

PROFESSOR MAX NATHAN

www.maxnathan.com

SUMMARY

I am **Professor of Economic Geography** at **CASA, University College London**, and an Associate in the Urban Programme at the **LSE Centre for Economic Performance**. 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. Before academia I spent 15 years in non-profits and consultancy, and some time in central government. I am a co-founder of the **Centre for Cities** think tank and the **What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth**. I am also an affiliate at **CAGE, IZA@LISER, NIESR** and **City-REDI, Birmingham University** and an elected **Fellow of the Regional Studies Association**.

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Oct 2024 – Professor of Economic Geography, CASA, University College London

2019 – 2024 Associate Professor [Reader] in Applied Urban Sciences, CASA, University College London

2013 – 2021 Co-founder and 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

OTHER AFFILIATIONS

CAGE; CEP; IZA@LISER; NIESR; City-REDI, Birmingham University

Elected Fellow, Regional Studies Association

Member, RGS-IGB Economic Geography Research Group

OTHER ROLES

July 2023 –	Research Fellow , AHRC Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Research Centre, Newcastle University / NESTA
March - July 2023	Steering Group member , UK Department of Science Innovation and Technology, Mapping High Growth Clusters project
2018-2020	Research Advisory Panel member , Connected Cities Catapult
2018-2019	Local Industrial Strategy Challenge Panel member , West Midlands Combined Authority
2016-2017	Expert adviser on AHRC project, Economic and Social Impacts of the Olympic Park Culture and Education District (CED)
2016-2017	Evaluation National Sub-Committee member, Growth Programme for England , UK Department of Communities and Local Government and UK Department for Business Energy Innovation and Skills
2008 –	Informal strategy / advice to organisations including: OECD, European Commission DG Research & Innovation, European Commission DG REGIO, HM Treasury, Cabinet Office, Department of Housing Communities and Levelling Up, Department of Science Innovation and Technology, Department for Transport, Department of Culture Media and Sport, Cities and Local Growth Unit, BBC, Greater London Authority, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Salford City Council, West Midlands Combined Authority, Birmingham City Council, Black Country Consortium, UKRI, Innovate UK, Wales Centre for Public Policy. Plus other UK local and city-region governments, through my WWC role.

EDUCATION

2011	PhD Economic Geography and Spatial Economics Supervisors: Henry Overman, Ian Gordon	LSE
2009	Visiting Scholar Institute of Urban and Regional Development	UC Berkeley
1998	MSc Social Policy and Planning Awarded: Distinction	LSE
1997	BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics Awarded: 2:1	Oxford University

Professional qualifications

2018	Fellow, Higher Education Academy	HEA
2018	PGCert Higher Education, Full	LSE

PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- [1] Don't Shoot the Pianist: Creative workers, firms and residential gentrification (2025) (with D. Gutierrez-Posada and A. Kitsos), **Economic Geography**. 101(1), pp 60–85.
 - [2] The City and the Virus (2023). **Urban Studies**. 60(8), pp 1346–1364. LEAD ARTICLE
 - [3] Creative Clusters and Creative Spillovers (2023) (with D. Gutierrez-Posada, A. Kitsos and M. Nuccio). **Economic Geography**. 99(1), pp 1-24. LEAD ARTICLE
 - [4] Modelling Clusters from the Ground Up: A Web Data Approach (2023) (with C. Stich and E. Tranos). **Environment & Planning B**. 50(1), pp 244–267.
 - [5] Incubators, Accelerators and Urban Economic Development (2022) (with M. Madaleno, H. Overman and S. Waights). **Urban Studies**. 59:2, pp 281-300. LEAD ARTICLE
 - [6] Does light touch cluster policy work? Evaluating the Tech City programme (2022). **Research Policy**. 51(9), pp 1104138.
 - [7] Innovative Events (2022) (with A. Rosso). **Research Policy**. 51(1), pp 104373.
 - [8] Will Coronavirus Cause a Big City Exodus? (2020) (with H. Overman). **Environment & Planning B**, 47:9, pp 1537-1542.
 - [9] Creative Differences? Creative Economy Employment in the US and UK (2020) (with T. Kemeny and D. O'Brien). **Regional Studies**, 54:3, pp 377-387.
 - [10] Spatial Imaginaries and Tech Cities: Place-branding East London's Digital Economy (2019) (with E. Vandore and G. Voss). **Journal of Economic Geography**, 19:2, pp 409-432.
- GEOGRAPHY STREAM, Editor: Neil Coe
- [11] Ethnic diversity and business performance: Which firms? Which cities? (2016) **Environment and Planning A**, 48:12, pp 2462-2483.
 - [12] 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.
 - [13] Mapping Digital Businesses with Big Data: some early lessons from the UK (2015) (with A. Rosso). **Research Policy**, 44:9, pp 1714–1733.
 - [14] 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
 - [15] 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
 - [16] 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
 - [17] 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.
 - [18] Evaluating Spatial Policies (2014) (with S. Gibbons and H. Overman), **Town Planning Review**, 85:4, pp 427-432.
 - [19] Cultural Diversity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Evidence from London firms (2013) (with N. Lee). **Economic Geography**, 89:4, pp 367-394.
 - [20] Agglomeration, Clusters and Industrial Policy (2013) (with H. Overman). **Oxford Review of Economic Policy**, 29:2, 383-404.
 - [21] East London Tech City: Ideas without a Strategy? (2011). **Local Economy**, 26:3, pp 197-202.
 - [22] 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.

- [23] The Wrong Stuff: Creative Class theory in UK cities (2007). **Canadian Journal of Regional Science**, XXX, Autumn, pp 127-148.
- [24] Beyond City Living (2006) (with R. Unsworth). **Built Environment**, 32:3, pp 235-249.
- [25] Them And Us: Britain and the European City (2006) (with A Marshall) **Public Policy Research**, 13:2, pp 109-118.
- [26] All Together Now? Testing for joined up urban and regional policy (1999) (with P Morgan) **New Economy**, 6:3, pp128-132.
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WORKING PAPERS / PAPERS IN REVIEW

- [1] Multipliers from a major public sector relocation: the BBC's move to Salford (with H. Overman, C. Riom and M. Sanchez-Vidal). *Revise and resubmit, Regional Science and Urban Economics*.

CEP Discussion Paper 2042 [\[link\]](#). IZA Discussion Paper 17337 [\[link\]](#). CEPR Discussion Paper 19634 [\[link\]](#). Covered in *The Observer*, *FT*, *Economics Observatory*.

- [2] The New Wave: Technology diffusion in the UK during the 2010s (with M. Draca, V. Nguyen, J. Oliveira-Cunha, A Rosso and A. Sivropoulos-Valero). *Revise and resubmit, Research Policy*.

CEP Discussion Paper 2040 [\[link\]](#). POID Discussion Paper 101 [\[link\]](#). IZA Discussion Paper 17329 [\[link\]](#). Covered in the *LSE Business Review*.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- [1] GRAPH-EE: building employer-employee panels from a knowledge graph and company microdata (with S. Gray, T. Kemeny, C. Ozgen, G. Piali, J. Reades, A Rosso, M. Seré and A. Sivropoulos-Valero). Funded by the ESRC.

- [2] Migration, diversity and firm performance (with T. Kemeny, C. Ozgen, G. Piali, A Rosso, M. Seré and A. Sivropoulos-Valero). Funded by the ESRC.

- [3] Should I Stay or Should I Go? The Impacts of the 2017 Gender Pay Gap Legislation on worker and firm outcomes (with T. Kemeny, C. Ozgen, G. Piali, A Rosso, M. Seré and A. Sivropoulos-Valero). Funded by the ESRC.

- [4] Migrant Entrepreneurs, High-Growth Firms and Cities (with T. Kemeny, C. Ozgen, G. Piali, A Rosso, M. Seré and A. Sivropoulos-Valero). Funded by the ESRC.

- [5] The Economics of Blitzscaling (with M. Draca, V. Nguyen, J. Oliveira-Cunha, A Rosso and A. Sivropoulos-Valero). Funded by the ESRC.

- [6] Identifying Emerging Industries using text-based classification (with M. Draca, V. Nguyen, J. Oliveira-Cunha, A Rosso and A. Sivropoulos-Valero). Funded by the ESRC.
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BOOKS

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

BOOK CHAPTERS

- [1] 'Immigrant diversity & innovation in cities and regions' (with A.Cooke, T. Kemeny and C.Ozgen) in F. Lissoni and A. Morrison (2025) (eds) **Migration and Innovation: A Research Agenda**. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

- [2] 'The What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth: Some lessons from the first 10 years' (with D. Mason and H. Overman), in J. Breckon and M. Saunders (2023) (eds.), **The What Works Network**. Bristol: Policy Press.
- [3] 'The Urban Economics of Superdiversity', in F. Meissner, N. Sigona and S. Vertovec (2022) (eds.), **The Oxford Handbook of Superdiversity**, Oxford: OUP.
- [4] 'Proximity and Collaborative Knowledge Creation' (with R. Cresenzi and A. Rodríguez-Pose). In A. Torre and D. Gallaud (2022) (eds), **Handbook of Proximity Relations**, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- [5] '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.
- [6] '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.
- [7] '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.
- [8] '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.
- [9] '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.
- [10] '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.

PAST / RESTING PROJECTS

- [1] Exploring Industry 4.0 Startups in an Urban Technology Cluster. Funded by Horizon 2020.
- [2] Academics and global talent flows (with E. Tranos, D. Arribas-Bel, Y. Liu and C. Ozgen)
- [3] Escape from Smart City (with D. Hill)
- [4] Using Crunchbase to explore innovative ecosystems (with T. Kemeny and B. Almeer). See: *Birmingham Business School Discussion Paper 2017-01*, Birmingham University
- [5] The Long Term Impacts of Migration on UK Cities. See: *LSE Migration Studies Unit Working Paper 10/09*, LSE.

POLICY REPORTS AND CONSULTANCY

Things We Don't Want to Know? Monitoring and Evaluating Place-Based Policies (2023), report for the OECD / DG-REGIO *Place-Based Policies for the Future* series.

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 (2017) (with S. Adderley, M. Barbera, M. Bernini, A. Bratus, R. Mulhall, P. Ramirez, R. Riley, A. Rincon-Aznar and N. Sambin), report for BIS.

Creative economy employment in the US, Canada and the UK: A comparative analysis (with T. Kemeny, A. Pratt and G. Spenser (2016), report for NESTA, London: NESTA.

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).

LECTURES, CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS (past / upcoming)

Invited keynotes / lectures

OECD – DG-REGIO, Paris (July 2023), London School of Economics (December 2020), Swedish Entrepreneurship Forum, Stockholm (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

2025 University of Sussex workshop, *Impact evaluation and analysis of local and regional policies* (December 2025), University of Reading (November 2025), JRC - UNU-MERIT Workshop - *innovation capabilities & industrial dynamics*, Brussels (October 2025), University of Birmingham (May 2025), University of Venice (April 2025), Glass AI / Digital Catapult workshop, *Advancing Economic Policymaking* (February 2025), What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth (February 2025)

2024 UCL Bartlett School of Planning Research Conference (December 2024), University of Reading workshop on Urban Economics and Economic Geography (June 2024), London School of Economics (May 2024), University of Northumbria workshop, *Innovation and Urban Dynamics* (April 2024)

2023 University of Turin (November 2023), European Commission DG-Regio (November 2023), OECD / Banque de France workshop, *Granularity, Place and Diffusion: Big Data and Machine Learning To Explore Spatial Questions* (June 2023), UCL Policy Lab / LSE workshop, (May 2023), UCL Urban Lab workshop *Innovation Districts: Political Economy, Aesthetics and the Concept of Place* (April 2023)

2022 AWH Symposium on *Resilience and Diversity in Complex Systems*, Hamburg (December 2022), ESCoE (November 2022), CASA/Singapore Centre for Liveable

- Cities workshop, London (November 2022), OUP workshop on *Cross-Border Innovation in a Changing World*, Urbino (June 2022), Aston University (March 2022)
- 2021** University of London workshop: *Levelling Up London* (October 2021), UK Government Cities and Local Growth Unit (September 2021), Department of Business, Innovation, Energy and Industrial Strategy (March 2021)
- 2020** SAD 2020 Future of Cities workshop, virtual (October 2020), Utrecht University (March 2020), University of Southampton (February 2020)
- 2019** 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), QMUL (January 2019)
- 2018** Bristol Festival of Economics (November 2018), Middlesex University (October 2018), CIFAR Urban Governance workshop 2, Toronto (August 2018)
- 2017** 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)
- 2016** 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), CIRCLE, Lund University (March 2016), Birmingham Business School GVC Cluster (March 2016)
- Older** 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), 1st, European Big Data workshop, Brussels (October 2013), LLAKES (June 2013), VU University / Tinbergen Institute workshop 'E Pluribus Prosperitas' (April 2013), LSE (October 2012), IZA AM² Migration Workshop (June 2012), APE-INV-ESF 'Science and Invention' workshop (May 2012), UCL Bartlett School of Planning (March 2012), EUROLIO 1st *Geography of Innovation Workshop*, St Etienne (January 2012), UVA (June 2011), COMPAS (May 2011), UCL Urban Lab workshop on *The Architecture and Urban Culture of Financial Crisis* (October 2008).

Conferences

GEOINNO 2026, Budapest (January 2026), RSA Winter Conference 2025, London (November 2025), 7th Global Conference in Economic Geography 2025, Worcester MA (June 2025), RSA Winter Conference 2024, London (November 2024), GEOINNO 2024, Manchester (January 2024), GEOINNO 2020, Stavanger (January 2020), Regional Studies Association Winter Conference, London (November 2019), Triple Helix Conference 16, Manchester (September 2018), 5th 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).

GRANTS AND FUNDING AWARDS (selected)

Larger grants (£100k or more)

2023	NFRF, Canada: Opportunity for All in Post-COVID Cities (CI) (\$CAD 500k)
2022	ESRC: Diversity and UK Firm / City Performance (PI) (£1.4m)
2020	ESRC: What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth Phase 3 (CI) (£2.7m)
2019	ESRC: 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)
2013	ESRC/BIS/DCLG: What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth. LSE, Centre for Cities and Arup (CI) (£3.1m)
2013	NESTA/Google: Exploring the drivers of the UK Digital Economy. NIESR and Growth Intelligence (PI) (£115k)

Smaller grants (under £100k)

2025	UCL Research Culture Seed Fund: Economic Geography Group (PI) (£1.8k)
2015	RSA: Early Career Grant, Evaluating Tech City (PI) (£9.5k)
2015	AAIR, University of Southampton: Tech ecosystems (CI) (£8.2k)
2015	HEFCE HEIF5, LSE: Supporting Devolution Deals (CI) (£29k)
2015	New Economy Manchester: Economic Impacts of Low Pay (PI) (£29k)
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	LLAKES: Top team diversity and business performance (PI) (£8.5k)
2013	Heseltine Institute: Quantifying the economic impact of elected mayors (PI) (£5k)
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)

HONOURS, PRIZES 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

UCL Academic Board, Elected Member

Co-founder, UCL Economic Geography Group, UCL. 2023 –. With Jess Ferm, plus Lin-Fang Hsu, Amy Horton and Jenny MacArthur

ONS Approved researcher, UKDS Secure Data Lab and ONS Secure Research Service

Seminars and conference sessions

Co-organiser, Geographies of Skilled Immigration, Innovation and Economic Performance (with Tom Kemeny, Francesco Lissoni, Ernest Miguelez, Andrea Morrison and Anna Rosso). Special sessions at GCEG 2025 and GEOINNO2026

Co-organiser, Boosting regional productivity through linking SMEs with public research (with Carlo Menon, Anna Rosso and Wessel Vermeuleun,). Special sessions at GEOINNO2026

Co-organiser, Immigration, Innovation and Diversity in Cities and Firms (with Tom Kemeny, Ceren Ozgen, Guido Piali and Anna Rosso). Special sessions at GEOINNO2024

Co-organiser, UCL Economic Geography Group seminar series, UCL. 2023 – . With Jess Ferm, Amy Horton, Lin-Fang Hsu, and Jenny MacArthur

Lead organiser, CASA seminar series, UCL. 2020-2023. With Jon Reades, Sarah Wise, Chen Zhong and Adam Dennett

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 review

Panel reviews: ESRC Smart Data Research UK Centres, UKRI Policy Fellowships

Grant reviews: UKRI (Future Leaders Fellowships, ESRC Open Research Grants, ESRC SDAI Open Call); Leverhulme Foundation (Research Fellowships); British Academy (BA Small Grants, Innovation Fellowships); US-Israel Binational Science Foundation; NWO Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research

Member of the UKRI Future Leaders Fellowships (FLF) Peer Review College and ESRC Peer Review College

Journal editorial: Editorial board, *Economic Geography*

Journal reviewer: **General interest:** *Nature Scientific Reports, PNAS, PLOS ONE.*
Economics: *Journal of the European Economic Association, Economica, Economic Inquiry, Journal of Economic Surveys, Journal of Labour Economics, British Journal of Industrial Relations, Human Relations, Journal of Population Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, IZA World of Labor.* **Innovation / Management:** *Research Policy, Industrial and Corporate Change, Journal of Small Business Management.* **Sociology:** *British Journal of Sociology, Social Forces.* **Geography:** *Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Geographical Analysis, Journal of Economic Geography, Economic Geography, Journal of Regional Science, Papers in Regional Science, Environment and Planning A, Environment and Planning C, Regional Studies, Urban Studies, Progress in Economic Geography, Cities Culture and Society, Entrepreneurship and Regional Development, Urban Geography, Journal of Urban Affairs, Town Planning Review, International Journal of Urban Sciences.* **Other:** *Big Data and Society, International Migration, National Institute Economic Review.*

PHD / POST-DOC SUPERVISION AND EXAMINATION

Project management [pre-doc / postdoc]

- 2025–2026** **Sameera Siddiqui** [NFRF project]
- 2023–2026** **Guido Piali, Mateo Seré** [ESRC Diversity/Productivity project]
- 2019–2022** **Diana Gutierrez-Posada, Tasos Kitsos, Massi Nuccio** [PEC projects]
- 2018–2022** **Juliane Schwarz** [Tech accelerator evaluation]
- 2018–2024** **Capucine Riom, Maria Sanchez-Vidal** [BBC Media City evaluation]

PHDs supervised: current

- 2026 –** **Seongho Bae**
Circulatory Policy Mobility in a Developmental State: Urban Regeneration and Strategic Appropriation of Best Practice in Seoul, South Korea
Co-supervisor with Jung Won Son (lead, BSP)
- 2025 –** **Bohao Su**
Internal Migration Analysis and Prediction based on Skill-Relatedness
Co-supervisor with Neave O’Clery (lead)
- 2025 –** **Matthew Whearty**
Inequalities in housing development and transport provisions and socioeconomic disparities among cities in England and Wales
Co-supervisor with Jens Kandt (lead) and Elsa Arcaute

PHDs supervised: completed

- 2020–2024** **Jennie Williams**
Algorithms in the Archive: Mapping Knowledge with Data Science
Co-supervisor with Jon Reades (lead)

PHDs examined

- 2025** **Jingyuan Zeng**
Essays on the economic geography of innovation
London School of Economics and Political Science
Supervisors: Neil Lee, Michael Storper
- 2023** **Pedro Llanes Paredes**
Essays on Trade and Industrial Policy
London School of Economics and Political Science
Supervisors: Neil Lee, Nancy Holman
- 2021** **Xiaolun Yu**
Essays in Housing Economics
London School of Economics and Political Science
Supervisors: Christian Hilber, Felipe Carozzi
- Augusto Rocha**
Social capital and networks: networking events enacting knowledge transactions within an entrepreneurial ecosystem
University of Edinburgh
Supervisors: Ben Spigel, Richard Harrison
- 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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RESEARCH STUDENT SUPERVISION

MSc students supervised

- 2019 –** **UCL, CASA0004/10/12 Dissertations**
30 students supervised (2019-20 4 students, 2020-1 5 students, 2021-2 5 students, 2022-3 5 students, 2023-4 6 students, 2024-5 5 students)

UG students supervised

- 2010-2012** **LSE GY350 Independent Research Project Adviser**
Supervised five undergraduate dissertations per year
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UNDERGRADUATE AND POSTGRADUATE TEACHING

- 2023 –** **UCL, BPLN0081 Economics of Cities and their Regions**
- 2021 –** **UCL, CASA0008 Smart Cities, Context, Policy and Government**
Module Co-Lead
- 2020-2022** **UCL, BASC0010 Understanding Cities and their Spatial Cultures**
- 2017-2019** **Birmingham Business School, The Place of Business in Society**
- 2010-2012** **LSE, Applied Spatial and Location Analysis**
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CONSULTING

Recent / past consultancy clients include: Arup, Atheneum Partners, Bernard Van Leer Foundation, Centre for London, UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy, UK Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, UK Department for Science, Innovation and Technology, UK Department for Transport / Transport for London, DG Migration and Home Affairs, Economist Intelligence Unit, Flamingo, Frontier Economics, Greater Manchester Combined Authority, Greater London Authority, IPPR, John Lewis Partnership, Migration Policy Institute, NESTA, Siemens, and SQW.

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, Bloomberg, Sky News, FT, Guardian, Observer, Economist, New Statesman, Daily Mail, Times, Telegraph, Independent, Vice, Wired, CityLab, Het Parool and specialist platforms. I contribute to CASA and UKRI Economics Observatory blogs and have also written for the What Works Centre for Local Economics Growth, City-REDI, LSE British Politics and Policy, LSE Business review, LSE Covid-19 and SERC blogging platforms. I also blog at Medium (<https://maxnathan.medium.com/>).

I'm on Bluesky at [@maxnathan.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/maxnathan.bsky.social).

LANGUAGES

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

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

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