

**BETHEL COLE-SMITH**  
bethel.cole@bison.howard.edu  
[bethel.cole@gmail.com](mailto:bethel.cole@gmail.com)  
bethelcolesmith.com

## HOWARD UNIVERSITY

### **Office Contact Information**

Academic Support Building B, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
2400 Sixth Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20059

### **Home Contact Information**

1300 S Arlington Ridge Rd  
Arlington, VA 22202  
954-793-1815

### **Undergraduate and Masters Studies:**

B.Sc., Politics and International Cooperation, University of the West Indies (Jamaica) jointly with  
Université des Antilles et de la Guyane (Martinique), 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honors (Upper Division), 2011

M.Sc., Politics and International Cooperation, University of the West Indies (Jamaica) jointly with  
Sciences Po Bordeaux (France), 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Honors (Upper Division), 2013

### **Doctoral Studies:**

Howard University, 2018 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Dissertation Title: National shocks, neighborhood effects: Heterogenous impact of the China  
Trade Shock at the census tract level

Expected Completion Date: May 2024

### **References:**

Professor Omari Swinton  
Howard University  
(202) 806-6774  
[oswinton@howard.edu](mailto:oswinton@howard.edu)

Professor Haydar Kurban  
Howard University  
(202) 806-7598  
[hkurban@howard.edu](mailto:hkurban@howard.edu)

### **Fields:**

Urban Economics, Labor Economics

### **Teaching and Mentoring Experience:**

2022 – 2023 Senior PhD Student Research Fellow, Howard University Center of  
Excellence in Housing and Urban Research and Policy  
2018 – 2018 Economics and Statistics Tutor, Howard University Office of Tutoring &  
Learning Support Services

### **Research Experience and Other Employment:**

2023 – 2023 Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Dissertation Fellow  
2022 – 2023 Howard University Center of Excellence in Housing and Urban Research  
and Policy, Senior PhD Student Research Fellow  
2021 – 2023 Howard University Center on Race and Wealth, Graduate Research Intern  
2020 – 2020 Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Graduate Intern

2019 – 2020	Howard University Center on Race and Wealth, PhD Student Research Fellow
2019 – 2019	Office of Revenue Analysis of the Government of D.C., Graduate Intern
2017 – 2018	Knovos (f/k/a Capital Novus), Pricing Analyst
2013 – 2017	Neiman Marcus, Sales Associate then Assistant Buyer

**Professional Activities:**

2023	AEA
2022	SEA
2021	SEA, Society of Government Economists, AEA
2020	SEA

**Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:**

2023 – 2023	Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Dissertation Fellow
2020 – 2021	Just-Julian Graduate Research Fellowship
2019 – 2020	IRP Dissertation Award
2018	Omicron Delta Epsilon Honor Society Induction

**Publications:**

Kurban, H., Otabor, C., Cole-Smith, B., and Gautam, G. S. (2022). Gentrification and Opportunity Zones, *Cityscape*, 24(1), 149-186.

This study explores the role of gentrification in the selection of OZ census tracts, as well as the potential impact of OZ on gentrification in 100 most populous urban areas in the U.S. (100 CBSAs) and DC. It analyzes the role of gentrification in the selection of OZ census tracts in 100 CBSAs. Next, we test whether gentrification has differential impacts on economic activity in OZ and non-OZ neighborhoods in 100 most populous metropolitan areas. If so, we then use DC as a case study to analyze the impact of gentrification on migration in DC and predict the impact of economic activity in OZ eligible neighborhoods. We construct an education-based gentrification measure to analyze the relationship between OZs and gentrification in CBSAs. Our descriptive analysis of the 100 most populous urban areas in the U.S. (100 CBSAs) indicates that, although it appears that gentrified census tracts were not favored to receive OZ designation, the statistical relationships between gentrification and business and residential vacancy rates are stronger in OZ designated tracts. In DC, we find that gentrification has been spreading to more neighborhoods in OZ eligible neighborhoods. Using administrative data from the DC government, we find that in-migration rates of higher income residents are significantly higher compared to their out-migration rates. We examine OZ eligible census tracts to understand the expected destination of new investment, measured as the number of permits, and find that census tracts with positive net migration and lower business vacancy rates are likely to receive increased financing.

**Research Papers:**

National shocks, neighborhood effects: Heterogenous impact of the China Trade Shock at the census tract level (Job Market Paper)

China Import Penetration and U.S. Labor-Market Adjustments w/ Nyanya Browne, Patrick Mason, and William Spriggs