

# Dietrich E. Vollrath

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Department of Economics  
University of Houston  
220B Science Building  
Houston, TX 77204-5019

E-mail: [devollrath@uh.edu](mailto:devollrath@uh.edu)  
Web: <http://www.growthecon.com>  
Office: 713-743-3806  
Fax: 713-743-3798

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- PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS      Chair, Dept. of Economics, University of Houston, 2019-present  
Professor, University of Houston, 2017-present  
Associate Professor, University of Houston, 2011-2017  
Assistant Professor, University of Houston, 2005-2011  
Visiting Professor, Dartmouth College, (Summers) 2011-2019
- EDUCATION      Brown University, Ph.D., Economics, 2005  
Brown University, M.A., Economics, 2004  
University of Michigan, B.A., Economics, 1994
- BOOKS      **D. Vollrath**, *Fully Grown: Why a Stagnant Economy is a Sign of Success*, University of Chicago Press, 2020.  
C. I. Jones and **D. Vollrath**, *Introduction to Economic Growth*, W.W. Norton and Co., New York, NY. 2023 (4th edition) and 2013 (3rd edition).
- PUBLICATIONS      **D. Vollrath**, “The elasticity of aggregate output with respect to capital and labor,” *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 16(4):470-504, 2024.  
T. R. Johnson, **D. Vollrath**. “The role of land in temperate and tropical agriculture,” *Economica*, 87(348):901-937, 2020.  
R. Jedwab, **D. Vollrath**. “The urban mortality transition and poor country urbanization,” *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, 11(1):223-75, 2019.  
M. Eberhardt, **D. Vollrath**. “The effect of agricultural technology on the speed of development,” *World Development*, 109:483-496, 2018.  
D. Gollin, R. Jedwab, **D. Vollrath**. “Urbanization with and without industrialization,” *Journal of Economic Growth*, 21(1):35-70, 2016.  
R. Jedwab, **D. Vollrath**. “Urbanization without growth in historical perspective,” *Explorations in Economic History*, 58(C):1-21, 2015.  
S. G. Craig, E. C. Hoang, **D. Vollrath**. “Household response to government debt: Evidence from life insurance holdings,” *Journal of Money, Credit and Banking*, 47(5):819-845, 2015.  
**D. Vollrath**. “The efficiency of human capital allocations in developing countries,” *Journal of Development Economics*, 108:106-118, 2014.  
I. Hoxha, S. Kalemli-Ozcan, **D. Vollrath**. “How big are the gains from international financial integration?” *Journal of Development Economics*, 103(C):90-98, 2013.

**D. Vollrath.** “Measuring aggregate agricultural labor effort in dual economies,” *Eurasian Economic Review*, 3(1):39-58, June 2013.

**D. Vollrath.** “Inequality and school funding in the rural united states, 1890,” *Explorations in Economic History*, 50(2):267-284, 2013.

**D. Vollrath.** “Land tenure, population, and long-run growth,” *Journal of Population Economics*, 25(3):833-852, July 2012.

**D. Vollrath.** “The agricultural basis of comparative development,” *Journal of Economic Growth*, 16:343-370, 2011.

**D. Vollrath.** “The dual economy in long-run development,” *Journal of Economic Growth*, 14(4):287-312, 2009.

**D. Vollrath.** “How important are dual economy effects for aggregate productivity?” *Journal of Development Economics*, 88(2):325-334, 2009.

O. Galor, O. Moav, **D. Vollrath.** “Inequality in landownership, the emergence of human-capital promoting institutions, and the great divergence,” *Review of Economic Studies*, 76(1):143-179, 2009.

**D. Vollrath.** “Land distribution and international agricultural productivity,” *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, 89(1):202-216, 2007.

BOOK CHAPTERS A. Adeyinka, S. Salau, **D. Vollrath.** “Structural change and the possibilities for future growth in Nigeria,” In M. McMillan, D. Rodrik, C. Sepulveda, editors, *Structural Change, Fundamentals, and Growth: A Framework and Case Studies*. IFPRI, 2017.

PUBLIC WRITING [Economic Growth Blog \(Substack\)](#), 2023-present

[Growth Economics Blog \(Self-hosted\)](#), 2013-2023

[The wrong kind of city?](#), *Asterisk Magazine*, Sep. 2024.

[The grandchildren of Keynes](#), *Interneconomics*, 2023, 58(6):347-348.

[Why isn't the whole world rich?](#), *Asterisk Magazine*, Dec. 2022.

[Economic growth is stagnating, but there's more to the story](#), *Pairagraph*, Nov. 2020.

[Why a new wave of economists are championing slow growth](#), *On Point* (NPR), Feb. 2020.

[The tech revolution hasn't revolutionized economic growth](#). *The Hill*, Jul. 2018.

[Slumping productivity: We're victims of our own success](#). *The Hill*, Jun. 2017.

Evolving research on growth and development. *Development Policy Review*, 34(6), 907-910, Nov. 2016.

[There's no limit to Google's market power](#). New York Times *Room for Debate*, April 28th, 2016.

A brief history of economic growth. *Perspectives*, King's College London, Fall 2015.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES	College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences strategic planning committee, 2022–2023
	Associate Graduate Director, Department of Economics, 2014–2019
	Graduate admissions director, Department of Economics, 2013–2019
	Macroeconomic Hiring Committee, Department of Economics, 2007, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2019
	Executive Committee, Department of Economics, 2012–2014, 2015–2017
	Dissertation Fellowship Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, 2012
	Ross Lence Teaching Award Selection Committee, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, 2013, 2015, 2016
PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	Co-Editor, <i>Economic Inquiry</i> , 2015–present
	Associate Editor, <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> , 2015–present
	Associate Editor, <i>Economic Inquiry</i> , 2009–2012
	Member, <i>American Economic Association</i>
	Referee, <i>American Economic Review</i> , <i>Journal of Political Economy</i> , <i>American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics</i> , <i>Economic Journal</i> , <i>Journal of Economic Growth</i> , <i>Review of Economics and Statistics</i> , <i>Review of Economic Studies</i> , <i>Journal of Development Economics</i> , <i>Macroeconomic Dynamics</i> , <i>Review of Development Economics</i> , <i>American Journal of Agricultural Economics</i> , <i>Agricultural Economics</i> , <i>Economica</i> , <i>Resource and Energy Economics</i> , <i>Journal of Public Economics</i> , <i>Review of Economic Dynamics</i> , <i>Scandinavian Journal of Economics</i> , <i>Canadian Journal of Economics</i> , <i>Economic Inquiry</i> , <i>Journal of the European Economic Association</i> , <i>World Bank Economic Review</i> , <i>World Development</i> , <i>European Economic Review</i> , <i>Oxford Economic Papers</i>
ADVISING	<i>Dissertation Advisor</i> : Mike Hsu (2016, Hamilton College), Nadya Abramava (2016, Hanover Research), Edson Sobrinho (2015, Office of the Presidency of Brazil), Mahboobeh Asghari (2015, Winona State), Doruk Ilgaz (2013, FactSet), Elisabetta Gentile (2012, National University Singapore)
	<i>Dissertation Committee</i> : Mehedi Hasan Oni (2024), Yewande Olapade (2019), Celine Boulenger (2017), Subash Khatry (2017), Amrita Dhar (2016), Volodymyr Korsun (2015), Wen Long (2015), Jarrod Hunt (2014), Emiliano Luttini (2014), Sine Tepe (2014), Lena Ogrokhina (2013), Gokcen Ogruk (2013), Shreyasee Das (2012), Teodora Stoica (2012), Edward Hoang (2010), Amelie Carlton (2010), Roberto Coronado (2010), Indrit Hoxha (2009), Sreenath Majumder (2009), Parul Mathur (2009), Cahit Guven (2008), Mayank Guatam (2007), Levent Bulut (2007)
	<i>Undergraduate Thesis</i> : Sean Soares (2013), Monalisa Chandra (2008), Shreyasee Das (2007)

TEACHING	Intermediate Macroeconomics (Undergraduate, UH), 2005–2012
	Econometrics (Undergraduate, Dartmouth), 2011–2019
	Economic Growth (Undergraduate, UH), 2014–2024
	American Economic Growth (Undergraduate, UH), 2022
	Macroeconomics I (Graduate, UH), 2006, 2007, 2009–2015, 2017–2019
	Growth and Development (Graduate, UH), 2007, 2008, 2011–2019, 2023
	3rd Year Research Workshop (Graduate, UH), 2014–2018
HONORS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS	Smith Richardson Foundation, PI, “The Contingent Economy”, \$111,000, 2023
	<i>Economist</i> Books of the Year (for <i>Fully Grown</i> ), 2020
	Winner, Ross Lence Teaching Award, 2010
	Finalist, Provost Teaching Award, 2010
	Finalist, Ross Lence Teaching Award, 2009
	University of Houston New Faculty Grant, 2006
	Dissertation Fellowship, Brown University, 2004–2005
INVITED PRESENTATIONS	National Institute of Child Health and Human Development Fellowship, 2002–2004
	2023: World Bank, Technology Enabled Disruption Conference (Richmond Fed), Verein f. Socialpolitik keynote (Regensburg)
	2022: Colorado State
	2021: Iowa State, Clark
	2020: UNC-Asheville, Southern Methodist U., Texas Tech
	2019: Sewanee (Georgescu-Roegen Lecture)
	2018: Dalhousie University, York University, Southern Economic Association
	2017: Deep-rooted Factors in Comparative Development (Brown), Texas A&M Ag Econ, George Washington University
	2016: McGill University, CESifo (Munich), DEGIT (U. of Nottingham)
	2015: George Mason University, Clemson, LSU, Southern Economic Association
	2014: Historical Persistence in Comparative Development (Williams College)
	2013: NBER Growth Meeting (San Francisco), World Bank Agriculture and Poverty workshop
	2012: South Florida University, World Bank Structural Change Conference, University of Oklahoma, Southern Economic Association Meetings
	2011: Texas A&M University, Indiana University, Williams College, NBER Growth Meeting (discussant)
	2010: NBER Growth Meeting (San Francisco), Center for Study of African Economies Conference (Oxford), World Bank Land Conference, CEPR Workshop on Sustained Economic Growth (Barcelona)
	2009: Northeast University Development Conference (NEUDC), University of Michigan

2008: IEFS Winter Meetings, Southern Economic Association Meetings, University of Copenhagen

2007: NBER IFM Summer Meeting, NBER EFG Summer Meeting, Baylor University

2006: Rice University

2005: University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, Clemson University, University of Houston, Hunter College (CUNY), United States Naval Academy

2004: Northeast University Development Conference (NEUDC), International Monetary Fund, Brown University

WORK  
EXPERIENCE

Andersen Consulting, 1995-1997

PriceWaterhouseCoopers Consulting, 1997-1999

Independent computer systems contractor, 1999-2000

PERSONAL

Married, two children

Citizenship: US

Languages: English (native), German (surprisingly poor)