

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
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).

“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. “Castles” (with Mark Koyama). 2026. *European Economic Review*.
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euroecorev.2026.105281>

2. “The Political Power of Civil Society” (with Mark Koyama). 2026. *Journal of Comparative Economics*. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jce.2026.01.007>
3. “A Model of Theft and Bribery.” 2025. *Economica*, 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ecca.70003>
4. “Feudal Political Economy” (with Mark Koyama), 2024. *Economic Theory*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00199-024-01583-8>
5. “Religious Violence and Coalition Politics in History” (with Mark Koyama), 2024. *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 4(2): 281–309.
6. “Shipwrecked by Rents” (with Fernando Arteaga and Mark Koyama), 2024. *Journal of Development Economics* 168: 103–240.
7. “The Political Economy of Status Competition: Sumptuary Laws in Preindustrial Europe” (with Mark Koyama), 2024. *The Journal of Economic History* 84(2): 479–516.
8. “Bribe-Switching” (with Jamie Bologna Pavlik), 2024. *Public Finance Review*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10911421241248719>
9. “Corruption for Competence”, 2023. *Economics of Governance* 24: 399–420.
10. “Health vs. Economy: Politically Optimal Pandemic Policy” (with Mark Koyama), 2020. *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* 1(4): 645–669.
11. “Formal Models of the Political Resource Curse”, 2018. *Economics of Governance* 19(3): 225–259.
12. “What Resource Curse? The Null Effect of Remittances on Public Good Provision”, 2018. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 30(4), 431–450.
13. “Prohibition vs. Taxation in Corrupt Environments” (with John V.C. Nye), 2017. *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics*, 173(2): 239–252.
14. “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.
15. “When Do Formal Rules and Informal Norms Converge” (with John V.C. Nye), 2011. *Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics* 167: 613–629.
16. “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.
17. “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

- 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

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, Development Economics (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.

Last updated Feb. 2026

