## **Peter Philips,**

## **Professor of Economics**

## **University of Utah**

September 28, 2020

### Education

* BA, Economics, Pomona College
* MA, Economics Department, Stanford University
* PhD, Stanford University. Thesis: Towards a Historical Theory of Wage Structures: The Evolution of Wages in the California Canneries- 1870 to Present [1970s]

### Honors & Awards

* University of Utah, Graduate Student & Postdoctoral Scholar Distinguished Mentor. University of Utah, 2007
* University of Utah, Presidential Teaching Scholar. University of Utah, 1993
* Lowell Bennion University Distinguished Service Professor. University of Utah, 1992
* John R. Park Teacher's Fellowship . University of Utah, 1988
* College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Superior Teacher Award . University of Utah, 1982
* Leland Backstrand Graduating Senior Award in Economics. Pomona College, 1970

### Biography

Peter Philips is Professor of Economics and former Chair of the Economics Department.  He received his BA from Pomona College and his MA and PhD from Stanford University.  He began teaching at the University of Utah in 1978.  Philips is a labor economist specializing on the construction labor market.  He has ancillary interests in econometrics and American economic history focusing on the labor market.  His current research interests include construction labor market regulations, construction safety, women and minority employment in construction, construction apprenticeship programs, project labor agreements, bidding procedures on construction projects, and health insurance for construction workers.  Additionally, Philips does some sideline research on the racial composition of the National Basketball Association and the competition between white women and Chinese men in the Post Gold Rush California labor market.  Philips has over 50 academic books and articles published on these and related topics.

Philips is an accomplished teacher having won many awards for his teaching and guidance of graduate students.  These awards include the University of Utah, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Superior Teacher Award (1982), the University of Utah, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Dean's Research Fellow (1985 and 1988), University of Utah, John R. Park Teacher's Fellowship (1988), University of Utah, Lowell Bennion University Distinguished Service Professor (1992-93), University of Utah, Presidential Teaching Scholar (1993), Nominee, Student Choice Teaching Award, Academic Affairs Board of the Associated Students of the University of Utah, 2004 and the University of Utah, Graduate Student & Postdoctoral Scholar Distinguished Mentor, 2007.

Philips has testified numerous times before legislative bodies regarding various labor market regulations in the construction industry.  Philips also was the only economist on the National Academies committee of experts evaluating the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) construction safety research program.

Philips is married to Jean Reagan, a children's book author, and has a grown daughter, Jane.  Philips' son, John, died of a heroin overdose in 2005.  In the summertime, Philips and his wife are voluntary back-country rangers in the Grand Teton National Park.

### Affiliations

* Industry Studies Association (ISA), Member, 01/2005 - present
* Labor and Employment Research Association (LERA), Member, 2000 - present
* Construction Economics Research Network (CERN), Founding Member, 1995 - present

**Publications**

* Peter Philips & Emma Waitzman (2021). Do Project Labor Agreements Reduce the Number of Bidders on Public Projects? The Case of Community Colleges in California. **Public Works Management and Policy**. Vol. Vol 26, Issue 4, October 2021<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1087...>
* Li, Zhi & Zhi Li1, Chimedlkham Zorigtbaatar, Gabriel Pleités, Ari Fenn, and Peter Philips (2018). The Effect of Prevailing Wage Law Repeals and Enactments on Injuries and Disabilities in the Construction Industry . **Public Works Management & Policy**. Vol. Volume 24, Issue 4, ﻿1– 17. October 2019
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* Emma Waitzman & Peter Philips (2017). Project Labor Agreements and Bidding Outcomes: The Case of Community College Construction in California . University of California. Published, 01/09/2017.
* [The Link Between Good Jobs and a Low Carbon Future , uly 12, 2016 |](http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/the-link-between-good-jobs-and-a-low-carbon-future/)[Betony Jones](http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/author/betony-jones/), [Peter Philips](http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/author/peter-philips/) and [Carol Zabin](http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/author/carol-zabin/) | [Report, UC Berkeley Labor Center](http://laborcenter.berkeley.edu/pub-type/report/). Released, 07/12/2016.   
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* Betony Jones, Peter Philips, and Carol Zabin, **Job Impacts of California’s Existing and Proposed Renewables Portfolio Standard,** University of California, Berkeley, Donald Vial Center on Employment in the Green Economy, August 28, 2015. Published, 08/28/2015.   
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* Kevin Duncan, Peter Philips and Mark Prus,"Prevailing Wage Regulations and School Construction Costs: Cumulative Evidence from British Columbia," *Industrial Relations,* Vol. 53, No. 4 (October 2014). Published, 10/30/2014.
* JaeWhan Kim and Peter Philips, "Remuneration and absenteeism on a large construction site," *Construction Management and Economics*, October, 2014 Vol. 32, No. 10, 983–999. Published, 10/06/2014.
* Ziad Hamideh, David Blatter, Peter Philips, Guowang Rao, Josh Simnitt and Tao Yu, "The Impact of IIPP Policies on Statewide Injury Rates in U.S. Construction," The Center for Construction Research and Training, CPWR Small Study Final Report, May 2014. Released, 05/01/2014.   
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  [http://www.jstor.org/pss/2120515 - opens new window](http://www.jstor.org/pss/2120515)

## **Teaching**

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### Teaching Philosophy

"Teach students facts, and they will know facts.  Teach students how to think, and they will be able to gather, evaluate and use facts their whole lives."

Philips is an accomplished teacher having won many awards for his teaching and guidance of graduate students.  These awards include the University of Utah, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Superior Teacher Award (1982), the University of Utah, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Dean's Research Fellow (1985 and 1988), University of Utah, John R. Park Teacher's Fellowship (1988), University of Utah, Lowell Bennion University Distinguished Service Professor (1992-93),    University of Utah, Presidential Teaching Scholar (1993), Nominee, Student Choice Teaching Award, Academic Affairs Board of the Associated Students of the University of Utah, 2004 and the University of Utah, Graduate Student & Postdoctoral Scholar Distinguished Mentor, 2007.

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### Courses I Teach

* **1740 - US Economic History.**

Historical foundations of American economic growth and development from the colonial period to the present. Institutional and structural change and processes of growth. This is one of my favorite courses to teach because it brings in lots of non-econ majors and introduces them to the BIG QUESTIONS about how we got to where we are at today through processes of economic growth and change. My favorite lecture in this course is one I call: "The Economic History of Saints and Sinners--A Comparison of the Beginnings of Salt Lake City and San Francisco".

* **5470 - American Economic Development.**

Economic growth and development in United States from 19th through early 20th century. Growth due to industrialization and the accompanying evolution of economic institutions. Emphasis on understanding the particular sources and social consequences of American industrial development. In this course, we go into more depth on the material covered in Econ 1740 with a greater emphasis on the debates in economic history.

* **7150 - Labor/Gender I.**

Course covers graduate-level labor economics theory with a focus on choice-theoretic (i.e. neoclassical) labor economics supplemented at the end with a three week segment on alternative approaches to labor economics.

* **3100 - Labor Economics .**

Labor-market economics, wage theory, labor mobility, human-resource development, unionism, collective bargaining, employment, and public policy. This is my field. This is what I do as a professional economist. This is my true intellectual love. So in this course, I try to share that love.

* **5120 - Labor Law and Collective Bargaining.**

An exploration of the laws and policies that regulate and protect employers and employees in U.S. labor markets including labor-management relations, equal employment opportunity, wages and hours, safety and health, immigration, termination, income maintenance, and other topics. I am the country's leading expert on law that govern the construction labor market. I also have testified in court on several occasions regarding labor market matters. So labor law and labor policies are central to my research and expertise. This is a great course not only for econ majors and poli-sci majors but also anyone thinking about going in law.

## **Service**

Department

Hiring committee 2021

Assisting other teachers during the pandemic with online teaching

Community

Provided analysis on how to reform Davis-Bacon surveys to the US Labor Department