



Supervisor's statement

1. Biography

I am a comparative political economist working on the OECD countries with special expertise in Western Europe. My core research interests focus on the ways in which the organization of the political economy conditions systematic variations in economic policy and performance across the developed democracies. I have published nine books and 177 articles on these and related topics, including *Governing the Economy* (1986) which explores how the organization of capital, labor and the state condition economic policy in Britain and France, *The Political Power of Economic Ideas* (1989), which explores how Keynesian ideas became influential, *Varieties of Capitalism* (edited with David Soskice, 2001) which offered a new basis for understanding how the institutions of the political economy condition economic policy and performance. My articles, which mobilize both qualitative and statistical research, explore how institutions structure political as well as economic activity, the evolution of economic and industrial policy over the past five decades, how social inequalities feed into population health, how societies secure and retain resilience, and how economic and social developments combine to create political support for populist parties. These works have received many awards and I am currently a Fellow of the British Academy and a Guggenheim Fellow. More details and a cv are at: <https://scholar.harvard.edu/hall/biocv>.

2. Appropriateness

The research that Matt Wilder proposes to pursue with this fellowship speaks directly to key issues in the technological revolution the world is currently experiencing. Although projections for what that revolution will bring vary widely, there is broad and reasonable consensus that we are entering a period in which economic growth in the developed democracies will depend to a significant extent on their capacities to innovate and to make effective use of technological innovations, much as they did during the first and

second industrial revolutions of the 19th century and early 20th centuries. Wilder plans to look more carefully and deeply than others have done at the process whereby technological innovation diffuses across countries and is incorporated effectively into production. We know surprisingly little about this and Wilder's doctoral work and technical skills equip him well to make major advances of knowledge in this realm.

This is a topic in which I am also deeply interested. Wilder's account of the problem begins from the formulations that Soskice and I developed almost twenty years ago, which suggest that liberal market economies, such as the U.S. and Canada, are institutionally better-placed to secure radical innovation, while the coordinated market economies of northern Europe are better-equipped to secure incremental innovation. I continue to think those formulations are correct but they touch barely on the tip of the iceberg. We need to know much more, in exactly the terms Wilder spells out in his proposal, about the intermediate categories of innovation that lie between those two broad concepts and how coordinated market economies make use of the radical innovations initially developed elsewhere. We also need to know more about the mechanisms whereby innovation is produced and supported, and I expect that also to be a component of the project.

I have strong interests in interacting with Wilder, not only because of this past work, but because I am currently writing a series of articles and a book about how the growth regimes, namely, the social and economic policies that governments use to secure growth, have changed in the political economies of the developed democracies over the past six decades, and what drives those changes. Although my interest is most explicitly in the features of electoral politics and producer group politics that promote or accompany changes in growth regimes, technological change, especially as it conditions occupational structures, is a key component of this dynamic, and I look forward to learning more about it from Wilder's project. Moreover, the book concludes by discussing how growth regimes are being reconfigured in the current era of a knowledge economy; and Wilder's work is directly relevant to the issues I face in that part of my own project.

3. Research Environment

I expect that Harvard will provide Wilder with the usual office facilities and staff support accorded visiting scholars and I have no doubt that the immediate intellectual environment provides a good fit to his interests. My colleagues, Torben Iversen at Harvard and Kathleen Thelen at MIT, are working directly on topics closely related to the issues Wilder is taking on. I expect him to be an active participant in the regular Seminar on the State and Capitalism that I co-chair with Thelen, and in most years there are a series of seminars devoted to topics close to those of this project, both at the Center for European Studies and in the Economics departments at Harvard and MIT.

Wilder will also find valuable support from the faculty members and technical staff at the Institute for Quantitative Social Science, directed by Gary King, who are well-versed in the statistical issues that his research raises. He will find an important scholarly

community in the significant number of advanced doctoral students, of whom at least half a dozen are doing research in areas closely-related to his research, including the evolution of patent law and its relationship to innovation in the U.S. I expect to meet regularly with him and I will look for opportunities for him to present his results and receive feedback in the seminars that I chair. He will find the Harvard data lab and its resources useful both for gathering the data he has in mind and for coping with issues that arise as he analyzes it. There is an active community of visiting scholars at the Center for European Studies and the Weatherhead Center, of whom a number are normally interested in topics related to this project, and Wilder will be a participant in their weekly seminars.

4. Professional Development

As a member of the Harvard community, Wilder will have access to career counseling and training in the presentation of his work and proposals for it. He will find the weekly workshop in comparative politics a welcoming venue focused on improving the presentation of scholarly work. As I have noted in the prior section, the large community of scholars interested in comparative political economy will lead naturally to opportunities for collaboration. It would be unusual for someone on a post-doctoral fellowship to teach but that is also a possibility, should Wilder want to undertake that.

5. Institutional Synergy

The Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies at Harvard was founded in order to provide a stimulating intellectual setting for scholars working on comparative issues with some bearing on Europe. From its inception, it has been most focused on doctoral and post-doctoral research. Each year it affiliates about 25 doctoral students and 25 post-doctoral scholars with a view to stimulating interaction among them. Comparative political economy has long been one of the issue-areas of core interest to the Center, and it typically draws scholars from around the world working on such issues. As I have noted, one of the core missions of the Center is to attract outstanding young post-doctoral researchers of Wilder's caliber. In this context, Wilder would find himself within a ready-made intellectual community which, although interdisciplinary, will include a significant number of comparative political economists. Beyond the Center, Harvard will also provide a range of further intellectual resources, not only in the Departments of Government and Economics, but also in the Kennedy School where a number of scholars and policy practitioners have interests in the issues that Wilder is investigating. The mission of the University is to advance knowledge and those advances take place most often through the work of the excellent young scholars we seek to attract.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Peter A. Hall". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The first name "Peter" is written with a capital 'P' and a lowercase 'e', and the last name "Hall" is written with a capital 'H' and a lowercase 'l'. There is a small mark above the 'e' in "Peter" and a small mark below the 'l' in "Hall".

Peter A. Hall
Krupp Foundation Professor of European Studies