

# Noel D. Johnson

George Mason University  
Department of Economics  
4400 University Drive, MSN 1D3  
Fairfax, VA 22030-4444

Phone: +1 314.420.5735  
Email: [njohnsoL@gmu.edu](mailto:njohnsoL@gmu.edu)  
Homepage: [noeldjohnson.github.io](https://noeldjohnson.github.io)

## Current Affiliations

2022-Present Professor, Economics Department, George Mason University  
2008-Present Center for the Study of Public Choice, George Mason University  
2008-Present Research Fellow, Mercatus Center at George Mason University  
2018-Present Affiliate Member, CESifo Research Network

## Previous Appointments

2014-2022 Associate Professor, George Mason University  
2008-2014 Assistant Professor, George Mason University  
2007-2008 Visiting Assistant Professor, SUNY at Buffalo  
2006-2007 Visiting Assistant Professor, The Hobart and William Smith Colleges  
2004-2007 Assistant Professor, California State University–Long Beach (on leave 2006-2007)

## Editorial Positions

2020- Editorial Board, *Journal of Economics, Management, and Religion*

## Education

1998-2004 Ph.D, Economics, Washington University in St. Louis  
1991-1995 B.A., Economics and History, Kenyon College

## Research Interests

Primary: Economic History  
Secondary: Applied Econometrics, GIS, and Text as Data  
Environmental Shocks  
State Capacity

## Books

2019	Johnson, N. D. and Koyama, M. (2019). <i>Persecution &amp; Toleration: The Long Road to Religious Freedom</i> . Cambridge University Press
------	--

## Refereed Publications

- 2023 Jedwab, R., Johnson, N. D., and Koyama, M. (2023). Pandemics and Cities: Evidence from the Black Death. *Journal of Urban Economics*
- 2022 Jedwab, R., Johnson, N. D., and Koyama, M. (2022). The Economic Impact of the Black Death. *Journal of Economic Literature*, 60(1):132–78
- 2021 Finley, T., Franck, R., and Johnson, N. D. (2021). The Effects of Land Redistribution: Evidence from the French Revolution. *The Journal of Law and Economics*, 64(2):233–267
- 2020 Jedwab, R., Johnson, N. D., and Koyama, M. (2020). Medieval Cities Through the Lens of Urban Economics. *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, page 103598
- 2019 Jedwab, R., Johnson, N. D., and Koyama, M. (2019). Negative shocks and mass persecutions: evidence from the black death. *Journal of Economic Growth*, 24(4):345–395
- 2017 Anderson, R. W., Johnson, N. D., and Koyama, M. (2017). Jewish persecutions and weather shocks: 1100–1800. *The Economic Journal*, 127(602):924–958 (*Awarded Best Paper of the Year*)
- 2017 Johnson, N. D. and Koyama, M. (2017b). States and economic growth: Capacity and constraints. *Explorations in Economic History*, 64:1–20
- 2017 Johnson, N. D. and Koyama, M. (2017a). Jewish communities and city growth in preindustrial Europe. *Journal of Development Economics*, 127:339 – 354
- 2016 Franck, R. and Johnson, N. D. (2016). Can public policies lower religiosity? Evidence from school choice in France, 1878-1902. *The Economic History Review*, 69(3):915–944
- 2014 Johnson, N. D. and Koyama, M. (2014b). Taxes, lawyers, and the decline of witch trials in France. *Journal of Law & Economics*, 57(1)
- 2014 Johnson, N. D. and Koyama, M. (2014a). Tax farming and the origins of state capacity in England and France. *Explorations in Economic History*, 51:1–20 (*Lead Article*)
- 2014 Johnson, N. D., Ruger, W., Sorens, J., and Yamarik, S. (2014). Corruption, regulation, and growth: An empirical study of the United States. *Economics of Governance*, 15(1):51–69
- 2014 Franck, R., Johnson, N. D., and Nye, J. V. C. (2014). From internal taxes to national regulation: Evidence from a French wine tax reform at the turn of the twentieth century. *Explorations in Economic History*, 51:77–93

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2013 | Johnson, N. D. and Koyama, M. (2013). Legal centralization and the birth of the secular state. <i>Journal of Comparative Economics</i> , 41(4):959–978 ( <i>Lead Article</i> )              |
| 2012 | Johnson, N. D. and Mislin, A. (2012). How much should we trust the world values survey trust question? <i>Economics Letters</i> , 116:110–112   |
| 2011 | Johnson, N. D. and Mislin, A. (2011). Trust games: A meta-analysis. <i>Journal of Economic Psychology</i> , 32:865–889  |
| 2011 | Johnson, N. D. and Nye, J. V. C. (2011). Does fortune favor dragons? <i>Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization</i> , 78(1-2)   |
| 2011 | Johnson, N. D., Lafountain, C. L., and Yamarik, S. (2011). Corruption is bad for growth (even in the United States). <i>Public Choice</i> , 147(3-4):377–393                                |
| 2010 | Compton, R., Johnson, N. D., and Yamarik, S. (2010b). War! What is it good for? <i>BE Press: Peace Economics, Peace Science, and Public Policy</i> , 16(1)                                  |
| 2010 | Compton, R., Giedeman, D., and Johnson, N. D. (2010a). Investing in institutions. <i>Economics and Politics</i> , 22(3)   |
| 2009 | Balla, E. and Johnson, N. D. (2009). Fiscal crisis and institutional change in the Ottoman Empire and France. <i>Journal of Economic History</i> , 69(03):809–845                           |
| 2006 | Johnson, N. D. (2006a). Banking on the king: The evolution of the royal revenue farms in Old Regime France. <i>Journal of Economic History</i> , 66(4):963–91                               |
| 2006 | Johnson, N. D. (2006b). The cost of credibility: The company of general farms and fiscal stagnation in eighteenth century France. <i>Essays in Economic and Business History</i> , 24:16–28 |

## Other Publications

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2018 | Johnson, N. D. and Koyama, M. (2018). The state, toleration, and religious freedom. In Iyer, L., Rubin, J., and Carvalho, J.-P., editors, <i>Advances in the Economics of Religion</i> . Palgrave MacMillan |
| 2018 | Johnson, N. D. (2018). Geospatial information systems. In Blum, M. and Colvin, C. L., editors, <i>An Economist's Guide to Economic History</i> . Palgrave MacMillan   |
| 2016 | Johnson, N. D. (2016). Review of Vincent J. Pitts, 'Embezzlement and High Treason in Louis XIV's France: The Trial of Nicolas Fouquet'. <i>EH.net Economic History Services</i>                             |

- |      |  |
|------|--|
| 2015 | Johnson, N. D., Koyama, M., and Nye, J. V. C. (2015). Establishing a new order: The growth of the state and the decline of witch trials in France. In Greif, A., Kiesling, L., and Nye, J. V. C., editors, <i>Institutions, Innovation, and Industrialization</i> . Princeton University Press |
| 2014 | Johnson, N. D. (2014). Review of Guy Rowlands, ‘The financial decline of a great power: War, influence, and money in Louis XIV’s France’. <i>Journal of Economic History</i> , 74(4):1225–1226   |
| 2012 | Johnson, N. D. (2012b). Review of Jan Luiten Van Zanden, ‘The long road to the industrial revolution: The european economy in a global perspective, 1000-1800’. <i>Journal of Economic History</i> , 72(3)   |
| 2012 | Johnson, N. D. (2012c). Review of Mark Dincecco, ‘Political transformations and public finances: Europe, 1650-1913’. <i>Journal of Economic History</i> , 72(4)  |
| 2012 | Johnson, N. D. (2012a). Review of James Simpson, ‘creating wine: The emergence of a world industry, 1840-1914’. <i>EH.net Economic History Services</i>  |
| 2007 | Johnson, N. D. (2007). Review of Jeff Horn, ‘The path not taken: French industrialization in the age of revolution’. <i>EH.net Economic History Services</i>   |
| 2003 | Johnson, N. D. (2003). Banking on bureaucrats: The emergence of bureaucracy in old regime france. In <i>Proceedings of the National Tax Association</i>  |
| 2001 | Johnson, N. D. (2001). Committing to civil service reform: The performance of pre-shipment inspection under differing institutional regimes. <i>World Bank Policy Research Paper No. 2594</i>  |

## Working Papers & Research in Progress

- |      |   |
|------|---|
| 2024 | Johnson, N. D., Taylor, A., and Thomas, A. (2024). The Impact of the Black Death on the Adoption of the Printing Press, <i>Draft Available</i>                    |
| 2024 | Johnson, N. D. (2024). Taxes, National Identity, and Nation Building: Evidence from France, <i>Draft Available</i>  |
| 2024 | Hussain, M. A. and Johnson, N. D. (2024). The Great Revolt and its Legacy: Understanding Vaccine Hesitancy in Colonial India, <i>Research in Progress</i>         |
| 2024 | Johnson, N. D. and Wilhelm, E. (2024). The Black Death and Guild Survival, <i>Research in Progress</i>  |
| 2024 | Johnson, N. D. and Taylor, A. (2024). The Varieties of Printed Material in Europe between 1450 and 1650: A Title Embeddings Approach, <i>Research in Progress</i> |

**Invited Presentations and Visiting Positions**

University of Mississippi, Spring 2024  
University of Pittsburgh, Fall 2022  
London School of Economics, Fall 2022  
Virginia Tech, Spring 2022  
Texas Tech, Spring 2022  
University of Connecticut, Spring 2022  
International Macro History Seminar, CEPR & Graduate Institute of Geneva, Spring 2021  
University of Colorado, Benson Center for the Study of Western Civilization, Spring 2021  
Paris School of Economics, Spring 2021 (Visitor)  
University of Colorado, Fall 2020  
Auburn University, Spring 2020  
Tulane University, Spring 2020  
Bocconi University, Milan, Fall 2019  
University of Manchester, Fall 2019  
Paris School of Economics, Fall 2019 (Visitor)  
NYU, Abu Dhabi, Spring 2019  
Bocconi University, Milan, Spring 2019  
Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, Paris, Fall 2018 (Visitor)  
Northwestern University, Fall 2018  
CESifo, Munich, Spring, 2018 (Visitor)  
University of Copenhagen, Spring, 2018  
University of Southern Denmark, Spring, 2018  
Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, Fall, 2017  
American University, Fall 2017  
Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Spring 2017 (Visitor)  
Yale University, New Haven, Fall 2016  
Humboldt University, Berlin, Summer 2016  
IOEA, Corsica, Summer 2016  
Brown University Conference on Deep Rooted Factors in Development, Spring 2016  
American University, Spring 2016  
Banque de France, Paris, Fall 2015  
University of Maryland, History Dept., Spring 2015  
Stellenbosch University, South Africa, Summer 2015  
Columbia University/Barnard University Economic History Seminar, Fall 2014  
Brown University Conference on Deep Rooted Factors in Development, Spring 2014  
University of Vermont, Spring 2014  
Northwestern University, Fall 2013  
Rutgers University, Fall 2013  
NES & HSE Conference on Culture and Diversity, Moscow, Fall 2013  
Stanford University, Spring 2013

Chapman University, Spring 2013  
The Elliott School of International Affairs, Spring 2013  
Caltech, Spring 2013  
Harvard University, Fall 2011  
American University, Fall 2010  
SUNY at Buffalo, Spring 2008  
Guelph University, Fall 2007  
University of California-Riverside, Spring 2006  
University of Manitoba, Spring 2006  
University of Vermont, Fall 2005  
University of California-Los Angeles, Spring 2005  
Washington University in St. Louis, Spring 2002  
World Bank Tax and Policy Administration Group, Spring 2001

### **Teaching Experience**

Empirical Techniques in Spatial Economics  
Text as Data and Machine Learning  
European Economic History  
American Economic History  
Economic Growth and Development  
Intermediate Micro and Macro

## Service

Organizer of Washington Area Economic History & Development Workshop, 2010-Present  
 Organizer of Washington Area Economic History Seminar, 2011-Present  
 College Study Leave Committee, 2019  
 College Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2017-18  
 College Curriculum Committee, Fall 2010, Spring 2011  
 Writing Assessment Evaluator, Spring 2013  
 Organizer of Economics Department Public Choice Seminar, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015 (spring), 2021, 2022  
 Economic History Field Exam Committee, 2009-Present  
 Referee for *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *National Science Foundation*, *The Economic Journal*, *American Economic Journal: Policy*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Economic History*, *Journal of Economic Psychology*, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, *Journal of Institutional Economics*, *Economics & Politics*, *American Political Science Review*, *Essays in Business and Economic History*, *Public Choice*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Journal of Economics, Management, and Religion*  
 Presented at OLLI, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018  
 Course Coordinator for Principles Classes, Spring 2006  
 Curriculum Committee, Spring 2004 to Fall 2005  
 Library Committee, Spring 2004 to Spring 2005  
 Elections Committee, Fall 2005 to Spring 2005

## Awards, Honors, and Grants

Royal Economic Society Prize for best paper in the *Economic Journal*, 2017  
 Washington University Senior Teaching Fellow, (Fall 2002, 2003)  
 California State University, Competitive Research Grant, (Fall, Spring 2006)  
 Washington University Competitive Research Grant, (2002, 2001, 1999)  
 Center for New Institutional Social Sciences Competitive Research Grant, (2000)  
 Kenyon College, Baker Prize for historical writing, (Spring 1994)  
 Invited Participant, Lehrman Teaching Institute, Princeton, N.J., (Summer 2006)  
 METTRANS Transportation Center Competitive Research Grant (with Kristen Monaco), (Spring 2006)  
 Sage Fellow, Cornell University, (Fall 1995)  
 Washington University Dissertation Completion Fellowship, (Summer 2002, 2003)  
 Phi Beta Kappa, (Spring 1995)

## References

Professor Joel Mokyr  
Northwestern University  
Department of Economics  
Anderson 3214  
2001 Sheridan Road  
Evanston, IL 60208  
847-491-5693  
j-mokyr@northwestern.edu

Professor Nathan Nunn  
Harvard University  
Department of Economics  
Littauer Center Room 228  
1805 Cambridge Street  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
617-496-5079  
nunn@fas.harvard.edu

Professor Philip T. Hoffman  
California Institute of Technology  
Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences  
Pasadena, CA 91125  
626-395-4085  
pth@hss.caltech.edu

Professor John Wallis  
University of Maryland  
Department of Economics  
College Park, MD 20742  
301-405-3552  
wallis@econ.umd.edu