NICHOLAS P. SWEENEY

University of Manchester, United Kingdom

Email ◇ Website

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Fellow, Alliance Manchester Business School, University of Manchester   2025 –
Three year appointment as the *Sir Terry Leahy Fellow of Urban and Regional Economics*

PUBLICATIONS

Sweeney, N. P. (2026) 'Challenging the S of Mayoral Strategic Authorities: Standardisation Over Strategy?'. *The Political Quarterly*. DOI.

Sweeney, N. P. (2026) 'Devolution and Economic Growth in English City Regions'. *Urban Studies*. DOI.

Sweeney, N. P. (2025) 'Devolution and Democratic Engagement in England'. *Political Geography*. DOI.

Sweeney, N. P. (2025) 'Devolution, Health and Health Inequalities in Greater Manchester'. *Social Science & Medicine*. DOI.

WORKING PAPERS

Sweeney, N. P. () 'Spatial Variation in Mobility Across England: Evidence from 21 Million Geo-coded Credit-Card Flows'. *Spatial Economic Analysis*. DOI. 2nd R&R submitted.

Sweeney, N. P. () 'The Interactive Temporal Microfoundations of Agglomeration Economies and Their Implications'. DOI.

EDUCATION

Land Economy, PhD, St Catharine's College, University of Cambridge   2022 – 2026 (expected)
In progress

- **Thesis & Funding:** 'Devolution and Space in England: Empirical Essays on Economic Growth, Democratic Engagement and Health'; fully funded by the ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership

Land Economy by Research, MPhil, Darwin College, University of Cambridge   2021 – 2022
Distinction (75%)

- **Awards & Achievements:** £12,000 Cambridge Trust (Grace Goh Studentship); 87% in Research Methods

Land Economy, BA, Jesus College, University of Cambridge   2018 – 2021
Double First-class (73.4%)

- **Awards & Achievements:** Most marks in cohort across all three years; prizes for best final-year dissertation (82%), best overall second-year performance (71.6%), best overall (71%) and Economics, first-year performance

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Sir Terry Leahy Fellow   2025 –

- Research spanning multiple themes surrounding subnational inequalities and growth, with a particular focus on modelling innovation, mobility and political patterns of discontent using big data
- Winner of Best Presentation at Regional Science Association International (British and Irish Section) Early Career Colloquium 2026
- Data Lead on agreements with TravelTime API, The Elections Centre, Rail Data Marketplace

University of Cambridge Interviewer   2022 – *Trinity Hall* & 2024 – *Sidney Sussex*

- Entrusted to be one of four interviewers for candidates for undergraduate Land Economy applications
- Consulted on final selection of candidates, justifying my reasoning based on objective criteria

University of Cambridge Supervisor   Autumn 2022
Department of Land Economy   *Cambridge, UK*
- Supervised 60 second year undergraduates on 'Paper 11: Land and Urban Economics', marking essays, giving feedback and clarifying technical and theoretical problems in small group formats
- Covered the topics of agglomeration, reasons for co-location of highly skilled couples, retail accessibility as a determinant of place attractiveness and whether big cities were 'bad places to live'

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

– Invited seminars and lectures: University of Cambridge (Dec 2025), The Productivity Institute (Jan 2026), London School of Economics (Feb 2026), RSAI-BIS Conference Belfast (invited early career researcher, May 2026)

– Journal Referee for: Regional Studies

– Advisory positions: Scientific Advisory Board member for the Biologics Regoinal Innovation and Technology Ecosystem UKRI project

POLICY EXPERIENCE

Data Science Intern   September 2023 – March 2024
Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development   *Paris, France*
- Recruited to employ Natural Language Processing techniques to explore the potential for big data (full text job listings) to illustrate how the digital and green ('twin') transition is impacting labour markets
- During my internship, I also focused on analysing sector-specific datasets, particularly in mining, using R and Python to present findings for the LESI Division

Researcher
– MillNET_i   Summer 2021 – *Virtual*
- Selected to work on a project analysing longitudinal data on the composition and sources of income and diets of residents in The Gambia and Ethiopia funded by the UK Research and Innovation Global Research Fund
- Handled observations for >600 households, spanning through the COVID-19 pandemic to investigate how diets changed, engaging in debates as to how to improve the research design of the project with a strong focus on integrating local perspectives

– ASEAN Development Outlook Report   Summer 2020 – *Virtual*
- Selected to provide guidance on the Association of South East Asian Nations Development Outlook Report 2020 - 2025, providing analysis on topics ranging from the impact of colonial legacies to the sustainability of palm oil
- Proof-read and provided feedback before official review on the four core themes of: identity, natural and built environment, livelihoods, social welfare/health

SKILLS

Data access	Office of National Statistics Accredited Researcher (no. 36517, exp. Nov. 2026)
Software	Proficient in **Python**, **R**, **LaTeX**, **STATA**, intermediate in **QGIS**
Communication	Intermediate French language

OTHER

Societies and interests	University of Manchester Humanities Fellows Committee, Hawks' Club President & Committee, Cambridge University Association Football Club Secretary
Date of birth	19 July 2000