

# John A. O'Trakoun

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond  
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## CURRENT AFFILIATION

Senior Policy Economist, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, Richmond VA (2020 - present)

## PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Senior Economist, Ford Motor Company, Dearborn MI (2015 - 2020)  
Senior Economist, Government Accountability Office, Washington DC (2013 - 2015)  
Research Assistant, Teaching Assistant and Teaching Fellow, Boston College, Chestnut Hill MA (2008 - 2013)

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, Boston College (2013)  
B.A. International Studies, B.S. Statistics, American University (2008)

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- “An Alternative Measure of Core Inflation: The Trimmed Persistence PCE Price Index” (2023), *Business Economics*, 58(4): 205-223. [2023 Edmund A. Mennis Contributed Paper Award winner.]
- “Business forecasting during the pandemic” (2022), *Business Economics*, 57(3): 95-110. [2022 Adolph G. Abramson Scroll winner.]
- “The State Strikes Back: the end of economic reform in China? by Nicholas R. Lardy” (2019), *Business Economics*, 54(4): 262-264.
- “The impact of trade on growth in the Great Lakes states” (2018), *Economics Bulletin*, 38(4): A171.
- “China’s Belt and Road Initiative and regional perceptions of China” (2018), *Business Economics*, 53(1): 17-24. [2018 Adolph G. Abramson Award winner.]
- “New perspectives on corruption contagion” (2017), *Journal of International Trade & Economic Development*, 26(5): 552-565.
- “Food Price Uncertainty and Political Conflict” (2015), *International Finance*, 18: 299-320. doi: 10.1111/inf. 12073.

## BANK AND GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, POLICY STUDIES

- with David Ramachandran, 2022. “Building A Pipeline Between Producer and Consumer Prices,” Economic Brief, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, vol. 22(38), September. [Media mention: *USA Today* (7/12/2023)]
- with Conner Mulloy & Pierre-Daniel G. Sarte, 2022. “How Persistent Is Inflation?” Economic Brief, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, vol. 22(31), August.
- with John Mullin & Pierre-Daniel G. Sarte, 2021. “Inflation Expectations: Separating the Signal from the Noise,” Economic Brief, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, vol. 21(33), October.
- GAO-16-64: OVERSEAS PRIVATE INVESTMENT CORPORATION: Additional Actions Could Improve Monitoring Process. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-16-64>.
- GAO-15-300: AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT: Eligibility Process and Economic Development in Sub-Saharan Africa. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-300>.
- GAO-15-194: DEFENSE BASE ACT INSURANCE: State Department Should Evaluate Its Open Market System and Incorporate Leading Practices into Any Future Single Insurer Solicitation. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-194>.

- GAO-15-161: FREE TRADE AGREEMENTS: Office of the U.S. Trade Representative Should Continue to Improve Its Monitoring of Environmental Commitments. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-15-161>.
- GAO-14-722R: AFRICAN GROWTH AND OPPORTUNITY ACT: Observations on Competitiveness and Diversification of U.S. Imports from Beneficiary Countries. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-722R>.
- GAO-14-575: CONFLICT MINERALS: Stakeholder Options for Responsible Sourcing Are Expanding, but More Information on Smelters Is Needed. <http://gao.gov/products/GAO-14-575>.
- GAO-14-546: UNITED NATIONS: Key Compensation Elements Should Be Reviewed to Address Costs and Sustainability. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-546>.
- GAO-14-355: FOREIGN AID: USAID Has Increased Funding to Partner-Country Organizations but Could Better Track Progress. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-355>.
- GAO-14-277: INTERNATIONAL FOOD AID: Prepositioning Speeds Delivery of Emergency Aid, but Additional Monitoring of Time Frames and Costs Is Needed. <http://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-14-277>.

BLOGS, MEDIA,  
OTHER  
NON-ACADEMIC  
PUBLICATIONS:

- Founding author of Richmond Fed *Macro Minute* blog. [https://www.richmondfed.org/research/national\\_economy/macro\\_minute](https://www.richmondfed.org/research/national_economy/macro_minute).
  - Various posts on economy related matters including labor market, inflation, housing market, commodity markets and growth
- with Grochulski, B. "The Great Office Exodus and Commercial Real Estate." *Speaking of the Economy* podcast. 23 August 2023. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. [https://www.richmondfed.org/podcasts/speaking\\_of\\_the\\_economy/2023/speaking\\_2023\\_08\\_23\\_office\\_market](https://www.richmondfed.org/podcasts/speaking_of_the_economy/2023/speaking_2023_08_23_office_market).
- Interviewed in "CPI, PPI – what do the indexes really tell us about inflation?" *Marketplace*, 11 May 2023. National Public Radio. <https://www.marketplace.org/2023/05/11/cpi-ppi-what-do-the-indexes-really-tell-us-about-inflation/amp/>.
- Interviewed in "Unwinding the wage-price spiral." *The Indicator from Planet Money*, 14 February 2023. National Public Radio. <https://www.npr.org/2023/02/14/1156876594/unwinding-the-wage-price-spiral>.
- with Sarte, P. "How Long Will Inflation Stick Around?" *Speaking of the Economy* podcast. 16 November 2022. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. [https://www.richmondfed.org/podcasts/speaking\\_of\\_the\\_economy/speaking\\_2022\\_11\\_16\\_inflation\\_persistence](https://www.richmondfed.org/podcasts/speaking_of_the_economy/speaking_2022_11_16_inflation_persistence).
- "Inflation and Fed Policy." *Speaking of the Economy* podcast. 13 July 2022. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. [https://www.richmondfed.org/podcasts/speaking\\_of\\_the\\_economy/speaking\\_2022\\_07\\_13\\_inflation](https://www.richmondfed.org/podcasts/speaking_of_the_economy/speaking_2022_07_13_inflation).
- "The Housing Market During the Pandemic...and Beyond." *Speaking of the Economy* podcast. 29 December 2021. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. <https://speakingoftheeconomy.libsyn.com/the-housing-market-during-the-pandemic-and-beyond>.
- with Haltom, R. "Are Employers Paying Enough?" *Speaking of the Economy* podcast. 11 August 2021. Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond. <https://speakingoftheeconomy.libsyn.com/are-employers-paying-enough>.
- Interviewed in Kiernan, John S. (January 2020) "Cheap Car Insurance in 2019." WalletHub. <https://wallethub.com/cheap-car-insurance/#expert=john-a-o-trakoun>.
- O'Trakoun, J. (8 February 2016) "Inequality in Michigan: Not As Bad As You Think." *Viewpoint*: 2016-04. Mackinac Center for Public Policy. <http://www.mackinac.org/archives/2016/VP2016-04.pdf>.

- Interviewed in Bernardo, Richie. "2015's Metro Areas that Most and Least Resemble the U.S." WalletHub. <https://wallethub.com/edu/metro-areas-that-most-and-least-resemble-the-us/6109/#john-o-trakoun+>.

#### HONORS AND AWARDS

2023 Edmund A. Mennis Contributed Paper Award, National Association for Business Economics (NABE)  
 2022 Abramson Scroll, NABE  
 2019 Young Economist Scholarship, NABE  
 2018 Abramson Award, NABE  
 Donald J. White Teaching Excellence Award, 2013  
 Graduate Fellow, Clough Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, 2012-2013  
 Full tuition scholarship and stipend, September 2008 – August 2013  
 Graduated *summa cum laude* with University Honors, 2008  
 School of International Service Outstanding Scholarship at the Undergraduate Level, 2008  
 J. William Fulbright Scholarship (2008, declined)  
 Phi Beta Kappa, Zeta of Washington D.C., 2007  
 American University Presidential Scholar, 2004 – 2008

#### PRESENTATIONS

"*Economics in the Hot Seat*," panelist, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (2023),  
 "*Diverse Economics (DivEc) Conference panel: Economics in Practice*," Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (2023),  
 "*Trimmed Persistence Inflation*," National Association for Business Economics 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting (2023),  
 "*Transforming Cities: The Impact of Young Professionals on America's Urban Landscape*," National Urban League Young Professionals 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern Regional Conference (2023),  
 "*The U.S. Economy: Navigating Uncharted Waters*," Society of Utility and Regulatory Financial Analysts 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Financial Forum (2023),  
 "*Diverse Economics (DivEc) Conference panel: Diverse Careers in Economics*," Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (2021),  
 "*Richmond Fed on Campus: Inflation: Why It Matters, What To Look For, and What's Happening Today*," Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond (2021),  
 "*D is for Doctorate*," oSTEM 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (2019),  
 "*Market & Consumer Dynamics: Can China's Growth Pace Be Maintained*," Original Equipment Suppliers Association (2019),  
 "*Inside China: Understanding China's Current and Future Automotive Industry*," University of Michigan (2018),  
 U.S. Government Accountability Office (2013),  
 International Political Economy Society (2013)

#### AD-HOC REFEREEING

Mackinac Center for Public Policy, *Business Economics*, *Applied Economics*, *Economics Bulletin*

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