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John N. Friedman

<https://sites.google.com/brown.edu/johnfriedman/home>

[Google Scholar Page](#)

Academic Positions:

Inaugural Vascellaro Family Dean, Watson School of International and Public Affairs, Brown University (2025 –)

Briger Family Distinguished Professor of Economics and International and Public Affairs, Brown University (2022 –)

Professor, 2019-2021

Associate Professor (with tenure), 2015-2019

Special Assistant to the President for Economic Policy, National Economic Council, The White House (2013 – 2014)

Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School (2009 – 2014)

Post-Doc Fellowship: Scholar in Health Policy, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, at UC Berkeley (2007 – 2009)

Professional Positions:

Academic Advisory Board, Blavatnik School, Oxford University (2025 –)

President Elect, Eastern Economic Association (2025 – 2026)

Vice President, (2024 – 2025)

External Member, President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, Social Science Data Working Group (2024-2025)

Student Upward Mobility Initiative Advisory Committee, Urban Institute (2023 – 2025)

Member, Treasury Advisory Council on Racial Equity (TACRE), *U.S. Department of the Treasury* (2022 – 2024)

Co-Editor, *American Economic Review* (2021 –)

Founding Co-Director, *Opportunity Insights* (2018 –)

Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research (2015 –)
Faculty Research Fellow (2009 – 2013, 2014 – 2015)

Chair, Brown Economics Department (2021 – 2024)

Rhode Island Council of Economic Advisors (2018 – 2022)

Editor-in-Chief, *Journal of Public Economics* (2019 – 2021)
Co-Editor, *Journal of Public Economics* (2015)

Russell Sage Foundation Computational Social Science Advisory Committee (2019)

Co-Editor, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* (2015 – 2019)
Editorial Board Member, (2019 – 2021)

Education:

Ph.D., Department of Economics, Harvard University, June 2007

A.M., Department of Statistics, Harvard University, June 2002

A.B., *summa cum laude* in Economics, Harvard College, June 2002

Academic Areas of Interest: Public Economics and Political Economy

Published or Forthcoming Papers:

Raj Chetty, David J. Deming, and John N. Friedman (2023). “[Diversifying America’s Leaders? The Determinants and Causal Effects of Admissions at Highly Selective Private Colleges.](#)” Forthcoming, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Chetty, Raj, John N. Friedman, Nathan Hendren, Maggie R. Jones, and Sonya R. Porter (2025). “[The Opportunity Atlas: Mapping the Childhood Roots of Social Mobility.](#)” Forthcoming, *American Economic Review*

Friedman, John N., Bruce Sacerdote, Douglas Staiger, and Michelle Tine (2025). “[Standardized Test Scores and Academic Performance at Ivy-Plus Colleges.](#)” *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, Vol 115, pp. 676-81.

Chetty, Raj, John N. Friedman, Michael Stepner, and the Opportunity Insights Team (2024). “[The Economic Impacts of COVID-19: Evidence from a New Public Database Built Using Private Sector Data.](#)” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol 139(2) pp. 829-89.

- Chetty, Raj, John N. Friedman, Emmanuel Saez, Nicholas Turner, and Danny Yagan (2020). "[Income Segregation and Intergenerational Mobility Across Colleges in the United States.](#)" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol 135(3) pp. 1567–1633.
- Friedman, John N., and Richard Holden (2020). "[Optimal Gerrymandering in a Competitive Environment.](#)" *Economic Theory Bulletin*, Vol 8(2) pp. 347-67.
- Chetty, Raj, and John N. Friedman (2019). "[A Practical Method to Reduce Privacy Loss when Disclosing Statistics Based on Small Cells.](#)" *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, Vol 109, pp. 414-20.
- Chetty, Raj, John N. Friedman, and Jonah Rockoff (2017). "[Measuring the Impact of Teachers: Reply to Rothstein.](#)" *American Economic Review*, Vol. 107 (6), pp. 1685-1717
- Chetty, Raj, John N. Friedman, and Jonah Rockoff (2016). "[Using Lagged Outcomes to Evaluate Bias in Value-Added Models.](#)" *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, Vol. 106(5), pp. 393-99
- Kolesar, Michal, Raj Chetty, John N. Friedman, Edward L. Glaeser and Guido W. Imbens (2015). "[Identification and Inference with Many Invalid Instruments](#)" *Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*, Vol. 33 (4), pp. 474-484
- Chetty, Raj, John N. Friedman, and Jonah Rockoff (2014). "[Measuring the Impacts of Teachers I: Estimating Bias in Teacher Value-Added Estimates.](#)" *American Economic Review*, Vol. 104 (9), pp. 2593-2632.
- Chetty, Raj, John N. Friedman, and Jonah Rockoff (2014). "[Measuring the Impacts of Teachers II: Teacher Value-Added and Student Outcomes in Adulthood.](#)" *American Economic Review*, Vol. 104 (9), pp. 2633-2679.
- Chetty, Raj, John N. Friedman, Soren Leth-Petersen, Torben H. Nielsen, and Tore Olsen (2014). "[Active vs. Passive Decisions and Crowd-Out in Retirement Savings: Evidence from Denmark](#)" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol 129(3) pp. 749–804.
- Chetty, Raj, John N. Friedman, and Emmanuel Saez (2013). "[Using Differences in Knowledge Across Neighborhood to Uncover the Impacts of the EITC on Earnings](#)" *American Economic Review*, Vol. 103 (7), pp. 2683-2721 (2013)

Raj Chetty, John N. Friedman, Nate Hilger, Emmanuel Saez, Diane Schanzenbach, and Danny Yagan (2011). "[How Does Your Kindergarten Class Affect Your Earnings? Evidence from Project STAR](#)" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol 126 (4), pp. 1593-1660.

Raj Chetty, John N. Friedman, Tore Olsen, and Luigi Pistaferri (2011). "[Adjustment Costs, Firm Responses, and Labor Supply Elasticities: Evidence from Denmark](#)" *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 126 (2), pp. 749-804.

"[Predicting Medicare Cost Growth](#)"

Chapter in *Improving Health Cost Projections for the Medicare Population*, Committee on National Statistics and National Research Council Workshop Summary (2010)

"[Performance Improvement and Performance Dysfunction](#)"

w/ Steve Kelman. *Journal of Policy Administration Research and Theory*, Vol. 19(4), pp. 947-966 (2009).

"[The Rising Incumbent Advantage: What's Gerrymandering Got To Do With It?](#)"

w/ Richard Holden. *Journal of Politics*, Vol. 71(2), pp. 593-611 (2009)

"[Optimal Gerrymandering: Sometimes Pack but Never Crack.](#)"

w/ Richard Holden. *American Economics Review*, Vol. 98(1), pp. 113-44 (2008)

Working Papers:

"Growing Class Gaps and Shrinking Race Gaps in Life Expectancy, 2001-2019"

w/ Raj Chetty, Janet Currie, Ines Guix, Nathaniel Hendren, Hannes Schwandt, Michael Stepner, Harvey Barnhard, Dhruv Gaur, Tyler Jacobson, Emma Lee, Alistair Pattison, Ana Sanchez-Chico, Arjun Shanmugam, Brad Foster, and Sonya Porter

Older Stuff:

"[Explaining Geographic Differences in Young Disability Insurance Rates.](#)"

w/ Maxwell Kellogg, Ithai Lurie, and Magne Mogstad (2018)

"[Effort as Investment: Analyzing the Response to Incentives.](#)"

w/ Steve Kelman (2011)

"[The Incidence of the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit: Using Asset Prices to Assess Its Impact on Drug Makers.](#)" (2011)

[“Stock Market Driven Acquisitions: Theory and Evidence.”](#) (2006)

Policy Pieces:

[“Tax Policy and Retirement Savings.”](#) Chapter in *The Economics of Tax Policy*, eds. Alan Auerbach and Kent Smetters, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press (2017)

[“Building on What Works: A Proposal to Modernize Retirement Savings.”](#)
The Hamilton Project, Discussion Paper 2015-05 (June 2015)

Grants:

Smith Richardson Foundation Grant #2025-3623, 2025-2027 (\$700,000)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant (co-PI with Chetty and Hendren) INV-069243, 2024-2027 (\$15 million)

Walton Family Foundation Grant (co-PI with Chetty and Hendren) #00111387, 2024-2027 (\$15 million)

Carnegie Corporation Grant (co-PI with Chetty and Hendren) #G-CS-24-61901, 2024-2026 (\$1.5 million)

Overdeck Foundation Grant (co-PI with Chetty and Hendren), “Opportunity Insights,” 2013-2026 (\$4 million)

NIH 1 U01 AG076557-01 (Co-PI w/ Raj Chetty & Michael Stepner), 2021-2025 (\$3.28 million)

Smith Richardson Foundation Grant #2023-3107, 2023-2025 (\$700,000)

SSA R-DRC NB24-09 (NBER Site), 2023-2024 (\$70,000)

JPB Grant #2022-3516, 2022-2024 (\$1.5 million)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant OPP1193023 (Co-PI w/ Raj Chetty and Nathan Hendren), 2018-2023 (\$15 million)

Arnold Ventures Grant #20-04277, 2021-2024, (\$2.5 million)

SSA R-DRC NB23-10 (NBER Site), 2022-2023 (\$70,000)

Smith Richardson Foundation Grant #2020-2441, 2021-2023 (\$700,000)

JPB Foundation Grant #2020-2001, 2020-2023 (\$1.5 million)

SSA R-DRC NB22-06 (NBER Site), 2021-2022 (\$70,000)

Chan-Zuckerberg Initiative Grant 38382128v4 (Co-PI w/ Raj Chetty and Nathan Hendren),
2018-2021 (\$15 million)

Overdeck Foundation Grant, “Opportunity Insights,” 2018-2021 (\$3 million)

Smith Richardson Foundation Grant #2018-1690, 2018-2020 (\$600,000)

SSA Disability Research Center Grant NB18-02 (NBER Site), 2017-2018 (\$70,000)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant OPP1194045, 2017-2018 (\$1.8 million)

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grant OPP1182002, 2017 (\$600,000)

Smith Richardson Foundation Grant #2016-1166, 2016-2018 (\$429,000)

SSA Disability Research Center Grant NB17-01 (NBER Site), 2016-2017 (\$70,000)

Russell Sage Foundation Grant #83-15-25, 2015-2016 (\$150,000)

SSA Disability Research Center Grant NB16-01 (NBER Site), 2015-2016 (\$70,000)

Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship Grant, 2014-2016 (\$50,000)

Smith Richardson Foundation Grant #2012-8797, 2012-2014 (\$375,000)

SSA Retirement Research Center Grants NB13-01 and NB13-08 (NBER site), 2012-2013
(\$140,000 total)

SSA Retirement Research Center Grants NB12-04 and NB12-Q1 (NBER site), 2011-2012
(\$140,000 total)

National Science Foundation Grant SES-1025490, 2010-2013 (\$285,000)

SSA Retirement Research Center Grant NB10-16 (NBER site), 2009-2010 (\$70,000)

Awards, Honors, and Fellowships:

TIAA-CREF Paul A. Samuelson Award for Outstanding Scholarly Writing on Lifelong Financial Security, for “Active vs. Passive Decisions...”, 2015

Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow, 2014-2016

Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Aging and Health, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2006-2007

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2002-2007

John Eliot Fellowship to Jesus College, Cambridge University, 2002-2003

Prize Studentship, Centre for History and Economics, Cambridge University, 2002-2003

Kawamura Visiting Fellowship to Japan, Summer 2002

John P. Reardon Award, for best Harvard male scholar-athlete, 2002

John Williams Prize, for best student in Economics, 2002

Thomas T. Hoopes Prize, for one of the best theses in the college, 2002

Phi Beta Kappa, 2001

Eliot Perkins Prize, for scholarship and house involvement in Lowell House, 2000

Detur Prize, for top 10% of freshman class, 1999

Other Professional Activities:

Excellence in Refereeing Award, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 2012

Excellence in Refereeing Award, *American Economic Review*, 2012, 2013

Referee for *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *American Economic Journal: Applied*, *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, *Economic Journal*, *Education Policy and Finance*, *International Economic Review*, *International Public Management Journal*, *International Tax and Public Finance*, *Israeli Science Foundation*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Health Economics*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *National Science Foundation*, *National Tax Journal*, *New Zealand Health Research Council*, *Quantitative Economics*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Review of Economics Studies*, *Science*, *Sloan Foundation*.

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees: Samson Knight (2022), Maor Milgrom (2022), Valeria Zurla (2022), Francesco Esposito (2021), Julia Tanndal (2021), Stefan Hut (2020), Margarita Machelett (2019), Stefano Polloni (2018), James Bernard (2017), Bill Skimmyhorn (2012), Victoria Levin (2010)

Other Employment:

Economics and Applied Math Undergraduate Advisor, 2004-2007

Research Assistant, Professor Jeremy Stein, 2005

Research Assistant, Professor David I. Laibson, 2000-2004

Summer Investment Banking Analyst, Lehman Brothers, 2000

Other Interests: Running, skiing, other outdoor activities, music and the Boston Red Sox.

Updated: December 8, 2025