

DESIREE A. DESIERTO

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Current Positions

2026–	Assistant Professor of Political Economy, Hamilton School for Classical and Civic Education, University of Florida
2026–	Co-editor, <i>Economics, Religion, and Governance</i> , Book Series, World Scientific Publishing
2025–	Co-editor, <i>Journal of Economics, Management and Religion</i>
2022–2026	Assistant Professor, Economics Department, George Mason University

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

- “Salt Wars” (with Patrick Fitzsimmons and Mark Koyama).
- “Rents and Reformation” (with Mark Koyama and Marcus Shera).
- “Magna Carta” (with Mark Koyama and Jacob Hall). Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of the European Economic Association*.
- “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*. doi:10.1016/j.euroecorev.2026.105281
2. “The Political Power of Civil Society” (with Mark Koyama). 2026. *Journal of Comparative Economics*. doi:10.1016/j.jce.2026.01.007
3. “A Model of Theft and Bribery.” 2025. *Economica*, 1–25. doi:10.1111/ecca.70003
4. “Feudal Political Economy” (with Mark Koyama), 2024. *Economic Theory*. doi: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). doi: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*, eds. Norman Schofield and Gonzalo Caballero. Berlin: Springer-Verlag.

Work in Progress

- “The Dynamics of Ideology” (with Mark Koyama and Patrick Fitzsimmons).
- “The Birth of Parties” (with Mark Koyama).
- “The Revolution That Almost Wasn’t Glorious” (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, <i>cum laude</i>

Invited Seminars and Conference Participation

- 2026** Institutions in Historical Political Economy Conference (scheduled); Markets and Society Conference (scheduled); Virtual Workshop in HPE, Fall 2026 (scheduled); Stillman Research Seminar Series, Seton Hall University (scheduled); Virtual Workshop in Historical Political Economy, Spring 2026; Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) meetings
- 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: God and Science (University of Florida), 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 Economics Letters; Asian Development Review.

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