

Enrico Spolaore

Seth Merrin Professor
Department of Economics
Tufts University

Joyce Cummings Center, 177 College Avenue, Medford, MA 02155, USA
Phone: (617) 627-3560; fax: (617) 627-3917

e-mail: enrico.spolaore@tufts.edu
web site: <http://sites.tufts.edu/enricospolaore>

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 MacMillan, 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*, 2nd 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*, 2nd 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)

Secessie, 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

April 2025