

MATTHEW EASTON

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References

David Weinstein

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Donald R. Davis

Dept. of Economics, Columbia University
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Conor Walsh

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Education

Ph.D., Economics, Columbia University, 2019 – 2025 [*Expected*]
M.Phil., Economics, Columbia University, 2022
M.A., Economics, Columbia University, 2021
B.S., Mathematics, Pennsylvania State University, 2016

Research Areas

Urban Economics, Spatial Economics, Economic Geography

Job Market Paper

“Populations in Spatial Equilibrium” (with Patrick Farrell)

Power law-like distributions for city populations are a distinctive, recurring feature of human settlement patterns. We propose a novel explanation for this phenomenon that reflects the qualities of a place (fundamentals) and its ability to benefit from trade based on its location (market access), two important forces that have not simultaneously been incorporated into an explanation of the city size distribution. Using random variation in geography to model these two terms within a quantitative spatial model results in lognormal population distributions which appear to follow a power law for the most populous locations (i.e., cities).

Working Papers

“Segregation, Spillovers, and the Locus of Racial Change” (with Donald R. Davis and Stephan Thies)

“Interest Spreads and Margins in Collateral Equilibrium with Heterogeneous Beliefs” (with Robert Barsky and Avery Bogus). *Chicago Fed Working Paper Series*, 2022-36, 2022.

Work in Progress

“Amenities and Population Growth: The Case of the Sun Belt”

“A Survey of Unemployment in Metro Areas” (with Donald R. Davis and Tomasz Michalski)

Other Publications

“The Global Saving Glut and the Fall in U.S. Real Interest Rates: A 15-Year Retrospective” (with Robert Barsky). *Chicago Fed Economic Perspectives*, 2021-1, 2021.

Visits

Visiting Scholar, Sciences Po, June and July 2023

Scholarships, Fellowships, and Awards

Columbia Dissertation Fellowship, 2024 – 2025

Wueller Teaching Award (Runner-up prize), 2022 and 2024

Wueller Travel Scholarship, 2024

David C.F. Hsiung '34 M.A. and Vivian S.Y.W. Hsiung Fellowship in Economics (supporting Columbia GSAS fellowship), 2022 – 2023

Columbia Dean's Fellowship, 2019 – Present

Leonard Euler Memorial Scholarship, 2016

Christopher R. Dyckman and Susan Scotto Scholarship, 2015

Schreyer Academic Excellence Scholarship, 2012 – 2016

Relevant Positions

Research Assistant to Donald R. Davis, Columbia University, Summer 2022/2023/2024

Senior Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 2018 – 2019

Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago, 2016 – 2018

Teaching Experience

Columbia University, Undergraduate

Economics of NYC, teaching assistant for Donald R. Davis, SP2022/SP2024

Economic Development of Japan, teaching assistant for David Weinstein, FA2022/FA2023

Finance and the Real Economy, teaching assistant for Matthieu Gomez, SP2023

Financial Crises, teaching assistant for José Scheinkman, FA2021

Financial Economics, teaching assistant for Tamrat Gashaw, SU2021

Financial Economics, teaching assistant for Martina Jasova, SP2021

Intermediate Macroeconomics, teaching assistant for Irasema Alonso, FA2020

Presentations *(*: scheduled)*

2024

Econometric Society North American Summer Meeting, 18th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association

2023

Regional, Urban, Spatial, and Housing (RUSH) Graduate Student Brownbag

Clearances and Grants

Data Clearances

French CASD Access

Grants

Program for Economic Research Student Conference Support Program, 2024

Program for Economic Research Summer Research Assistant Grant, 2024

Program for Economic Research Summer Research Assistant Grant, 2023

Alliance Doctoral Mobility Grant, 2023

Program for Economic Research Student Conference Support Program, 2022