

# DESIREE A. DESIERTO

Economics Department,  
George Mason University,  
4400 University Drive,  
Fairfax, VA, 22030

www.desireedesierto.com  
ddesiert@gmu.edu

## Current Positions

2022 – Assistant Professor, George Mason University

2024 – Associate Editor, *Journal of Economics, Management and Religion*

## Past Positions

2021 – 2022 Postdoctoral Associate, Center for Governance and Markets, University of Pittsburgh

2020 – 2021 Affiliate Faculty, George Mason University, and Lecturer, University of Maryland

2019 – 2020 Postdoctoral Associate, W. Allen Wallis Institute of Political Economy, University of Rochester

2016 – 2019 Research Fellow, WSD Handa Center, Stanford University

2007 – 2013 Assistant & Associate Professor, University of the Philippines

2005 – 2007 Lecturer & Senior Lecturer, University of the Philippines

## Research Interests

Political Economy; Economic History

## Publications

“Shipwrecked by Rents” (with Fernando Arteaga and Mark Koyama), 2024. *Journal of Development Economics* 168: 103240.

“The Political Economy of Status Competition: Sumptuary Laws in Preindustrial Europe” (with Mark Koyama), June 2024. *The Journal of Economic History*.

“Feudal Political Economy” (with Mark Koyama), Forthcoming, *Economic Theory*.

“Religious Violence and Coalition Politics in History” (with Mark Koyama). Forthcoming, *Journal of Historical Political Economy*.

“Bribe-Switching” (with Jamie Bologna Pavlik), 2024. *Public Finance Review*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10911421241248719>

“Corruption for Competence”, 2023. *Economics of Governance* 24: 399–420.

“Health vs. Economy: Politically Optimal Pandemic Policy” (with Mark Koyama), 2020. *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* 1(4): 645-669.

“Formal Models of the Political Resource Curse”, 2018. *Economics of Governance* 19(3): 225–259.

“What Resource Curse? The Null Effect of Remittances on Public Good Provision”, 2018. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 30(4), 431–450.

## Papers Under Review

“Magna Carta” (with Mark Koyama and Jacob Hall).

“Public Goods, Corruption, and the Political Resource Curse.”

“Uncertainties in Models and Empirics.”

## Work in Progress

“The Crown and the Cross: the political economy of forced labor in Spanish America” (with Leticia Arroyo Abad and Jose Antonio Espin-Sanchez).

“Rents and the Reformation” (with Mark Koyama and Marcus Shera).

“Microfounding Religion.”

“The Black Death and State Formation” (with Noel D. Johnson and Mark Koyama).

“Shaftesbury’s Game and The Birth of the Whigs: Party Origins in 17th C England” (with Mark Koyama).

“The Pivot To The Glorious Revolution” (with Mark Koyama).

“Grand Corruption by Theft and Bribery.”

## Education

2013 – 2019 Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison

2013 – 2014 M.A. in Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison

2003 – 2006 Ph.D. in Economics, University of Nottingham

2001 – 2002 M.Sc. in Development Economics, University of Oxford

2000 – 2001 M.Ec. in Economics, Macquarie University

1993 – 1997 B.S. in Business Economics, University of the Philippines, cum laude

## Earlier Publications

“Prohibition vs. Taxation in Corrupt Environments” (with John V.C. Nye), 2017. *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, 173(2): 239–252.

“Investment Pricing and Social Protection: A Proposal for an ICESCR-adjusted Capital Asset Pricing Model” (with Diane A. Desierto), 2017. *ICSID Review* 28(2): 405–419.

“Judicial Independence: Evidence from the Philippine Supreme Court (1970–2003)”, 2015. in *The Political Economy of Governance: Institutions, Democratic Performance and Elections*, eds. Norman Schofield and Gonzalo Caballero. Springer.

“Stimulating Investment and Growth in the Philippines: The Need for First-Order Market Reforms” (with Geoffrey Ducanes), 2013. in *Asia Rising: Growth and Resilience in an Uncertain Global Economy*, eds. Hal Hill and Ma. Socorro Gochoco-Bautista. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

“When Do Formal Rules and Informal Norms Converge” (with John V.C. Nye), 2011. *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* 167: 613–629.

“Why Do Weak States Prefer Prohibition to Taxation?” (with John V.C. Nye), 2011. in *The Political Economy of Institutions, Democracy and Voting*, ed. Norman Schofield and Gonzalo Caballero. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.

“2D:4D Asymmetry and Gender Differences in Academic Performance” (with John V.C. Nye, Grigory Androuschak, Garrett Jones, and Maria Yudkevich), 2012. *PLoS ONE* 7(10): e46319.

“Is It Worth Taxing Pirated Products? The Case of Optical Media Discs in the Philippines” (with Karen Annette D. Lazaro and Kevin Thomas G. Cruz), 2010. *Asian Economic Papers* 9(2): 79–112.

## Invited Seminars and Conference Participation

- 2023 “Rule and Resistance in Colonial Spanish America”, Yale University; Markets and Society, Mercatus Center; School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Lincoln; ASREC (Association for the Study of Religion, Economics and Culture) conference
- 2022 Public Choice Seminar, George Mason University; CGM, University of Pittsburgh; Texas Tech University and Free Market Institute; ASREC conference
- 2021 The Political Theory Project, Brown University and Free Market Institute; School of Public Policy, University of Maryland
- 2020 University of the Philippines School of Economics; Virtual Formal Theory Workshop; CGM, University of Pittsburgh; American University; ASREC
- 2019 Tulane University; George Mason University; Introduction to the Economics of Religion; King’s College Political Economy; Institute for Corruption Studies; Illinois State University; APSA Meetings; Schar School, George Mason University; Wallis Institute, University of Rochester.
- 2018 WSD Handa Center, Stanford University; APSA Meetings; University of Kentucky.
- 2017 University of the Philippines School of Economics.

- 2014 Workshop on Institutional Analysis, Ronald Coase Institute; International Society for the New Institutional Economics; 3rd International Conference on Political Economy and Institutions.
- 2012 Philippines Update, Australian National University 2nd International Conference on Political Economy and Institutions; Institutions and Development, Asian Institute of Management;
- 2011 Workshop on Sustaining Asia's Growth and Investment, Asian Development Bank; Asian Development Review Workshop, Asian Development Bank;
- 2010 & Earlier: Philippine Economics Society Meetings, BSP (Central Bank of the Phils.); Workshop on Health, Institutions and Development, University of the Philippines; 1st International Conference on Political Economy and Institutions; Workshop on Institutions and Development, University of the Philippines; International Society for the New Institutional Economics; The Probabilism Sessions, Cournot Centre for Economic Studies; Conference, European Society for the New Institutional Economics; 13th Conference, Dynamics, Economic Growth and International Trade; Spring Meeting of Young Economists; Workshop on Institutional Analysis, Ronald Coase Institute; Conference, Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Growth; KTH Royal Institute of Technology; Conference, Growth and Distribution: On the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations, Lucca, Italy.

## Teaching Experience

- Graduate: Formal Models in Economic History (George Mason University), Gender Economics (George Mason University), Microeconomics, Mathematical Economics, Econometrics, Development Economics (University of the Philippines)
- Undergraduate: Microeconomic Principles (George Mason University), Development Challenges (University of Maryland), Economic Statistics (University of Rochester), Political Choice and Strategy, Understanding Political Numbers, Research Methods in Political Science (UW-Madison); Microeconomics, Mathematical Economics, Econometrics, Development Economics (University of the Philippines); Macroeconomics (University of Nottingham)

## Fellowships and Awards

- 2024 Grant (\$20,000), Co-PI with Mark Koyama, Emergent Ventures
- 2022 – 2025 Grant (\$235,000), Co-PI with Mark Koyama, John Templeton Foundation
- 2022 Pluralism and Exchange Grant (\$20,000), Co-PI with Mark Koyama, Mercatus Center
- 2019 – 2020 Postdoctoral Fellowship, W. Allen Wallis Institute of Political Economy, Rochester
- 2016 – 2019 Research Fellowship, WSD Handa Center, Stanford
- 2013 – 2014 Gordon Hoxie Graduate Fellowship, University of Wisconsin-Madison
- 2011 – 2012 UPD Faculty Centennial Grant, University of the Philippines
- 2005 – 2006 Robert Solow Postdoctoral Fellowship, Cournot Centre for Economic Studies
- 2005 – 2006 Visiting Scholarship, St. Edmund's College  
and Faculty of Economics and Politics, University of Cambridge
- 1993 – 1997 University and College Scholarship, University of the Philippines

## Refereeing

Journal of Politics; Games & Economic Behavior; European Economic Review; Journal of Economics, Behavior, and Organization; Economics of Governance; Public Choice; Oxford Economic Papers; European Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Law and Courts; Journal of Institutional Economics; Applied Economic Letters; Asian Development Review.

*Last updated May 2024*