

# DESIREE A. DESIERTO

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## Current Positions

2022 – Assistant Professor, George Mason University  
2025 – Co-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, Economic Theory

## Papers Under Review

“Rents and Reformation (with Mark Koyama and Marcus Shera).  
“Magna Carta” (with Mark Koyama and Jacob Hall).  
“Castles” (with Mark Koyama). Conditionally accepted, *European Economic Review*  
“Uncertainties in Models and Empirics.”

## Book Contract

“Noble Bargain: The Political Economy of Feudal Rule” (with Mark Koyama). Cambridge University Press.

## Publications in Refereed Journals

1. “The Political Power of Civil Society” (with Mark Koyama). Forthcoming, *Journal of Comparative Economics*.
2. “A Model of Theft and Bribery.” 2025. *Economica*, 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecca.70003>
3. “Feudal Political Economy” (with Mark Koyama), 2024. *Economic Theory*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00199-024-01583-8>
4. “Religious Violence and Coalition Politics in History” (with Mark Koyama), 2024. *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 4(2): 281–309.
5. “Shipwrecked by Rents” (with Fernando Arteaga and Mark Koyama), 2024. *Journal of Development Economics* 168: 103–240.
6. “The Political Economy of Status Competition: Sumptuary Laws in Preindustrial Europe” (with Mark Koyama), 2024. *The Journal of Economic History* 84(2): 479–516.
7. “Bribe-Switching” (with Jamie Bologna Pavlik), 2024. *Public Finance Review*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10911421241248719>
8. “Corruption for Competence”, 2023. *Economics of Governance* 24: 399–420.
9. “Health vs. Economy: Politically Optimal Pandemic Policy” (with Mark Koyama), 2020. *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* 1(4): 645-669.
10. “Formal Models of the Political Resource Curse”, 2018. *Economics of Governance* 19(3): 225–259.
11. “What Resource Curse? The Null Effect of Remittances on Public Good Provision”, 2018. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 30(4), 431–450.
12. “Prohibition vs. Taxation in Corrupt Environments” (with John V.C. Nye), 2017. *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, 173(2): 239–252.
13. “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.
14. “When Do Formal Rules and Informal Norms Converge” (with John V.C. Nye), 2011. *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* 167: 613–629.
15. “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.
16. “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.

## Publications in Edited Volumes

- 16 “Microfounding Religion” in *Economics, Religion, and Public Policy*, eds. Vladimir Maltsev and Nirvikar Singh. Forthcoming. World Scientific.
- 17 “Institutional Change” (with Mark Koyama) in *The Handbook of New Institutional Economics*, eds. Claude Ménard and Mary Shirley, 2025. Springer.
- 18 “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.
- 19 “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.
- 20 “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.

## Work in Progress

“The Dynamics of Ideology” (with Mark Koyama and Patrick Fitzsimmons).

“Salt and State-Building” (with Mark Koyama and Patrick Fitzsimmons).

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

“The Birth of Parties” (with Mark Koyama).

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

## External Grants, Fellowships, and Awards

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| 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<br>and Faculty of Economics and Politics, University of Cambridge |
| 1993 – 1997 | University and College Scholarship, University of the Philippines  |

## **Education**

2013 – 2019 Ph.D. 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

## **Invited Seminars and Conference Participation**

2026 Virtual Workshop in Historical Political Economy (scheduled); Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) meetings (scheduled)

2025 Second Annual Historical Political Economy Conference; Markets and Society Conference (scheduled); Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC) conference

2024 Antonin Scalia Law School, George Mason University; Georgetown Law School; Free Market Institute, Texas Tech University; Agricultural and Applied Economics, University of Wisconsin–Madison; 2024 Markets and Society conference; Economics and Catholic Social Thought: A Primer, University of Notre Dame

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)

## Refereeing

American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; Games & Economic Behavior; European Economic Review; Explorations in Economic History; Journal of Comparative Economics; Journal of Economics, Behavior, and Organization; Economics of Governance; Journal of Mathematical Economics; Public Choice; Oxford Economic Papers; European Journal of Political Economy; Journal of Economics, Management and Religion; Journal of Law and Courts; Journal of Institutional Economics; Journal of Economic Issues; The Independent Review; Applied Economic Letters; Asian Development Review.

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