

# DR MAX NATHAN

www.maxnathan.com | @iammaxnathan

---

## 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 for cities. I am currently a **Senior Fellow in Regional Economic Development** at the **University of Birmingham**, and **Deputy Director** of the ESRC-funded **What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth** at the **London School of Economics**. 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 **IZA** and the **Spatial Economics Research Centre**.

---

## ACADEMIC

|           |  |                   |
|-----------|--|-------------------|
| 2007-2011 | PhD Economic Geography and Spatial Economics | LSE               |
| 2009      | Visiting Scholar                             | UC Berkeley       |
| 1997-1998 | MSc Social Policy and Planning               | LSE               |
| 1994-1997 | BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics | Oxford University |

---

## EMPLOYMENT

|         |  |
|---------|--|
| 2015 –  | Senior Birmingham Fellow, University of Birmingham [Assistant Professor] |
| 2013 –  | Deputy Director, What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth, LSE        |
| 2015 –  | Assistant Professorial Research Fellow, SERC, LSE                        |
| 2012-15 | Senior Research Fellow, National Institute of Economic & Social Research |
| 2012-15 | Public Affairs Research Fellow, SERC, LSE                                |
| 2007-10 | ESRC-DCLG Policy Adviser, UK Dept. of Communities and Local Government   |
| 2004-07 | Co-founder and Head of Research, Centre for Cities                       |
| 2000-04 | Senior Researcher, Work Foundation                                       |

---

## OTHER ROLES AND AFFILIATIONS

**Referee**, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Economic Geography* (x5), *Economic Geography* (x4), *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Journal of Population Economics* (x2), *Research Policy* (x2), *Environment and Planning A*, *Environment and Planning C*, *Journal of Regional Science*, *Papers in Regional Science*, *Regional Studies*, *Urban Studies*, *Urban Geography*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Big Data and Society*, *IZA World of Labor*.

**Affiliate**, IZA, SERC, Centre for London

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

---

## GRANTS AND FUNDING AWARDS (selected)

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 2015 | HEFCE HEIF5 Project, Developing Devolution Deals (co-PI) (£29k)  |
| 2015 | AAIR, University of Southampton: Tech ecosystems (CI) (£8.2k)  |
| 2014 | NESTA/Kauffman Foundation: Innovation Growth Lab grant (PI) (£25k)   |
| 2013 | ESRC/BIS/DCLG: What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth (CI) (£3.1m)  |
| 2013 | NESTA/Google: Exploring the drivers of the UK Digital Economy (PI) (£115k)   |
| 2013 | UK Migration Advisory Committee: Economic and Labour Market Impacts of Tier 1 Entrepreneur and Investor Migrants (PI) (£40k) |
| 2012 | HEFCE HEIF5 Project, Urban Economics and Urban Policy (co-PI) (£91k)   |
| 2011 | LSE Research Studentship Award (£9k)   |
| 2009 | ESRC Overseas University Visit Award (£6k)   |
| 2007 | ESRC CASE +3 PhD Grant, in partnership with DCLG (£112k)   |

## SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

### Peer reviewed journal articles

- 'Do Inventors Talk to Strangers? On proximity and collaborative knowledge creation' (with R. Crescenzi and A. Rodríguez-Pose). Forthcoming, *Research Policy*.
- 'Mapping Digital Businesses with Big Data: some early lessons from the UK' (2015) (with A. Rosso). *Research Policy*, 44:9, pp 1714–1733.
- 'Same Difference? Ethnic inventors, diversity and innovation in the UK' (2015). *Journal of Economic Geography*, 15:1, pp 129-168.
- 'After Florida: Towards an economics of diversity' (2015). *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 22:1, pp 3-19. LEAD ARTICLE
- '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
- '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.
- '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.
- '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.
- 'Top Team Diversity and Business Performance: Latent class analysis for firms and cities'. Revise and resubmit, *Environment and Planning A* (July 2015).  
See: *IZA DP 8462*, Bonn, IZA.

### Edited books / book chapters

- Urban Economics and Urban Policy* (with P. Cheshire and H. Overman). May 2014. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- 'What works in urban regeneration policy?' In D. O'Brien et al (eds), *Making Cities Work*. (2015), Bristol: Policy Press.
- 'All in the mix? Top team demographics and business performance in English firms'. In J. Bakens, P. Nijkamp and J. Poot (eds.) *E Pluribus Prosperitas: The economics of cultural diversity*. (2015), Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- 'Exploring Munich's innovation system'. (2013) (with P. Rode et al). In R. Burdett, A. Colantonio and P. Rode (eds.) *Transforming Urban Economies*, London, Routledge.

---

## CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS (selected recent)

Pathways, Connections and Circuits (invited keynote lecture), Wellington, NZ (July 2015), Imperial College Business School seminar (February 2015), UCL Bartlett School of Planning seminar (January 2015), RCUK / Imperial College Digital Economy 2014 Conference, London (December 2014), University of Birmingham seminar (November 2014), Regional Studies Association, London (November 2014), North American Regional Science Council, Washington DC (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?" London (March 2014), IGC Immigration Working Group workshop on high-skill migration, Geneva (March 2014).