

Nathan Nunn

Department of Economics
Harvard University
Littauer Center, 1805 Cambridge Street
Cambridge, MA 02138

Phone: 617-496-4958
Email: nunn@fas.harvard.edu
Web: www.economics.harvard.edu/faculty/nunn

Citizenship Canadian, US Permanent Resident

Employment

Harvard University, Department of Economics
Assistant Professor: July 2007 to present

University of British Columbia, Department of Economics
Assistant Professor: July 2005 to July 2007

Other Positions

Stanford University, Department of Economics
Trione Visiting Professor: July 2009 to July 2010

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFIA), Faculty Associate: September 2009 to present

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Faculty Research Fellow: April 2007 to present

Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) Affiliate: March 2009 to present.

Canadian Institute for Advance Research (CIFAR), Institutions, Organizations and Growth Program Scholar: July 2005 to July 2007

Editorial Activities

Associate Editor, *Journal of International Economics*, 2007 to present

Education

PhD, Economics, University of Toronto, 2005

Thesis Title: *Domestic Institutions, International Trade, and Economic Development*
Supervisors: Daniel Treffer, Martin Osborne, Diego Puga, Albert Berry

MA, Economics, University of Toronto, 2000

BA, Economics, Simon Fraser University, 1998

Research Awards and Honours

Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow, 2009

Weatherhead Initiative Award, 2008, “*Understanding African Poverty over the Longue Duree*” (with Emmanuel Akyeampong, Robert Bates, and James A. Robinson)

NBER Africa Project Grant, 2008, “*The Effect of Nutritional Improvements on Population and Urbanization in Africa*” (with Nancy Qian)

Clark Fund, Harvard University, 2008

Warburg Fund, Harvard University, 2007

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), 2006, “*An Examination of Why History Matters in Africa*”

Douglas Hartle Award, 2006

Economic History Association Travel Grant, 2003, 2004

Institute for Policy Analysis Summer Research Stipend, 2003, 2004

Social Science History Association-Rockefeller Graduate Student Travel Award, 2003

Publications

“Relationship-Specificity, Incomplete Contracts, and the Pattern of Trade,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 122, No. 2, May 2007, pp. 569-600.

- Reprinted in D. Bernhofen (ed.), *Empirical International Trade*, Edward Elgar Publishing, forthcoming.

“Historical Legacies: A Model Linking Africa’s Past to its Current Underdevelopment,” *Journal of Development Economics*, Vol. 83, No. 1, May 2007, pp. 157-175.

“The Long-Term Effects of Africa’s Slave Trades,” *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 123, No. 1, February 2008, 139-176.

“The Boundaries of the Multinational Firm: An Empirical Analysis,” (with Daniel Trefler), in E. Helpman, D. Marin, and T. Verdier (eds.), *The Organization of Firms in a Global Economy*, 55-83. Harvard University Press, 2008.

“Slavery, Inequality, and Economic Development in the Americas: An Examination of the Engerman-Sokoloff Hypothesis,” in E. Helpman (ed.), *Institutions and Economic Performance*, 148-180. Harvard University Press, 2008.

“The Importance of History for Economic Development,” *Annual Review of Economics*, Vol. 1, No. 1, September 2009, pp. 65-92.

“The Political Economy of Tariffs and Long-Term Growth” (with Daniel Trefler), *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, forthcoming.

“Shackled to the Past: The Causes and Consequences of Africa’s Slave Trades,” forthcoming in Jared Diamond and James A. Robinson (eds.), *Natural Experiments of History*, 142-184. Harvard University Press, forthcoming.

Working Papers

“The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa” (with Leonard Wantchekon), revision requested at the *American Economic Review*.

“The Potato’s Contribution to Population and Urbanization: Evidence from an Historical Experiment” (with Nancy Qian), revision requested at the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

“Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa” (with Diego Puga)

“The Columbian Exchange: A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas” (with Nancy Qian)

“Commercial Imperialism? Political Influence and Trade during the Cold War” (with Daniel Berger, William Easterly, and Shanker Satyanath)

“On the Origins of Gender Roles” (with Alberto Alesina and Paola Giuliano)

“Incomplete Contracts and the Boundaries of the Multinational Firm” (with Daniel Trefler)

“A Model Explaining Simultaneous Payments of a Dowry and Bride-Price”

“Domestic Knowledge Spillovers and Strategic Trade Policy”

Invited Seminar and Conference Presentations (past five years)

“Commercial Imperialism? Political Influence and Trade during the Cold War”

- Canadian Economics Association Annual Meetings (Toronto, June 2009)
- University of California Davis (Davis, September 2009)
- University of California San Diego (La Jolla, October 2009)
- University of North Carolina Chapel Hill (Chapel Hill, October 2009)
- University of California Berkeley (Berkeley, October 2009)
- University of California Santa Cruz (Santa Cruz, October 2009)

“The Potato's Contribution to Population and Urbanization: Evidence from an Historical Experiment”

- Canadian Economics Association Annual Meetings (Vancouver, June 2008)
- Bocconi University (Milan, November 2008)
- ASSA Annual Meetings (San Francisco, January 2009)
- ISNIE Annual Meetings (Berkeley, June 2009)
- Stanford University (Palo Alto, October 2009)

“Incomplete Contracts and the Boundaries of the Multinational Firm”

- NBER ITI Spring Meeting (Cambridge, March 2008)
- Texas A&M University (College Station, May 2008)
- Princeton IES Summer Workshop (Princeton, July 2008)

“The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa”

- Harvard University (Cambridge, May 2008)
- M.I.T. (Cambridge, May 2008)
- Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (SITE) Summer Workshop (Palo Alto, July 2008)
- Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, Canada, September 2008)
- EHA Annual Meetings (New Haven, September 2008)
- Dalhousie University (Halifax, Canada, September 2008)
- University of Michigan (Ann Arbor, September 2008)
- Dartmouth College (Hanover, September 2008)
- Boston University (Boston, November 2008)
- NBER Political Economy Meetings (Cambridge, November 2008)
- Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, November 2008)
- African Studies Association Annual Meetings (Chicago, November 2008)
- University of Alberta (Edmonton, November 2008)
- University of British Columbia (Vancouver, December 2008)
- ASSA Annual Meetings (San Francisco, January 2009)
- Harvard Business School (Alston, February 2009)
- Colby College (Waterville, Maine, April 2009)
- Stanford University, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (Palo Alto, May 2009)
- University of California Los Angeles (Los Angeles, May 2009)
- Cal Tech (Pasadena, May 2009)
- Northwestern University (Evanston, June 2009)
- Society for Economic Dynamics Annual Meetings (Istanbul, July 2009)

“Slavery, Inequality, and Economic Development in the Americas: An Examination of the Engerman-Sokoloff Hypothesis”

- Canadian Institute for Advance Research (CIFAR) – Institutions, Organizations and Growth Program Meeting (Toronto, March 2007)

“Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa”

- Canadian Institute for Advance Research (CIFAR) – Institutions, Organizations and Growth Program Meeting (Vancouver, June 2006)
- University of British Columbia (Vancouver, September 2006)
- University of California San Diego (La Jolla, September 2006)
- University of Southern California, Institute for Economic Research on Civilizations (Los Angeles, September 2006)
- Canadian Network for Economic History (Vancouver, October 2006)
- Harvard University (Cambridge, January 2007)
- Stanford University (Palo Alto, February 2007)
- Brown University (Providence, October 2007)
- University of California Berkeley (Berkeley, November 2007)
- New York University, Political Science (New York, November 2007)
- Research Group on Political Institutions and Economic Policy (Cambridge, December 2007)
- Paris School of Economics (Paris, December 2007)
- University of Toulouse I (Toulouse, December 2007)
- Yale University (New Haven, March 2008)
- University of Colorado at Boulder (April 2008)
- World Bank (Washington, D.C., May 2008)

“The Long-Term Effects of Africa’s Slave Trades”

- University of Rochester (Rochester, April 2004)
- York University (Toronto, April 2004)
- Canadian Economics Association Annual Meetings (Toronto, June 2004)
- Canadian Institute for Advance Research (CIFAR) – Institutions, Organizations and Growth Program Meeting (Toronto, June 2004)
- Social Science History Association Annual Meetings (Chicago, November 2004)
- Pennsylvania State University (State College, May 2005)
- Society for Economic Dynamics Annual Meeting (Budapest, June 2005)
- NBER Summer Institute, Income Distribution and Macroeconomics (Cambridge, July 2005)
- ITAM – FBBVA – Banco De Mexico Summer Camp in Macroeconomics (Mexico City, August 2005)
- Harvard University (Cambridge, September 2005)

- New York University, joint Economics and Political Science (New York, October 2005)
- University of Michigan, joint Economics and Ford School for Public Policy (Ann Arbor, October 2005)
- University of California Los Angeles (Los Angeles, November 2005)
- American Economics Association Meeting (Boston, January 2006)
- International Monetary Fund (Washington D.C., June 2006)
- International Economic History Congress (Helsinki, August 2006)

“Relationship-Specificity, Incomplete Contracts, and the Pattern of Trade”

- Social Science History Association Annual Meetings (Chicago, November 2004)
- Concordia University (Montreal, December 2004)
- McMaster University (Hamilton, January 2004)
- University of Western Ontario (London, January 2005)
- University of British Columbia (Vancouver, January 2005)
- Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, January 2005)
- Boston University (Boston, January 2005)
- M.I.T. Sloan School of Management (Cambridge, January 2005)
- London School of Economics (London, January 2005)
- New York University (New York, February 2005)
- Stanford Graduate School of Business (Palo Alto, February 2005)
- University of Chicago Harris School (Chicago, February 2005)
- M.I.T. (Cambridge, February 2005)
- Wilfrid Laurier University (Waterloo, April 2005)
- NBER Institutions, Trade and Organizations Spring Working Group Meeting (Cambridge, April 2005)
- Canadian Economics Association Annual Meetings (Hamilton, May 2005)
- Canadian Institute for Advance Research (CIFAR) – Institutions, Organizations and Growth Program Meeting (Vancouver, June 2005)
- Stockholm University IIES (Stockholm, September 2005)
- University of Pittsburgh (Pittsburgh, September 2005)
- Harvard University (Cambridge, September 2005)
- Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona, May 2006)

“The Boundaries of the Multinational Firm: An Empirical Analysis”

- Globalization and the Organization of Firms and Markets CEPR conference (Munich, February 2007)
- Laurier Conference on Empirical International Trade (Waterloo, March 2008)
- New York University School of Law Conference on Law, Commerce and Development (New York, April 2008)

“The Political Economy of Tariffs and Long-Term Growth”

- University of British Columbia (Vancouver, May 2006)
- Canadian Institute for Advance Research (CIFAR) – Institutions, Organizations and Growth Program Meeting (Vancouver, June 2006)
- Empirical Investigations in International Trade (Banff, October 2006)
- Harvard University (Cambridge, October 2006)
- Simon Fraser University (Burnaby, Canada, March 2007)
- Korea University (Seoul, Korea, May 2007)

“Domestic Knowledge Spillovers and Strategic Trade Policy”

- University of British Columbia (Vancouver, November 2006)
- Laurier Conference on Empirical International Trade (Waterloo, December 2006)
- World Bank and Sciences-Po Antidumping and Developing Countries Conference (Paris, December 2006)
- NBER Productivity lunch (Cambridge, November 2007)

Teaching

Graduate International Trade (University of British Columbia, Harvard University)

Undergraduate Economic Development (University of British Columbia, Harvard University)

Student Supervision

Ken Jackson, University of British Columbia. Currently Assistant Professor at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Professional Activities

Refereeing: *American Economic Review, American Political Science Review, Canadian Journal of Economics, Econometrica, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Economics and Politics, Economics of Transition, Economics Letters, European Economic Review, International Regional Science Review, Journal of African Economics, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Industrial Economics, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Science, MIT Press, National Science Foundation (NSF), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).*

- Committees:
- University of Toronto: Graduate Appeals Committee, 2002-2004
 - University of Toronto: Graduate Advisory Committee, 2004-2005
 - University of British Columbia: Graduate Studies Committee, 2005-2007
 - University of British Columbia: Graduate Admissions Committee, 2005-2007
 - Harvard University: Junior Recruiting Committee, 2008-2009