 (January 2012): 98-112. Co-authors: Joseph P. Ferrie (Northwestern University) and Karen Rolf (University of Nebraska at Omaha).
- “Did Frederick Brodie Discover the World’s First Environmental Kuznets Curve? Coal Smoke and the Rise and Fall of the London Fog,” in Gary D. Libecap and Richard H. Steckel (editors), *The Economics of Climate Change: Adaptations Past and Present*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press and NBER, 2011. (Refereed) Co-author: Karen Clay, Carnegie Mellon University.
- “Information and the Impact of Climate and Weather on Mortality Rates during the Great Depression,” in Gary D. Libecap and Richard H. Steckel (editors), *The Economics of Climate Change: Adaptations Past and Present*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press and NBER, 2011. (Refereed) Co-authors: Price Fishback, Trevon Kollmann, Michael Haines, Paul W. Rhode, and Melissa Thomasson.
- “Lead Water Pipes and Infant Mortality in Turn-of-the-Century Massachusetts,” *Journal of Human Resources*, vol. 43, no. 3 (December, 2008):553-75.
- “Water and Chicago’s Mortality Transition, 1850-1925,” *Explorations in Economic History*, volume 45, no. 1 (January, 2008):1-16. Co-author: Joseph P. Ferrie, Northwestern University.
- “Eclampsia and Lead Exposure in Britain, 1883-1931,” *Environmental Research*, vol. 101, no. 3 (July, 2006):395-400.
- “Regime Change and Corruption: A History of Public Utility Regulation,” in Edward Glaeser and Claudia Goldin (editors), *Corruption and Reform: Lessons from America’s Economic History*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press and NBER, 2006. (Refereed)

- "Municipalizing American Waterworks, 1897-1915," *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, vol. 19, no. 2 (October 2003): 546-67. Co-author: Rick Geddes, Cornell University.
- "Further Tests of Static Oligopoly Theory: Evidence from Distilling, 1881-1900," *Journal of Industrial Economics*, vol. 51, no. 2 (June 2003): 151-66. Co-author: Karen Clay, Carnegie Mellon University.
- "The Significance of Lead Water Mains in American Cities: Some Historical Evidence," in Dora Costa (editor), *Health and Labor Force Participation Over the Life Course*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press and NBER, 2003. Co-author: Patricia E. Beeson, University of Pittsburgh. (Refereed)
- "Strategic Behavior in Whiskey Distilling, 1887-1895," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 62, no. 4, (December 2002): 999-1023. Co-author: Karen Clay, Carnegie Mellon University.
- "The Letters of John Sherman and the Origins of Antitrust," *Review of Austrian Economics*, vol. 15, no. 4, (December 2002): 275-97.
- "The Limits of Jim Crow: Race and the Provision of Water and Sewerage in American Cities, 1880-1925," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 62, no. 3, (September 2002): 734-773.
- "Race, Disease, and the Provision of Water in American Cities, 1889-1921," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 61, no. 3, (September 2001): 750-77.
- "Population Growth in U.S. Counties, 1840-1990," *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, vol. 31, no. 2, (June 2001): 669-99. Co-authors: Patricia E. Beeson and David DeJong, University of Pittsburgh.
- "Squatting and the Settlement of the United States: New Evidence from Post-Gold Rush California," *New Frontiers in Agricultural History*, vol. 1, no. 1 (January 2000): 207-34. Co-author: Karen Clay, Carnegie Mellon University. (Refereed)
- "Typhoid Rates and the Public Acquisition of Private Waterworks, 1880-1920," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 59, no. 4, (December 1999): 927-48.
- "Patronage and Public-Sector Wages in 1896," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 59, no. 2, (June 1999): 424-46.
- "Exclusive Dealing and the Whiskey Trust, 1890-1895," *Journal of Economic History*, vol. 58, no. 3, (September 1998): 755-78.
- "The Sources of Public Ownership: Historical Evidence from the Gas Industry," *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, vol. 13, no. 1, (April 1997): 1-27.
- "Antitrust Enforcement Before the Sherman Act: The Break-up of the Chicago Gas Trust Company," *Explorations in Economic History*, vol. 32, no. 1, (January 1995): 109-36.
- "The Institutional Antecedents of State Utility Regulation: The Chicago Gas Industry, 1860-1913," in Claudia Goldin and Gary Libecap (editors). *The Regulated Economy: A Historical Approach to Political Economy*. Chicago: NBER and University of Chicago Press, 1995. (Refereed)

### **Other Publications:**

- "The Paradox of the Gilded Age" in Price Fishback et al. (editors). *Government and the American Economy: A New History*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2007.  
Co-author: Mark Guglielmo.
- "Water and Urban Development," *Journal of Urban History*, vol. 32, no. 4 (May 2006), pp. 619-30. (Review essay)
- "The Collision of Ranchos and Politics: Los Angeles-Area Land Claims Under the California Land Act" in William Deverell and Greg Hise (editors), *Land of Sunshine: Toward an Environmental History of Los Angeles*. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press.
- "Did the Trusts Want a Federal Antitrust Law: An Event Study of State Antitrust Enforcement and Passage of the Sherman Act," in Jac Hekelman and Robert Whaples (editors). *Public Choice Interpretations of American Economic History*. New York: Kluwer Academic Press, 2000.
- Two entries on the gas industry and public utilities in *Oxford Encyclopedia of Economic History*. Joel Mokyr (editor). New York: Oxford University Press.
- "Postwar Economic Stabilization: A Stylized Half Truth," *Critical Review*, vol. 12, nos. 1-2 (Winter-Spring 1998): 77-93.
- "A Note on the Efficacy of the German Coal and Steel Syndicates," *Journal of European Economic History*, vol. 18, no. 4, (December 1989): 595-600.

### **Working Papers:**

- "A Poll Tax by Any Other Name: The Political Economy of Disenfranchisement," NBER Working Paper 18612. Joint with Daniel B. Jones and Randall Walsh.
- "Does the Median Voter Matter?" Joint with Daniel B. Jones and Randall Walsh.
- "Pellagra and Southern Poverty: Evidence from Two Nutritional Shocks." Joint with Karen Clay and Ethan Schmick.
- "Socioeconomic Status, Lead Poisoning, and the Propagation of Cognitive Disparities." Joint with Joseph P. Ferrie and Karen Rolf.
- "Who Should Own and Control Urban Water Systems? Evidence from Victorian Britain." Joint with Brian Beach and Nicola Tynan.

### **Book Reviews:**

- Review of *Medical Monopoly: Intellectual Property Rights and the Origins of the Modern Pharmaceutical Industry*, by Joseph M. Gabriel. Published at EH.net.
- Review of *Empire of Water: An Environmental and Political History of the New York City Water Supply*, by David Soll. Published in *The Journal of Economic History*.
- Review of *Lead Wars: The Politics of Science and the Fate of America's Children*, by Gerald Markowitz and David Rosner. Published in *The Business History Review*.
- Review of *The River Pollution Dilemma in Victorian England*, by Leslie Rosenthal. Published at EH.net.

- Review of *Origins of American Health Insurance: A History of Industrial Sickness Funds*, by John E. Murray. Published in *The Independent Review*.
- Review of *The Horse and the City: Living Machines in the Nineteenth Century*, by Clay McShane and Joel Tarr. Published in *The Journal of Economic History*.
- Review of *Fighting Traffic: The Dawn of the Motor Age in the American City*, by Peter D. Norton. Published at EH.net.
- Review of *Polarized America: The Political Dance of Ideology and Riches*, by Nolan McCarty, Keith Poole, and Howard Rosenthal. Published in *The Independent Review*.
- Review of *Regulating Infrastructure: Monopoly, Contracts, and Discretion*, by José A Gómez-Ibañez. Published in *The Journal of Economic Literature*.
- Review of *Markets in Historical Contexts: Ideas and Politics in the Modern World*. Edited by Mark Bevir and Frank Trentmann. Published in *The Journal of Economic History*.
- Review of *Broken Trusts: The Texas Attorney General versus the Oil Industry, 1889-1909*, by Jonathan W. Singer. Published at EH.net.
- Review of *Ties that Bind: Problems in Urban Public Utility Regulation*, by Charles Jacobson. Published in *The Journal of Economic History*.
- Review of *The Sanitary City: Urban Infrastructure in America from Colonial Times to the Present*, by Martin V. Melosi. Published in *The Journal of Economic History*.
- Review of *Monopolies in America: Empire Builders and Their Enemies from Jay Gould to Bill Gates*, by Charles R. Geisst. Published at EH.net.
- Review of *Cities of Light and Heat*, by Mark Rose. Published in *The Journal of Economic History*.
- Review of *The Rise of Big Government in the United States*, by John F. Walker and Harold F. Vatter. Published at EH.net.
- Review of *Gas Pipelines and the Emergence of America's Regulatory State*, by Christopher Castaneda and Clarence Smith. Published in *The Journal of Economic History*.

### Teaching:

*Undergraduate Courses:* American Economic History; Public Economics; Political Economy; Principles of Microeconomics; Honor's Seminar on the Economy History of Jim Crow; and The Economics of the Constitution.

*Graduate Courses:* Labor Economics; and Economic History.

**Recent Undergraduate Advising:** recent undergraduate advisees have gone on to positions at the National Bureau of Economic Research; Ph.D. programs in economics at Yale, Northwestern (2 students), Boston University, UCLA, and the University of Virginia; master's programs in policy and/or finance at the University of Rochester and the University of Michigan; law school at Temple, the University of Illinois, the University of Chicago, Harvard University, and Emory; and medical school at Washington University in St. Louis.

**Current Graduate Student Advising:** Xiaoxi Zhao (environmental economics, co-chair); Ethan Schmick (economic history, chair); Katherine Wolfe (economic history, chair); Lulu Liu (member); Kelly Urban (history department, outside reader).

**Graduate Student Placements (Last Few Years):**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>1<sup>st</sup> Placement</u>	<u>Committee</u>
Conor Lenon	2016	University of Louisville, Asst. Prof.	Chair
Katie Jo Black	2016	Kenyon College, Asst. Prof	Member
Shawn McCoy	2016	University of Nevada—Las Vegas, Asst. Prof.	Member
Anthony Comegna	2016	Cato Institute (history, Ph.D.)	Member
Brian Beach	2015	College of William and Mary, Asst. Prof.	Chair
Yang Song	2015	Colgate University, Asst. Prof.	Member
Martin Saavedra	2014	Oberlin College, Asst. Prof.	Co-chair
Tekin Kose	2013	Univ. of Wisc. Oshkosh, Visiting	Member
Hansoo Choi	2013	Korea Institute of Public Finance	Member
Daniel Jones	2013	Univ. of South Carolina, Asst. Prof.	Member
Yilan Xu	2012	Univ. of Illinois, Asst. Prof. (Cons. Econ.)	Member

**Paper Presentations and Formal Conference Discussions:**

2015: ASSA Meetings; UCLA; Lawrence University (symposium on *The Pox of Liberty*); University of Michigan; and University of Colorado–Boulder; and Social Science History Association.

2014: Caltech; Columbia University; Harvard School of Public Health; Vanderbilt University; Florida State University; Southern Economics Association; and Environmental Protection Agency

2013: Economic History Association

2012: National Bureau of Economic Research, Summer Institute (DAE Program)

2011: Western Economic Association; Wake Forest University

2010: Economic History Association

2009: Economic History Association; Department of Economics, Rutgers University, November); Climate Change Conference, National Bureau of Economic Research (May); National Bureau of Economic Research

2008: Policy School, Cornell University; Economic History Association; Climate Change Conference (NBER)

2007: Department of Economics, George Washington University; ASSA/American Economics Association.

2006 and earlier: Yale University, Economic History Seminar; National Bureau of Economic Research; Liberty Fund, Washington, D.C.; Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School; National Bureau of Economic Research, Economics of National Security; ASSA/American Economics Association; Indiana University; Washington, DC-Area Economic History Workshop; Williams College; Social Science History Association; Early Indicators Project, University of Chicago; Corruption and Reform Conference (NBER); American Bar Foundation; Northwestern University; Cohort Studies, NBER; Western Economics Association; Columbia University; Bread Conference; Harvard University; Cliometrics Society; Miami University; George Mason University; Ohio State University; Montana State University; Caltech; UCLA; University of Chicago; Stanford University; Wake Forest University; University of Toronto; and University of Illinois.

**Recent Professional Service:**

Referee: *American Economic Review*; *Journal of Political Economy*; *Quarterly Journal of Economics*; *Journal of Economic History*; *Journal of Human Resources*; *Journal of Development Economics*; *Journal of Law and Economics*; *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*; *Journal of Industrial Economics*; *Explorations in Economic History*; *AEJ: Applied*; *Public Health Reports*; *Environmental Research*; *Journal of Comparative Economics*; *Journal of Regional Science*; *Demography*; *Journal of the History of Medicine*; *Social History of Medicine and Allied Sciences*; *Economic History Review*; *Journal of Agricultural and Resource Economics*; *Journal of Economic Geography*; *Social Science History*; *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*; *Economic Inquiry*; *Environmental Science and Technology*; Yale University Press; University of Chicago Press; Oxford University Press; University of Pittsburgh Press; MIT Press; Cambridge University Press; Earhardt Foundation; MacArthur Foundation; Wellcome Trust (London); National Science Foundation (economics section; and engineering section).

Conference organizer: NBER, DAE group, Summer Institute, 2005 and 2006; Clio/EHA sessions at ASSA meetings; chair, local arrangements committee, Economic History Association, 2006, and Cliometric Society Conference, Pittsburgh, 2016.

Other service: Alice Hanson Jones Prize Committee (2012-Present); Program committee, Cliometrics Society and Economic History Association (multiple and various years).

**Professional Affiliations and Memberships:**

American Economics Association; American Law and Economics Association;  
Cliometrics Society; Economic History Association; Social Science History Association.

**Selected Department and University Service:**

*University of Pittsburgh:* tenure council (2014-Present); undergraduate council (Spring, 2015); ad-hoc tenure and promotion committees (2, 2008-2009 academic year; 2, 2010-2011 academic year); graduate admissions committee (economics department, 2009-Present); FAS tenure and promotion council (2004-2006); various search committees in economics and history; graduate admissions committee (economics, previous years and current); and graduate committee, (2012-present). A complete history of university and departmental service is available upon request.

**References:** Available upon request