

# Thor Berger

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## Current Positions and Affiliations

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- 2022 – Pro Futura Scientia Fellow XVI, SCAS, **Uppsala University**
- 2022 – Assistant Professor, Department of Economic History, **Lund University**
- 2022 – Affiliated Researcher, **Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN)**
- 2026 – Research Fellow at the Economic History Programme, **CEPR**
- 2017 – Affiliated Researcher, Centre for Economic Demography, **Lund University**

## Past Positions and Affiliations

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- 2020 – 2025 Research Affiliate at the Economic History Programme, **CEPR**
- 2015 – 2019 Associate Fellow Oxford Martin School, **University of Oxford**
- 2019 Academic Visitor of the Sociology Group, Nuffield College, **University of Oxford**
- 2018 – 2022 Wallander Postdoctoral Research Fellow, **Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN)**
- 2018 – 2019 Wallander Postdoctoral Research Fellow **IIES, Stockholm University**
- 2018 British Academy International Visiting Fellow, **University of Oxford**
- 2016 – 2018 Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Economic History, **Lund University**

## Education

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- 2022 – **Docent**, Department of Economic History, **Lund University**
- 2012 – 2017 **Ph.D.** in Economic History, **Lund University**
- 2011 – 2012 **M.Sc.** in Economic Growth, Innovation & Spatial Dynamics, **Lund University**
- 2008 – 2011 **B.Sc.** in Business Administration & Economics, **Lund University**

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

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- Berger, T., & Ostermeyer, V. (2025). Institutional innovation and the adoption of new technologies: the case of steam. *The Journal of Economic History*, 85(3), 844-873.
- Almås, I., Berger, T., Boppart, T., Burchardi, K., Ejermo, O., Eriksson, B., Larsson, A., Malmberg, H., Maukner, S., Olsson, M., & Ostermeyer, V. (2025) Historical manufacturing census of Sweden: Data description and quality assessment. *Historical Methods: A Journal of Quantitative and Interdisciplinary History*, 1-19.
- Berger, T., & Ostermeyer, V. (2025). Firm survival and the rise of the factory. *The Economic History Review*, 78(1), 62-86.
- Berger, T., & Prawitz, E. (2024). Inventors among the “Impoverished Sophisticate”. *The Journal of Economic History*, 84(4), 1175-1207.
- Berger, T., & Prawitz, E. (2024). Collaboration and connectivity: Historical evidence from patent records. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 139, 103629.
- Berger, T., Engzell, P., Eriksson B., and Molinder J. (2023) Social mobility in Sweden before the welfare state. *Journal of Economic History*, 83(2), 431-463.
- Andersson, D., Berger, T., and Prawitz E. (2023) Making a market: Infrastructure, integration, and the rise of innovation. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 105(2), 258-274.
- Berger, T. and Engzell, P. (2022) Industrial automation and intergenerational income mobility in the United States. *Social Science Research*, 104, 102686.
- Berger, T., & Engzell, P. (2020). Trends and disparities in subjective upward mobility since 1940. *Socius*, 6, 1-11.
- Berger, T., & Engzell, P. (2019). American geography of opportunity reveals European origins. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 116(13), 6045-6050.

- Berger, T. (2019). Railroads and rural industrialization: Evidence from a historical policy experiment. *Explorations in Economic History*, 74, 101-277.
- Berger, T. (2019). Adopting a new technology: potatoes and population growth in the periphery. *The Economic History Review*, 72(3), 869-896.
- Andersson, J., & Berger, T. (2019). Elites and the expansion of education in nineteenth-century Sweden. *The Economic History Review*, 72(3), 897-924.
- Berger, T., Frey, C. B., Levin, G., & Danda, S. R. (2019). Uber happy? Work and well-being in the 'gig economy'. *Economic Policy*, 34(99), 429-477.
- Berger, T. (2018). Places of persistence: Slavery and the geography of intergenerational mobility in the United States. *Demography*, 55(4), 1547-1565.
- Berger, T., Chen, C., & Frey, C. B. (2018). Drivers of disruption? Estimating the Uber effect. *European Economic Review*, 110, 197-210.
- Berger, T., & Enflo, K. (2017). Locomotives of local growth: The short-and long-term impact of railroads in Sweden. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 98, 124-138.
- Frey, C. B., Berger, T., & Chen, C. (2018). Political machinery: did robots swing the 2016 US presidential election?. *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 34(3), 418-442.
- Berger, T., & Frey, C. B. (2017). Industrial renewal in the 21st century: evidence from US cities. *Regional Studies*, 51(3), 404-413.
- Berger, T., & Frey, C. B. (2016). Regional technological dynamism and noncompete clauses: Evidence from a natural experiment. *Journal of Regional Science*, 57(4), 655-668.
- Berger, T., & Frey, C. B. (2016). Did the Computer Revolution shift the fortunes of US cities? Technology shocks and the geography of new jobs. *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 57, 38-45.
- Berger, T., Enflo, K., & Henning, M. (2012). Geographical location and urbanisation of the Swedish manufacturing industry, 1900–1960: evidence from a new database. *Scandinavian Economic History Review*, 60(3), 290-308.
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## Working Papers

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- Berger, T., Karadja, M., & Prawitz, E. (2024) Cities and the rise of working women, *CEPR DP18927* (Available at: <https://cepr.org/publications/dp18927>). *Revise and Resubmit at Economic Journal*.
- Berger, T., & Sandholt Jensen, P. (2023) Guilds and growth: Evidence from the Free City, *CEPR DP18589* (Available at: <https://cepr.org/publications/dp18589>). *Submitted*.

## Books and Chapters in Edited Works (Selected)

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- Berger, T. (2016) *Engines of Growth: Essays in Swedish Economic History*. Lund Studies in Economic History No. 78. (ISBN: 978-91-87793-28-8)
  - Awarded the Gino Luzzatto Dissertation Prize by the European Historical Economics Society and the Dissertation Prize awarded by the Swedish Economic History Society
- Berger, T. and Frey, C.B. (2015) Digital Disruption at Work in Om Sverige i framtiden – en antologi om digitaliseringens möjligheter, *Digitaliseringskommissionen, Statens Offentliga Utredningar* (SOU) 2015:65.
  - Selected for publication and reprinted in Digital Opportunities (2015) Digitalisation Commission, Swedish Government Inquiries, Stockholm.
- Berger, T. and Frey, C.B. (2015) Bridging the Skills Gap in Dolphin, T. (ed.) “*Technology, globalisation and the future of work in Europe: Essays on employment in a digitised economy*.” **The Institute for Public Policy Research**, 2015.

## Other Publications (Selected)

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- Berger, T. and Frey, C.B. (2017) *Robots and the return of the “machinery question”*. **United Nations Industrial Development Organization**.
- Berger, T. and Frey, C.B. (2016) *Structural Transformation in the OECD: Digitalization, Deindustrialization, and the Future of Work*. **OECD Social, Employment and Migration Working Papers No. 193**.

- Berger, T. and Frey, C.B. (2016) *Digitalization, jobs, and convergence in Europe: Strategies for closing the skills gap*. **European Commission DG Internal Market, Industry, Entrepreneurship and SMEs**.
- Berger, T. and Frey, C.B. (2015) *Future Shocks and Shifts: Challenges for the Global Workforce and Skills Development*. **OECD Directorate for Education and Skills Working Paper**.
- Berger, T. (2015) *Creative Destruction and the Changing Geography of European Jobs*. **Policy Network**.
- Berger, T. (2014) *The Future of Work*. **Lund Business Review**.  
– Awarded the LUSEM Blog Prize 2014/2015.
- Berger, T. and Enflo, K. (2014) *Infrastruktursatsningar och lokal ekonomisk tillväxt – vad kan vi lära av historien?*. **Ekonomisk Debatt**, 5, 20-32.
- Berger, T. and Frey, C.B. (2014) *Work in the Digital Age*. **The RSA Journal**, Issue 3.  
– Reprinted in **Philanthropy Impact Magazine**, Issue 8: Spring 2015.

### Conference and Seminar Presentations (Selected)

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Southern University of Denmark (Invited); Ph.D. in Economics @ SSSA/UCA Annual Doctoral Workshop, Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna (Discussant); Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN, Stockholm); 14th Ekonomisk-Historiska Mötet (Gothenburg University); Frontier Research in Economic and Social History Meeting (Lund University); LSE Historical Economic Demography Workshop; Stockholm Economic History Lab (IFN); HEDG Workshop (Southern University of Denmark); 12th European Historical Economics Society Conference (Paris School of Economics); IIES Brown Bag Seminar (Stockholm University); 13th Ekonomisk-Historiska Mötet (Uppsala University); 68th Economic Policy Panel Meeting (Oesterreichische Nationalbank, Vienna); GEP Workshop: Economic Integration in Historical Perspective (University of Nottingham); 18th World Economic History Congress (MIT); SOUND Economic History Workshop (Keynote) (Helsinki University); Economic History Association Annual Meeting (Montreal); IIES Brown Bag (Stockholm University); INET (University of Oxford); Workshop on Independent Work (Uber, London); IFN Entrepreneurship and Innovation: Past, Present and Future (Discussant); Economic History Society Annual Conference (University of London); Agriciometrics III (Magdalene College, Cambridge University); 8th World Congress of Cliometrics (Strasbourg); 11th European Historical Economics Society Conference (University of Tübingen); CAGE, EHES & IAS Summer School (Warwick University); 12th Ekonomisk-Historiska Mötet (Stockholm University); Humboldt University (Invited); CAGE/HEDG Workshop on Economic Geography and History (SDU); 7th Annual Workshop on Growth, History and Development (SDU); Economic History Seminar (Lund University); 11th SOUND Economic History Workshop (University of Helsinki); London School of Economics; 2nd Meeting of Danish Historical Economics Society (Copenhagen University); Frontier Research in Economic and Social History Meeting (WU Vienna); Digitalisation Commission (Swedish Ministry of Enterprise and Innovation, Stockholm); 10th European Historical Economics Society Conference (Pisa); 10th SOUND Economic History Workshop (Lund University); 9th SOUND Economic History Workshop (Copenhagen Business School); Economic History Seminar (Lund University); Economic History Association 73rd Annual Meeting (Washington, D.C.); European Historical Economics Society 9th Meeting (London School of Economics); 10th Swedish Economic-Historical Meeting (Lund); Frontier Research in Economic and Social History Meeting (Warwick in Venice).

### Media Mentions (Selected)

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- *Aftonbladet*; *Atlantico*; *BBC News* (x2); *Bloomberg*; *CNBC* (x2); *City AM*; *CNN*; *Daily Mail*; *Expressen*; *Financial Times* (x3); *Forbes* (x3); *Fortune Magazine* (x2); *HuffPost*; *Metro*; *New Scientist*; *New York Times* (x2); *The Atlantic*; *The Economist* (x8); *The Guardian* (x2); *The Telegraph*; *The Times*; *Scientific American* (x2); *Teknikhistoria*; *SR Ekonomiekot*; *Svenska Dagbladet* (x3); *SVT*; *Wall Street Journal*; *Weekendavisen*.

### Teaching Experience

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- *Advanced Time Series Analysis* (EKHM44), Master's Level, Lund University (2013, 2014, 2015); *Applied Time Series Analysis* (EKHM85), Master's Level, Lund University (2017); *Economic History: Theory and Methods* (EKHK30), Bachelor's Level, Lund University (2014, 2016, 2018, 2019); *Technological and Social Development: Historical Experiences and Future Challenges* (EKHA73), Bachelor's Level, Lund University (2017, 2018, 2019); *Economic History: Bachelor Thesis*, Lund University (EKHK31) (2018, 2019); *Development Studies: Bachelor Thesis*, Lund University (EKHK18) (2019); *Basic*

Econometrics, Ph.D. Level, Lund University (2026); Research Methods in Development Studies (UTVC36), Bachelor's Level, Lund University (2026).

- Supervision:
  - Ph.D. Students as Main Supervisor: 3 (one graduated in 2023)
  - Master's Thesis Students: 12 (2017-2026)
  - Bachelor's Thesis Students: 6 (2019-2023)
- Pedagogical training:
  - Learning and Teaching in Higher Education (LATHE): A Web-Based Introduction (Lund University, 2017)
  - Ph.D. Supervision / *Forskarhandledning* (Lund University, 2021)
  - Course Design in Higher Education (Lund University, 2022)

## Professional Activities

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### Administrative and Editorial Services:

- Board member, Dept. of Economic History, Lund University (2012-2014)
- Ph.D. recruiting committee, Dept. of Economic History, Lund University (2013-2014)
- Editorial board member at *Historisk Tidskrift* (2016-2020)
- Editorial board member at *European Review of Economic History* (2021-)
- Editorial board member at *Journal of Economic History* (2023-)

### Referee:

- Grants/Prizes: **2019:** Prize Committee for the Gino Luzzatto Dissertation Prize. **2018:** Horizon 2020 (the Research Executive Agency of the European Commission).
- Journals: **2026:** Journal of Economic History (x3), Explorations in Economic History, European Review of Economic History, Scandinavian Economic History Review (x2). **2025:** Journal of Economic History (x3), Explorations in Economic History. **2024:** Economic History Review, Explorations in Economic History, Journal of Economic History, Regional Studies. **2023:** Journal of Economic History, European Review of Economic History (x2), Economic History Review (x2), Regional Studies, Research Policy. **2022:** European Review of Economic History (x3), Journal of Economic History (x2) **2021:** European Review of Economic History, Scandinavian Economic History Review. **2020:** American Economic Review, Explorations in Economic History (x2), Journal of Economic History (x2), European Review of Economic History, Scandinavian Economic History Review. **2019:** Journal of Economic History, Review of Economic Studies, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Historisk Tidskrift. **2018:** Economic History Review, European Review of Economic History, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Urban Economics, Journal of Regional Science. **2017:** European Review of Economic History, Journal of Regional Science. **2016:** European Review of Economic History, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Transport Geography.
- Conference Organizer: 1) 10th SOUND Economic History Workshop (Nov, 2015); 2) Monthly Ph.D. seminar series, Lund University (2013 - 2014); 3) Stockholm Economic History Lab (at IFN, Stockholm); 4) Workshop in Economic History (at Uppsala University)
- Discussant: 1) Final Dissertation Seminar, Fredrik Bergenfeldt, Lund (Topic: Preindustrial transport) Oct, 2013; 2) Final Dissertation Seminar, Björn Eriksson, Lund (Topic: Migration and social mobility) May, 2015.

## Awards and Grants

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### Awards

- 2017: Gino Luzzatto Dissertation Prize by the EHES €1,000.
- 2017: Dissertation Prize from the Swedish Economic History Society SEK 3,000.
- 2015: Lund School of Economics and Management "Blog Prize" SEK10,000.
- 2012: Selected Paper for the 60th Anniversary of Scandinavian Economic History Review €500.

### Grants

- 2026: Handelsbankens forskningsstiftelser (PI) SEK1,965,000
- 2022: Handelsbankens forskningsstiftelser (PI) SEK2,000,000

- 2022: Handelsbankens forskningsstiftelser (Co-Applicant) SEK2,000,000
- 2022: Handelsbankens forskningsstiftelser (Co-Applicant) SEK2,000,000
- 2021: Riksbankens Jubileumsfond Pro Futura Scientia Fellowship (PI) SEK5,000,000
- 2021: Handelsbankens forskningsstiftelser (PI) SEK1,500,000
- 2019: Riksbankens Jubileumsfond (Co-Applicant) SEK4,967,000
- 2019: Handelsbankens forskningsstiftelser (Co-Applicant) SEK1,631,000
- 2019: Lars Erik Lundbergs Stiftelse (Co-Applicant) SEK2,200,000
- 2018: British Academy International Visiting Fellowship (PI) £13,050
- 2017: Handelsbankens forskningsstiftelser (Wallander grant, PI) SEK1,600,000
- 2017: Vetenskapsrådet (Co-Applicant) SEK7,200,000
- 2017: Länsförsäkringar (Co-Applicant) SEK5,500,000
- 2015: Handelsbankens forskningsstiftelser: SOUND Economic History Workshop SEK45,000
- 2015: The Crafoord Foundation: SOUND Economic History Workshop SEK35,000
- 2013: The Crafoord Foundation (Co-Applicant) SEK1,380,000