CHICAGO BOOTH

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FULL-TIME RESEARCH ASSISTANT

I am looking to hire someone to work with me as a full-time research assistant, beginning in the summer of 2020. The work hours are flexible, but should average approximately 37.5 hours a week and I am hoping to fill the position for 2 years. The position pays an annual salary of $50,000 and provides standard benefits such as health insurance.

The RA will take on an important role in my research, at the intersection of Applied Microeconomics and Economic History. My research draws on large historical datasets to explore different economics questions. The RA will be involved in all stages of research: brainstorming, archival work, managing data collection (by an external data entry company and/or local undergraduates), data cleaning, and data analysis. Experience with relevant computer software is highly desirable (especially Stata, but also ArcGIS and Matlab), though experience with data management and analysis, and a willingness to learn new programs, may be sufficient.

The successful RA will be highly motivated, and able to work in an efficient and organized manner with close attention to detail. It is important to be able to follow instructions closely, while also being self-motivated and able to work independently. Two examples of ongoing projects are:

Railroads and the Rise of American Manufacturing. This project analyzes the impacts of railroads on productivity growth in American manufacturing from 1850 to 1900. An existing working paper on my website uses county-by-industry data, and follow-up work will draw on a large firm-level database that we are cleaning and preparing for analysis.

Financial Wealth of African-Americans after Slavery and its Intergenerational Impacts. This project analyzes the intergenerational consequences of low African-American wealth following emancipation from slavery. This project involves assembling archival data, merging these data to historical Census records, and matching individuals across waves of Census data.

Both of these projects involve working with large historical datasets, cleaning these data with close attention to detail, managing work by undergraduates to clean the data, and contributing to the design, improvement, and implementation of machine-based methods.

If you are interested in the position, please fill out a job application and a supplementary survey. Please be sure to include the following material:

1) A cover letter that briefly outlines: (a) your background and career ambitions, (b) your experience in conducting or assisting research projects, (c) your experience with any relevant programming languages (with examples of computer code), (d) the name and email address of any professor for whom you have worked as a research assistant in the last few years (along with a brief description of that role).

2) A current resume and transcript (unofficial is fine but official preferred).

3) Copies of any research output that you have written yourself.