

# DR MAX NATHAN

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## SUMMARY

I am an economic geographer with a background in public policy. My **research** focuses on urban economic development, especially the economics of immigration and diversity, innovation systems and tech clusters, and public policy / policy evaluation for cities. I use mainly quantitative methods and firm-level analysis. I am an **Associate Professor** in **Applied Urban Sciences** at **CASA, University College London**. I am also a **Deputy Director** of the ESRC-funded **What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth**. Prior to this I spent 15 years outside academia in non-profits and consultancy, and some time in central government. I am a co-founder of the **Centre for Cities** think tank. I am also an affiliate at **CAGE, CEP, IZA, NIESR** and **City-REDI, Birmingham University**.

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2019 – Associate Professor [Reader] in Applied Urban Sciences, CASA, University College London**
- 2013 – Deputy Director, What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth, London School of Economics and Political Science**
- 2015-2019 Senior Birmingham Fellow [Senior Lecturer], Department of Strategy and International Business and City-REDI, Birmingham Business School
- 2012-2015 Senior Research Fellow, National Institute of Economic and Social Research
- 2012-2015 Public Affairs Research Fellow, Spatial Economics Research Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science

## NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2007-2010 ESRC-funded Policy Advisor, Department of Communities & Local Government
- 2004-2007 Co-founder and Head of Research, Centre for Cities
- 2000-2004 Senior Researcher, Work Foundation
- 1998-2000 Research Assistant, Centre for Local Economic Strategies

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## OTHER AFFILIATIONS

CAGE; CEP; IZA; NIESR; City-REDI, Birmingham University  
Elected Fellow, Regional Studies Association. Member of the RGS-IBG

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## EDUCATION

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|-------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>2011</b> | <b>PhD Economic Geography and Spatial Economics</b><br>Supervisors: Henry Overman, Ian Gordon | <b>LSE</b>               |
| <b>2009</b> | <b>Visiting Scholar</b><br>Institute of Urban and Regional Development                        | <b>UC Berkeley</b>       |
| <b>1998</b> | <b>MSc Social Policy and Planning</b><br>Awarded: Distinction                                 | <b>LSE</b>               |
| <b>1997</b> | <b>BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics</b><br>Awarded: 2:1                           | <b>Oxford University</b> |
| <b>2018</b> | <b>Fellow, Higher Education Academy</b>   | <b>HEA</b>               |
| <b>2018</b> | <b>PGCert Higher Education, Full</b>  | <b>LSE</b>               |

## PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [1] Will Coronavirus cause a Big City Exodus? (with H. Overman). *Environment and Planning B*, 47:9, pp 1537-1542.
- [2] Does light touch cluster policy work? Evaluating the Tech City programme. In press, *Research Policy*. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0048733320302134>
- [3] Creative Differences? Creative Economy Employment in the US and UK (with T. Kemeny and D. O'Brien) (2020) *Regional Studies*, 54:3, pp 377-387.
- [4] Spatial Imaginaries and Tech Cities: Place-branding East London's Digital Economy (with E. Vandore and G. Voss) (2019) *Journal of Economic Geography*, 19:2, pp 409-432. GEOGRAPHY STREAM, Editor: Neil Coe
- [5] 'Ethnic diversity and business performance: Which firms? Which cities?' (2016) *Environment and Planning A*, 48:12, pp 2462-2483.
- [6] 'Do Inventors Talk to Strangers? On proximity and collaborative knowledge creation' (2016) (with R. Crescenzi and A. Rodríguez-Pose). *Research Policy*, 45:1, pp 177-194.
- [7] 'Mapping Digital Businesses with Big Data: some early lessons from the UK' (2015) (with A. Rosso). *Research Policy*, 44:9, pp 1714-1733.
- [8] 'Same Difference? Ethnic inventors, diversity and innovation in the UK' (2015). *Journal of Economic Geography*, 15:1, pp 129-168. ECONOMICS STREAM, Editor: Kristian Behrens
- [9] 'After Florida: Towards an economics of diversity' (2015). *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 22:1, pp 3-19. LEAD ARTICLE. **2016 Jim Lewis Prize winner, best paper in European Urban and Regional Studies during 2015**
- [10] 'Here Be Startups: Exploring a young digital cluster in Inner East London' (2014) (with E. Vandore). *Environment and Planning A*, 46:10, pp 2283-2299. LEAD ARTICLE
- [11] 'The Wider Economic Impacts of High-Skilled Migrants: A review of the literature for receiving countries' (2014). *IZA Journal of Migration*, 3:4, doi: 10.1186/2193-9039-3-4.
- [12] 'Evaluating Spatial Policies' (2014) (with S. Gibbons and H. Overman), *Town Planning Review*, 85:4, pp 427-432.

## Older outputs

- 'Cultural Diversity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Evidence from London firms' (2013) (with N. Lee). *Economic Geography*, 89:4, pp 367-394.
- 'Agglomeration, Clusters and Industrial Policy' (2013) (with H. Overman). *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 29:2, 383-404.
- 'East London Tech City: Ideas without a Strategy?' (2011). *Local Economy*, 26:3, pp 197-202.
- 'Cultural diversity and innovation in London: Evidence from firm-level data' (2010) (with N. Lee). *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development*, 1:1/2, pp 53-78.
- 'The Wrong Stuff: Creative Class theory in UK cities' (2007). *Canadian Journal of Regional Science*, XXX, Autumn, pp 127-148.
- 'Beyond City Living' (2006) (with R. Unsworth). *Built Environment*, 32:3, pp 235-249.
- 'Them And Us: Britain and the European City' (2006) (with A Marshall) *Public Policy Research*, 13:2, pp 109-118.

## PAPERS IN REVIEW

- [1] 'Incubators, Accelerators and Regional Economic Development' (with M. Madaleno, H. Overman and S. Waights). Revise and resubmit, *Urban Studies*.  
See: *CEP Discussion Paper CEP1575*, London: LSE.
- [2] 'Innovative Events' (with A. Rosso). Revise and Resubmit, *Research Policy*.  
See: *CEP Discussion Paper CEP1607*, London: LSE.
- [3] 'Exploring Industry 4.0 Startups in an Urban Technology Cluster.' Funded by Horizon 2020. Revise and Resubmit, *Regional Studies*.
- [4] 'Modelling Clusters from the Ground Up: A Web Data Approach' (with C. Stich and E. Tranos). Funded by the CDRC. Under review.
- [5] 'The City and the Virus.' Under review. See: <https://bit.ly/3hN5ESJ>

## BOOKS

- [1] *Urban Economics and Urban Policy* (with P. Cheshire and H. Overman). May 2014. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

- [1] 'The Urban Economics of Superdiversity', in F. Meissner, N. Sigona and S. Vertovec (eds), *The Oxford Handbook of Superdiversity*, forthcoming, Oxford: OUP.  
See: *Spatial Economics Research Centre Discussion Paper SERCDP0068*, LSE.
- [2] 'Exploring Industry 4.0 Production in Sweden' (With C. Fassio). In D. Bailey and L. DePropris (2020) (eds.), *Industry 4.0: Transformational Regions*, Routledge: London.
- [3] 'Linking Research and Policy in Local Economies', in L. Andres, J. Bryson and R. Mulhall (2019) (eds.), *A Research Agenda for Regeneration Economies*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- [4] 'Exploring Digital Technology Industry Clusters using Administrative and Frontier Datasets' (with A. Rosso), in Z. Chen and L. Schintler (2017) (eds.) *Big Data for Urban and Regional Economies*, Oxford: Routledge.
- [5] 'Microsolutions for Megaproblems: What works in urban regeneration policy?' in D. O'Brien and P. Matthews (eds) (2015), *After Urban Regeneration: People, communities and place*. Bristol: Policy Press.
- [6] 'All in the mix? Top team demographics and business performance in English firms', in J. Bakens, P. Nijkamp and J. Poot (eds.) (2015) *E Pluribus Prosperitas: The economics of cultural diversity*. (2015), Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

### Older outputs

'Exploring Munich's innovation system' (with P. Rode et al), in R. Burdett, A. Colantonio and P. Rode (eds.) (2013) *Transforming Urban Economies: Policy Lessons from European and Asian Cities*, London, Routledge.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Identifying the causal impact of tech accelerators on startups (with G. Nunez-Chaim, H. Overman, O. Silva, C. Riom and J. Schwarz). Funded by the Leverhulme Foundation

Creative spillovers in UK cities (with D. Gutierrez-Posada, A. Kitsos and M. Nuccio). Funded by the AHRC

Multipliers from a major public sector relocation: the BBC's move to Manchester (with H. Overman, C. Riom and M. Sanchez-Vidal)

Academics and global talent flows (with E. Tranos, D. Arribas-Bel, Y. Liu and C. Ozgen)

High Streets as Ecosystems (with J. King and F. Sajjid)

Escape from Smart City (with D. Hill)

Using Crunchbase to explore innovative ecosystems (with T. Kemeny and B. Almeer)

See: *Birmingham Business School Discussion Paper 2017-01*, Birmingham University

The Creative Economy in the EU and the UK (with A. Pratt, T. Kemeny and A. Rincon-Aznar)

See: *NESTA Working Paper 2015-Y*, NESTA.

The Long Term Impacts of Migration on UK Cities

See: *LSE Migration Studies Unit Working Paper 10/09*, LSE.

## **POLICY REPORTS AND CONSULTANCY (selected)**

High Streets for All (2017) (with H. Lewis, H. Martin, M. Meyere, P. Seguin, M. Worrell, S. Hall, J. King, F. Sajjid, C. Morris and R. Meera), report for the Greater London Authority.

Industrial Clusters in England (2016) (with M. Bernini, P. Ramirez, S. Adderley, R. Mulhall and SpazioDati), report for BIS.

Measuring the Creative Economy in the EU and the UK (2015) (with A. Pratt and A. Rincon-Aznar), report for NESTA, London: NESTA.

Evaluating Spatial Policies (2013) (with S. Gibbons and H. Overman). *SERC Policy Paper SERCPP0012*. London: SERC/LSE.

Analysis of the Economic and Labour Market Impacts of Tier 1 Entrepreneur and Investor Migrants (2013) (with H. Rolfe and C. Vargas-Silva), report for the Migration Advisory Committee.

Measuring the UK's Digital Economy with Big Data (2013) (with A. Rosso). London: NIESR / Growth Intelligence.

A Tale of Tech City: The Future of East London's Digital Economy (2012) (with E. Vandore and R. Whitehead). London: Centre for London.

Assessing the Government's Proposals to Reform the UK Planning System (2011) (with Henry Overman). *SERC Policy Paper SERCPP0011*. London: SERC/LSE.

Towards a Green Economy: Cities: Investing in energy and resource efficiency (2011) (with P. Rode, R. Burdett et al). UN Environment Programme, Nairobi: UNEP.

Munich: Staying Ahead on Innovation (2010) (With P. Rode, G. Kippenberg et al). LSE Cities / Brookings Metro Program Next Urban Economy Report, London: LSE.

Your Place or Mine: The local economics of migration (2008). London: ippr.

A Twenty-First Century Peabody Community (with D Ben-Galim and N Newman) (2008). London: ippr (for Peabody Trust).

Getting By, Not Getting On: Technology in UK workplaces (2003) (with G Carpenter, L Ferguson, H Knox and S Roberts). London: The Work Foundation.

Manchester: Ideopolis? (2002) (with A Westwood). London: The Work Foundation.

Reality IT: Technology in everyday life (2002) (with J Crabtree and R Reeves). London: TWF.

Getting Attached: New routes to full employment (2001). London: Fabian Society

## **LECTURES, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS (selected, recent / upcoming)**

### Invited keynotes / lectures

London School of Economics (December 2020), Swedish Entrepreneurship Forum (September 2018), PBL Autumn School, The Hague (October 2016), CREME 2016 Conference, Birmingham (October 2016), Pathways, Connections and Circuits 2015, Wellington, NZ (July 2015), RSA lecture, Reigate (September 2002).

### Invited seminars, workshops and events

SAD 2020 Future of Cities workshop, virtual (October 2020), Utrecht University (March 2020), University of Southampton (February 2020), CAGE-NESTA workshop: Data Science for the Economics of Science, Technology and Innovation, London (October 2019), KCL / CUSP London (October 2019), MacArthur Foundation / CASA (September 2019), Exploring Entrepreneurial Ecosystems, University of Glasgow (May 2019), University of Bath (March 2019), University of Bristol (February 2019), (March QMUL (January 2019), Bristol Festival of Economics (November 2018), Middlesex University (October 2018), CIFAR Urban Governance workshop 2, Toronto (August 2018), CIFAR Urban Governance workshop 1, Paris (December 2017), University of Liverpool (November 2017), Centre for London / Brookings Institution Innovation and placemaking seminar, London (September 2017), LSE Cities symposium, 'Urban Incubators, Innovation and Inequality', London (September 2017, co-organiser and speaker), PIK Cities as Complex Systems Symposium 2016, Hannover (July 2016), Manchester Business School (April 2016), RGS-IBG forum on 'Europe's Migration Crisis', London (March 2016, panel speaker), CIRCLE, Lund University (March 2016), Birmingham Business School GVC Cluster (March 2016), University of Leeds (December 2015), Imperial College London Business School (February 2015), UCL Bartlett School of Planning (January 2015), University of Birmingham (November 2014), ESRC Spaces of Evidence workshop, 'New Directions for Economic Policy', London (September 2014), LSE London workshop, 'How is London being transformed by migration?', LSE (March 2014), IGC Immigration Working Group (March 2014), LSE London (November 2013), Transatlantic Council on Migration (October 2013), 1<sup>st</sup> European Big Data workshop, Brussels (October 2013), LLAKES (June 2013), VU University / Tinbergen Institute workshop 'E Pluribus Prosperitas' (April 2013), LSE (October 2012), IZA AM<sup>2</sup> Migration Workshop (June 2012), APE-INV-ESF 'Science and Invention' workshop (May 2012), UCL Bartlett School of Planning (March 2012), LSE (March 2012), EUROLIO Geography of Innovation Workshop (January 2012), University of Amsterdam (June 2011), University of Oxford (May 2011), UCL Urban Lab (October 2008), LSE Cities (February 2007).

### Conferences

GEOINNO 2020, Stavanger (January 2020), Regional Studies Association Winter Conference, London (November 2019), Triple Helix Conference 16, Manchester (September 2018), 5<sup>th</sup> Global Conference on Economic Geography, Cologne (July 2018), Urban Economics Association European Meeting 2018, Dusseldorf (May 2018), GEOINNO 2018, Barcelona (January 2018), Regional Studies Association Winter Conference, London (November 2017), ESRC Urban Transformations Spring School, Oxford (May 2017), NESTA-Kauffman Innovation Growth Lab Annual Conference, London (May 2016), Association of American Geographers, San Francisco (March 2016), RCUK / Imperial College London Digital Economy 2014 Conference, London (December 2014), Regional Studies Association, London (November 2014), North American Regional Science Council, Washington DC (November 2014), Urban Economics Association Summer Meeting, Palermo (August 2013), NORFACE / UCL Annual Migration Conference, London (April 2013), Urban Economics Association, Ottawa (November 2012), Urban Economics Association, Miami (November 2011), Regional Studies Association, Newcastle (April 2011), Association of American Geographers, Seattle (April 2011), NORFACE / UCL Annual Migration, London (April 2011), Regional Studies Association Early Careers, Manchester (November 2010), SERC Annual Conference, London (May 2010), Association of American Geographers, Washington DC (April 2010).

## GRANTS AND FUNDING AWARDS (selected)

2019	UKRI: Mapping the production, diffusion and drivers of future technologies. Warwick, UCL, LSE, Milan, Tech Nation, CogX (CI) (£534k)
2018	AHRC/ISCF: Local economic spillovers from the creative economy (PI) (£280k). Part of the AHRC/UKRI Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre 2018-2023 (£8.5m)
2018	UKRI Industrial Strategy Challenge Fund: Supporting Local Industrial Strategies (CI) (£500k)
2017	ESRC/BEIS/DCLG/DWP/DfT: What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth Phase 2. LSE, Centre for Cities and Arup (CI) (£2.7m)
2016	Leverhulme Foundation: An RCT to evaluate the causal impact of Tech Accelerators on Startups (CI) (£230k)
2015	RSA: Early Career Grant, Evaluating Tech City (PI) (£9.5k)
2015	HEFCE HEIF5, LSE: Supporting Devolution Deals (CI) (£29k)
2015	New Economy Manchester: Economic Impacts of Low Pay (PI) (£29k)
2015	AAIR, University of Southampton: Tech ecosystems (CI) (£8.2k)
2014	NESTA: International comparisons of the creative economy (PI) (£30k)
2014	British Academy: Quantitative skills for public policymakers (CI) (£31k)
2014	NESTA/Kauffman Foundation: Innovation Growth Lab grant for innovation, entrepreneurship and growth experiments (PI) (£25k)
2013	ESRC/BIS/DCLG: What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth. LSE, Centre for Cities and Arup (CI) (£3.1m)
2013	LLAKES: Top team diversity and business performance (PI) (£8.5k)
2013	Heseltine Institute: Quantifying the economic impact of elected mayors (PI) (£5k)
2013	NESTA/Google: Exploring the drivers of the UK Digital Economy. NIESR and Growth Intelligence (PI) (£115k)
2013	UK Migration Advisory Committee: Economic and Labour Market Impacts of Tier 1 Entrepreneur and Investor Migrants (PI) (£40k)
2012	LLAKES: UK industrial policy (CI) (£55k)
2012	HEFCE HEIF5, LSE: From Urban Economics to Urban Policy (CI) (£91k)

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## HONOURS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2019	Elected Fellow of the Regional Studies Association
2017	<i>Journal of Economic Geography</i> , Best Referee
2016	Jim Lewis Prize winner, best paper in <i>European Urban and Regional Studies</i> 2015 for 'After Florida: Towards an economics of diversity'
2015	RSA: Early Career Award, Evaluating Tech City
2010	LSE Research Studentship Award
2009	ESRC Overseas University Visit Award
2008	ESRC CASE +3 Grant, in partnership with DCLG
1998	LSE Titmuss Prize for outstanding achievement
1995	Oriel College Scholarship, Oxford

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

**Co-organiser**, CASA online seminar series, UCL. 2020-2021. With Jon Reades

**Lead organiser**, City-REDI seminar series, Birmingham Business School. 2016-2019. With Raquel Ortega-Argiles, Andre Carrascal, Pam Robinson and Lisa De Propris

**Co-organiser**, City-REDI work-in-progress seminar series, Birmingham Business School. 2017-2018. With Tasos Kitsos, Charlotte Hoole, Chloe Billing, Deniz Sevinc

**Peer reviewer** for ESRC Open Research Grants, SDAI Open Call; US-Israel Binational Science Foundation; NWO Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

**Approved researcher**, UK Secure Data Service and ONS Virtual Microdata Lab

**Referee**, *PNAS*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Labour Economics*, *Economica*, *Journal of Economic Surveys*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Human Relations*, *Journal of Small Business Management*, *Social Forces*, *Research Policy*, *Journal of Economic Geography*, *Economic Geography*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Environment and Planning A*, *Environment and Planning C*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *Papers in Regional Science*, *Regional Studies*, *Urban Studies*, *Cities Culture and Society*, *Entrepreneurship and Regional Development*, *Urban Geography*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Big Data and Society*, *IZA World of Labor*, *International Migration*, *National Institute Economic Review*.

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## PHD / POST-DOC SUPERVISION AND EXAMINATION

### Postdoc project management

- 2019 – Diana Gutierrez-Posada, Tasos Kitsos, Massi Nuccio [creative spillovers project]
- 2018 – Juliane Schwarz [Tech accelerator evaluation]
- 2018 – Capucine Riom, Maria Sanchez-Vidal [BBC Media City evaluation]

### PHDs examined

- 2017** **Eduardo Ferrucci, Skilled Migration and Innovation: Three Essays**  
University of Bordeaux and University of Turin  
*Supervisors: Francesco Lissoni, Fabio Montobbio*
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## TEACHING

- 2021** **UCL, MSC Smart Cities and Urban Analytics**  
Lectures on urban innovation systems and clusters
- 2020-2021** **UCL, Understanding Cities and their Spatial Cultures**  
Year 2 lectures on urban economics
- 2017-2019** **Birmingham Business School, The Place of Business in Society**  
Year 1 lectures on urban economies; automation and the labour market
- 2015** **Imperial College London co-supervisor MSc thesis, (with Dr. Matthew Hannon).** Niko Graspas, "Examining the factors key to the success of innovative 'smart' energy startups in the UK".

- 2010-2012 LSE, Applied Spatial and Location Analysis**  
Taught Year 3 seminars on globalisation, housing markets, peer/neighbourhood effects, spatial mismatch, crime and cities, economics of immigration  
Ave student satisfaction score 90/100. Commendation from Head of Department
- 2010-2012 LSE GY350 Independent Research Project Adviser**  
Supervised five undergraduate dissertations per year
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## RESEARCH IMPACT AND MEDIA

Appearances and op-ed pieces include CNN, NPR, News 24, Sky News, ITN, BBC News, BBC Radio 4 and Radio 5 Live, Financial Times, Guardian, Mirror, Telegraph, Prospect, Huffington Post, Wired, and regional/local/specialist outlets. My research has also featured on the BBC, ITV, Sky News, FT, Guardian, Observer, Economist, Daily Mail, Times, Telegraph, Independent, Vice, Wired, CityLab, and specialist platforms.

I contribute to the CASA, Economics Observatory and What Works Centre for Local Economics Growth blogs, as well as my own platform at Medium, and have also written for City-REDI, LSE British Politics and Policy, LSE Covid-19 and SERC platforms.

I tweet at @iammaxnathan.

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## LANGUAGES

English (mother tongue), German (intermediate), French (intermediate)

Stata (advanced), R (basic), Unix / Bash (basic), Python (beginner)

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## REFERENCES

### Henry Overman

Professor of Economic Geography  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
[h.g.overman@lse.ac.uk](mailto:h.g.overman@lse.ac.uk)

### William R. Kerr

Professor of Entrepreneurial Management  
Harvard Business School  
[w.kerr@hbs.edu](mailto:w.kerr@hbs.edu)

### Ian Gordon

Emeritus Professor of Human Geography  
London School of Economics and Political Science  
[i.r.gordon@lse.ac.uk](mailto:i.r.gordon@lse.ac.uk)

### Anne Green

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University of Birmingham  
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