

# **Enrico Spolaore**

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## **Professional Positions**

**Tufts University**, Medford, MA, USA  
Seth Merrin Chair, since 2018  
Professor of Economics, since 2004  
Chair of the Economics Department, 2006-2012  
Co-director of the Master of Science in Economics Program, 2020-2024

**National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)**, Cambridge, MA, USA  
Research Associate, Political Economy Program, since 2010  
(previously Faculty Research Fellow, Political Economy Program)

**CESIfo**, Munich, Germany  
Research Fellow, since 2004

**Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE)**  
University of Warwick, UK  
External Research Associate, since 2012

## **Education**

**Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA, USA  
Ph.D. in Economics, 1993; A.M. in Economics, 1991

**Università degli Studi di Siena**, Siena, Italy  
Dottorato di Ricerca in Economia Politica, 1992

**Università degli Studi di Roma “La Sapienza,”** Rome, Italy  
Laurea in Economia e Commercio, *summa cum laude*, 1987

## Publications

### *Books*

#### **Culture and Economic Growth** (editor)

*The International Library of Critical Writings in Economics*, two volumes  
Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2014.

#### **The Size of Nations**

Cambridge (MA): MIT Press, December 2003.

Paperback edition: 2005.

(with Alberto Alesina)

Association of American Publishers (AAP) Professional Scholarly Publishing Award  
(Honorable Mention) in Economics 2003.

Translated in Catalan and Chinese

### *Articles, Columns, and Book Chapters*

#### **Barriers to Global Capital Allocation**

*Quarterly Journal of Economics*, accepted  
(with Bruno Pellegrino and Romain Wacziarg)

#### **The Economic Approach to Political Borders**

in *Border Studies: A Multidisciplinary Approach*  
edited by Thomas M. Wilson

Chapter 7, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, forthcoming, 2025.

#### **L'Europe avant la tempête/L'Europa prima della tempesta/**

#### **Europa antes de la tormenta**

*Le Grand Continent*, Groupe d'études géopolitiques, Paris, April 27, 2023.

#### **Understanding Borders and Conflict from an Economic Perspective**

VoxEu, CEPR, London, February 8, 2023.

#### **Fertility and Modernity**

*The Economic Journal*, 132(642), 796-833, February 2022.

(with Romain Wacziarg)

#### **Commanding Nature by Obeying Her: A Review Essay**

#### **on Joel Mokyr's *A Culture of Growth***

*Journal of Economic Literature*, 58(3) 777-792, September 2020.

#### **Guest Editorial Introduction to Special Issue**

#### **on Small States and Competitiveness**

*Small States and Territories*, 2(1), May 2019.

(with Serge Allegrezza and Lino Briguglio)

**The Political Economy of Heterogeneity and Conflict**  
in *Disrupted Economic Relations: Disasters, Sanctions, Dissolutions*  
edited by Tibor Besedeš and Volker Nitsch  
Cambridge (MA): MIT Press, 2019.  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**Ancestry and Development: New Evidence**  
*Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 33(5), pp. 748-762, August 2018.  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**Barriers to the Spread of Prosperity**  
in *The Long Economic and Political Shadow of History*  
edited by Stelios Michalopoulos and Elias Papaioannou,  
VoxEu E-Book, January 2017  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**War and Relatedness**  
*Review of Economics and Statistics*,  
vol. 98 (5), pages 925-939, December 2016.  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**Ancestry, Language and Culture**  
in *Palgrave Handbook of Economics and Language*,  
edited by Victor Ginsburgh and Shlomo Weber,  
Chapter 6, pages 174-211, Palgrave McMillan, 2016.  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**The Economics of Political Borders**  
in *Economic Analysis of International Law*  
edited by Eugene Kontorovich and Francesco Parisi  
Chapter 1, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2016.

**The Diffusion of Institutions**  
in *Complexity and Evolution: Toward a New Synthesis for Economics*.  
edited by D.S. Wilson and A. Kirman, Strüngmann Forum Reports, vol. 19,  
Chapter 9, pages 147-166, MIT Press, Cambridge, MA, 2016.  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**What's Happening with the Number and Size of Nations?**  
*E-International Relations*, November 9, 2015  
(with Alberto Alesina)

**Monnet's Chain Reaction and the Future of Europe**  
VoxEu, CEPR, London, July 25, 2015

**Ancestry and Culture**  
VoxEu, CEPR, London, June 27, 2015 (with Romain Wacziarg)

**The Political Economy of European Integration**  
in *Handbook of the Economics of European Integration*,  
edited by Herald Badinger and Volker Nitsch, Chapter 26, pages 435-48,  
Routledge, 2015.

**Long-Term Barriers to Economic Development**  
in *Handbook of Economic Growth*, Volume 2,  
edited by Philippe Aghion and Steven Durlauf,  
Amsterdam: Elsevier, 2014.  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**Long-Term Barriers to Growth**  
VoxEu, CEPR, London, October 3, 2013  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**What is European Integration Really About? A Political Guide for Economists**  
*Journal of Economic Perspectives*, vol. 27 (3), pages 125-144, Summer 2013

**How Deep Are the Roots of Economic Development?**  
*Journal of Economic Literature*, vol. 51 (2), pages 325-369, June 2013.  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**National Borders, Conflict and Peace**  
in *Oxford Handbook of The Economics of Peace and Conflict*,  
edited by Michelle Garfinkel and Stergios Skaperdas,  
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.

**Long-Term Barriers to the International Diffusion of Innovations**  
in *NBER International Seminar on Macroeconomics* 2011,  
edited by Jeffrey Frankel and Christopher Pissarides,  
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**Comment on "Toward a Political Economy of Macroeconomic Thinking"**  
in *NBER International Seminar on Macroeconomics* 2011,  
edited by Jeffrey Frankel and Christopher Pissarides,  
Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012.

**Federalism, Interregional Redistribution, and Country Stability**  
in *The Political Economy of Inter-Regional Fiscal Flows: Measurement, Determinants and Effects on Country Stability*,  
edited by Núria Bosch, Marta Espasa Queralt and Albert Solé Ollé,  
Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2010.

**Kinship and Conflict**  
VoxEu, CEPR, London, July 7, 2009.  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**The Diffusion of Development**

*Quarterly Journal of Economics*, vol. 110 (2), pages 469-530, May 2009.  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**Efficiency and Stability of National Borders**

*Review of Business and Economics*, vol. 44 (1), pages 4-21,  
January-March 2009.

**Civil Conflict and Secessions**

*Economics of Governance*, vol. 9(1), pages 45-63, January 2008.

**Herschel Grossman**

in *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition,  
edited by Steven Durlauf and Lawrence Blume, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

**Economics Approach to the Size of Nations**

in *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition,  
edited by Steven Durlauf and Lawrence Blume, Palgrave Macmillan, 2008.

**Democracy as Commitment**

Review of *The Economic Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy* by Daron Acemoglu and James Robinson,  
*Economic Journal*, vol. 117(517), pages F174-F179, 2007.

**Conflict, Defense, and the Number of Nations**

*European Economic Review*, vol. 50(1), pages 91-120, January 2006.  
(with Alberto Alesina)

**Monetary and Fiscal Policies with Adjustment Costs**

in *Monetary Policy and Institutions. Essays in Honor of Mario Arcelli*,  
edited by Giorgio Di Giorgio and Fabio Neri,  
Rome: LUISS University Press, 2006.

**National Borders and the Size of Nations**

in *Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*,  
edited by Barry Weingast and David Wittman  
Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

**Borders and Growth**

*Journal of Economic Growth*, vol. 10(4), pages 331-386, December 2005.  
(with Romain Wacziarg)

**War, Peace, and the Size of Countries**

*Journal of Public Economics*, vol. 89(7), pages 1333-1354, July 2005.  
(with Alberto Alesina)

**Trade, Growth, and the Size of Countries**

in *Handbook of Economic Growth*, edited by Philippe Aghion and Steven Durlauf, Amsterdam: North-Holland, 2005.  
(with Alberto Alesina and Romain Wacziarg)

**De deugdzaamheid van de kleintjes** (in Dutch)

*Secession, Quarterly Journal for the Study of Secessions and Direct Democracy*, 20, September 2005.

**Why Chads? Determinants of Voting Equipment Use in the United States**

*Public Choice*, vol. 123(3), pages 363-392, June 2005.

(with Phillip Garner)

**Is Small Really So Ugly?**

*World Trade Review*, vol. 3(03), pages 447-452, December 2004.

**Economic Integration, International Conflict and Political Unions**

*Rivista di Politica Economica*, 94 (3) 9-10, pages 3-50, September-October 2004.

**Adjustments in Different Government Systems**

*Economics & Politics*, vol. 16(2), pages 117-146, July 2004.

**Crecimiento económico y tamaño de las economías** (in Spanish)

*Claves de la Economía Mundial*

Instituto Español de Comercio Exterior (ICEX), 2004.

**On the Evaluation of Economic Mobility**

*Review of Economic Studies*, vol. 69(1), pages 191-208, January 2002.

(with Peter Gottschalk)

**Economic Integration and Political Disintegration**

*American Economic Review*, vol. 90(5), pages 1276-1296, December 2000

(with Alberto Alesina and Romain Wacziarg)

reprinted in Pomfret, Richard (ed.), *The Economics of Regional Trading*

*Arrangements*, The International Library of Critical Writings in Economics, vol. 161, Chapter 23, pp. 471-491, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2003.

**On the Number and Size of Nations**

*Quarterly Journal of Economics*, vol. 90(5), pages 1276-1296, November 1997

(with Alberto Alesina)

**Economic Theories of the Break-up and Integration of Nations**

*European Economic Review*, vol. 40(3-5), pages 697-705, April 1996

(with Patrick Bolton and Gérard Roland).

**Together or Separately? Issues on the Costs and Benefits of Political and Fiscal Unions**  
*European Economic Review*, vol. 39(3-4), pages 751-758, April 1995  
(with Alberto Alesina and Roberto Perotti).

**How Cynical Can an Incumbent Be? A Strategic Model of Government Spending**  
*Journal of Public Economics*, vol. 55(1), pages 121-140, September 1994  
(with Gian Maria Milesi-Ferretti).

## **Academic and Professional Experience**

### ***Previous Job Experience***

**Brown University**  
Kutayba Alghanim Assistant Professor of Political Economy,  
Assistant Professor of Economics,  
and Assistant Professor of Political Science (by courtesy), 1998-2004  
Faculty Associate, Watson Institute for International Studies, 2002-2004

**Boston College**  
Assistant Professor of Economics, 1997-1998  
Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics, 1993-1994 and 1995-199

**The Ohio-State University**  
Assistant Professor of Economics, and Assistant Professor of Political Science  
(by courtesy), 1996-1997

**Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB)**  
Research Fellow, European Center for Advanced Research in Economics  
(ECARE), 1994-1995.

**European Commission**  
Economic Consultant, DG IV- Industry, February-March 1995.

**Confindustria** (General Confederation of Italian Industries)  
Economic Consultant, August-November 1988.

### ***Other Professional Experience and Service (selected)***

**Small States and Territories Journal**  
Co-editor of special issue, 2019

**Economics & Politics**  
Co-editor, 2006-2011

**Centre for the Study of Democratic Citizenship, McGill University**  
Outside Expert, September 2010

**University of San Francisco**  
External Reviewer, Economics Programs, Spring 2007

## **Honors, Awards, and Fellowships (selected)**

### **Keynote Speaker**

16th International Forum on the Economic Development of Large Nations  
Hunan Normal University, Changsha, August 2024

### **Keynote Speaker**

Gender and Economics Conference  
University of Luxembourg, June 2023

### **Keynote Speaker**

Economics and Institutions in Europe - SMEIE  
University of Trento, September 2022

### **Keynote Speaker**

Political Economy & Political Science Workshop on Conflict Dynamics  
Brunel London University  
London, UK, December 2019

### **Premio Due Torri d'Oro**

Lions Club  
Rovigo, Italy, June 2019

### **Keynote Speaker**

CESifo Conference on Country Clubs  
Venice, Italy, June 2018

### **Closing Speaker**

Harvard European Law Symposium  
Cambridge, MA, April 2018

### **Keynote Speaker**

Government of Luxembourg International Conference on EU Small States  
Luxembourg, April 2018

### **Closing Speaker**

Alpha Bank International Conference on Greece and Small States  
Corfu, Greece, October 2017

**Keynote Speaker**

CESIfo Conference on Disrupted Economic Relations  
Venice, Italy, July 2016

**Keynote Speaker**

University of Edinburgh Conference on Country Size and Economic Performance  
Edinburgh, UK, June 2014

**Cesare Barbieri Lecture**

Trinity College, Hartford, CT, November 2012

**Keynote Speaker**

Australasian Public Choice Conference  
Melbourne, Australia, December 2009

**American Economic Review**

Excellence in Refereeing Award

**Association of American Publishers (AAP)**

Professional Scholarly Publishing Award (Honorable Mention) in Economics to  
the book *The Size of Nations* (with Alberto Alesina).

**European University Institute**

Economics Chair, 2004 (declined)

**National Science Foundation (NSF)**

Research Grants, “Democratization, Secessions, and Fiscal Institutions,”  
Co-principal investigator (with Alberto Alesina and Roberto Perotti)

**European Commission**

Human Capital and Mobility Fellowship, through the European Center for  
Advanced Research in Economics (ECARE), 1994-1995

**National Science Foundation (NSF)**

**and Harvard/MIT Research Training Group in Positive Political Economy**  
NSF/RTG Doctoral Fellowship, 1992-1993

**Ente Luigi Einaudi**

Doctoral Fellowship, 1992-1993

**Istituto Bancario San Paolo di Torino**

Luciano Jona Fellowship, 1990-1992.

**Mediocredito Centrale**

Marco Fanno Fellowship, 1989-1990.

## Refereeing (selected)

American Economic Review (received “Excellence in Refereeing Award”)  
American Economic Journals  
American Journal of Political Science  
American Political Science Review  
Blackwell Publishing  
British Journal of Political Science  
Bulletin of Economic Research  
Cambridge University Press  
Econometrica  
Economica  
Economic Journal  
Economics of Governance  
Economics Letters  
Economic Notes  
Economics & Politics  
Economic Systems  
Empirical Economics  
European Economic Review  
European Journal of Political Economy  
IMF Staff Papers  
Journal of Comparative Economics  
Journal of Development Economics  
Journal of Economic Development  
Journal of Economic Growth  
Journal of Economic Integration  
Journal of Economic Studies  
Journal of Economic Surveys  
Journal of Economic Theory  
Journal of the European Economic Association (JEEA)  
Journal of Money, Credit and Banking  
Journal of Political Economy  
Journal of Public Economics  
Management Science  
Princeton University Press  
Proceedings B of the Royal Society (Biological Sciences)  
Public Choice  
Oxford University Press  
Quarterly Journal of Economics  
Regional Science and Urban Economics  
Review of Economics and Statistics  
Review of Economic Studies  
Rivista di Politica Economica  
Southern Economic Journal,  
and others

## **Seminar and Conference Presentations (selected)**

Australasian Public Choice Conference, APSA Meetings, ASREC conference, ASSA Meetings, Banca d'Italia, Banco de la Republica (Colombia), Birkbeck College, Boston College, Boston University, Brazilian Econometric Society (SBE), Brigham Young University, Brown University, Università di Bologna, Brunel London University, University of California at Irvine, University of California at Los Angeles, Università Cattolica di Milano, University of Chicago, Universidad de Chile, Consortium of IB Seminars of the Americas, University of Copenhagen, Center for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) conferences, Claremont McKenna College, Columbia University, University of Connecticut, CORE (Catholic University of Louvain), Council for European Studies (CES) Conference (Washington, DC), CRETE conferences (Tinos 2009, Milos 2014, Tinos 2019, Milos 2024), Deakin University, Duke University, ECARES (Free University of Brussels), Econometric Society Meetings, University of Edinburgh, Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF), European Commission (Economic and Monetary Affairs – Annual Research Conference), European Central bank (ECB), European University Institute (EUI), Flemish Parliament, Università di Firenze, Florida International University, Fundação Getúlio Vargas (Rio de Janeiro), Fundação Getúlio Vargas (São Paulo), George Mason University, Harvard University, Harvard-BU Economic History Seminar, Harvard-MIT Political Economy workshop, Harvard Kennedy School (GEM Conference), Hunan Normal University (Changsha), Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IMPA, Rio de Janeiro), International Monetary Fund, International Symposium in Macroeconomics in Malta (NBER), IMT Alti Studi Lucca, INSEAD, London School of Economics, LUISS (Free International University for the Social Sciences - Rome), Università di Modena, University of Montreal, University of Munich, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) conferences, University of Nuremberg, Ohio State University, Pennsylvania State University Pontifícia Universidade Católica (PUC) Rio de Janeiro, Princeton University, Research Institute of Industrial Economics (Stockholm), University of Rennes (Condorcet Center for Political Economy), Università di Roma, Santa Fe Institute, Sciences Po (Paris), Stanford University, St Gallen Symposium, Tel Aviv University, Toulouse School of Economics, Trinity College, Tufts University, United Nations Development Seminar (UNDP), University College London and Oxford webinar on comparative Economics, Vanderbilt University, Venice International University, Università di Verona, WINIR 2024 Conference at the University of Pittsburgh, University of Wisconsin-Madison, World Bank, WZB Social Science Research Center Berlin, Yale University, and others.

# Teaching

## Undergraduate courses

Macroeconomics (principles and intermediate)  
International Economics  
Economic Development  
Political Economy (designed new course)  
The Economies of the Middle East (designed new course)  
The Number and Size of Nations (designed new course)

## Graduate courses

Macroeconomic Theory  
Microeconomic Theory Economic  
Growth  
Mathematical Economics  
Political Economy (designed new course)  
Trade and Growth (co-designed new course)  
Research Methods Seminar I and Seminar II

## Recent Ph.D. Mentoring

Ernesto Tibúrcio Mañon  
Ph.D. in Economics and Public Policy, Tufts, May 2024 (co-advisor)  
Thesis: *Essays on the Political Effects of Migration and Foreign Aid*  
Placement: Postdoctoral Scholar at the Goldman School of Public Policy,  
University of California, Berkeley

Mohammad Ahmad  
Ph.D. in Economics and Public Policy, Tufts, May 2023 (committee member)  
Thesis: *Essays on the Political Economy of Development*  
Placement: Economist at US Federal Communication Commission

Angelina Nazarova  
Ph.D. in Economics, University of Bologna, April 2022 (examination board member)  
Thesis: *Ancestry, Gender and language: The Role of Culture in Economic Development*  
Placement: Senior Research Officer at Institute for Social and Economic Research, University  
of Essex