

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
Paul Sack Associate Professor of Political Economy: July 2011 to present

Harvard University, Department of Economics
Assistant Professor: July 2007 to July 2011

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

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

Other Affiliations

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

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

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

Editorial Board, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2012 to present

Editorial Advisory Board, *Canadian Journal of Economics*, 2010 to present

Education

PhD, Economics, University of Toronto, 2005

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

MA, Economics, University of Toronto, 2000

BA, Economics, Simon Fraser University, 1998

Research Awards and Honors

Clark Award, Harvard University, 2011

Emerald Management Reviews 2011 Citation of Excellence Award for “Relationship-Specificity, Incomplete Contracts, and the Pattern of Trade,” published in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*.

Andrew E. Furer Fellow, Department of Economics, Harvard University, 2011-2014

Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow, 2009-2011

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 Determinants of Food Aid Provision to Africa, and the Rest of the Developing World*” (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

Journal Articles

“Ruggedness: The Blessing of Bad Geography in Africa,” (with Diego Puga), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, forthcoming.

“The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa,” (with Leonard Wantchekon), *American Economic Review*, Vol. 101, No. 7, December 2011, pp. 3221-3252.

“The Potato's Contribution to Population and Urbanization: Evidence from a Historical Experiment,” (with Nancy Qian), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 126, No. 2, May 2011, pp. 593-650.

“Fertility and the Plough,” (with Alberto Alesina and Paola Giuliano), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, Vol. 101, No. 3, May 2011, pp. 499-503.

“The Structure of Tariffs and Long-Term Growth,” (with Daniel Trefler), *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, Vol. 2, No. 4, October 2010, pp. 158-194.

“The Columbian Exchange: A History of Disease, Food, and Ideas,” (with Nancy Qian), *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 24, No. 2, Spring 2010, pp. 163-188.

“Religious Conversion in Colonial Africa,” *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, Vol. 100, No. 2, May 2010, pp. 147-152.

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

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

“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, 2010.

“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.

Working Papers

“Commercial Imperialism? Political Influence and Trade during the Cold War,” (with Daniel Berger, William Easterly, and Shanker Satyanath), second revision submitted, *American Economic Review*.

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

“Aiding Conflict: The Impact of U.S. Food Aid on Civil War” (with Nancy Qian)

“The Determinants of Food Aid Provisions to Africa and the Developing World” NBER Working Paper 16610 (with Nancy Qian)

“Historical Persistence”, in preparation for the Handbook of Economic Growth.

Book Chapters

“Gender and Missionary Influence in Colonial Africa”, prepared for Africa’s Development in Historical Perspective, Emmanuel Akyeampong, Robert Bates, Nathan Nunn and James A. Robinson (eds.).

“Shackled to the Past: The Causes and Consequences of Africa’s Slave Trades,” Jared Diamond and James A. Robinson (eds.), Natural Experiments of History, pp. 142-184. Harvard University Press, 2010.

“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, pp. 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, pp. 148-180. Harvard University Press, 2008.

Invited Seminar and Conference Presentations

“Resource Shocks and Conflict in Europe, 1400-2000”

- AEA Annual Meetings (Chicago, January 2012)

“On the Origins of Gender Roles: Women and the Plough”

- Trust, Civic Spirit, and Economic Performance Conference (Paris, June 2010)
- Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (SITE) Summer Workshop (Palo Alto, July 2010)
- M.I.T. Political Economy Seminar (Cambridge, September 2010)
- Brown University (Providence, September 2010)
- Harvard University (Cambridge, November 2010)
- University of Oklahoma (Norman, November 2010)
- Washington University (Saint Louis, December 2010)
- Bank of Italy (Rome, December 2010)
- AEA Annual Meetings (Denver, January 2011)
- World Bank (Washington, D.C., January 2011)
- Brookings Africa Growth Initiative, Africa Growth Forum (Washington, D.C., January 2011)
- Washington Area Economic History Seminar (Arlington, VA, April 2011)
- NBER Political Economy Meeting (Cambridge, April 2011)
- M.I.T. Economic Development Seminar (Cambridge, April 2011)

- NBER DAE Summer Institute (Cambridge, July 2011)
- Journal of Comparative Economics Conference. Institutions in Africa, Latin America and Around the World (Pittsburgh, September 2011)
- Sustainable Food and Farming Workshop. Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (WCFIA), Harvard University (Cambridge, October 2011)
- University of Toronto (Toronto, November 2011)
- University of Zurich (Zurich, December 2011)
- Princeton University (Princeton, December 2011)

“Aiding Conflict: The Impact of U.S. Food Aid on Civil War”

- NBER African Successes Ghana Conference (Accra, July 2010)
- New York University (New York, March 2011)
- BREAD Conference (New York, May 2011)
- CEA Annual Meetings (Ottawa, June 2011)

“Fertility and the Plough”

- AEA Annual Meetings (Denver, January 2011)

“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)
- Stellenbosch University (South Africa, November 2009)
- Stanford University (Palo Alto, February 2010)
- NBER Development of the American Economy (DAE) Program Meeting (Cambridge MA, February 2010)
- NBER International Trade and Investment (ITI) Program Meeting (Cambridge MA, March 2010)
- University of British Columbia (Vancouver, April 2010)
- University of Southern California (Los Angeles, May 2010)
- University of Chicago School of Business (Chicago, May 2010)
- University of California Los Angeles (Los Angeles, Dec 2010)
- Columbia University, Trade and Development Seminar (New York, March 2011)
- Columbia University, Economic History Seminar (New York, April 2011)
- Johns Hopkins SAIS (Washington, DC, April 2011)
- Vanderbilt University (Nashville, April 2011)
- University of Toronto (Toronto, November 2011)
- University of Maryland (College Park, MD, December 2011)

“Gender and Missionary Influence in Colonial Africa”

- Harvard University, Religion and Political Economy Seminar (Cambridge MA, May 2008)
- ERSA Conference on Slavery, Colonial History and the New Economic History of Southern Africa (Stellenbosch, South Africa, November 2009)
- ASSA Annual Meetings (Atlanta, January 2010)
- New Technologies and Interdisciplinary Research in Religion Conference (Cambridge, MA, March 2010)
- African Poverty over the Longue Duree (Accra, Ghana, July 2010)
- Mellon Foundation Sawyer Seminar on Ethnicity in Africa: Historical, Comparative and Contemporary Investigations (Ann Arbor, December 2010)
- Before and Beyond Europe: Economic Change in Historical Perspective Conference (New Haven, February 2011)

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

- Canadian Economics Association Annual Meetings (Vancouver, June 2008)
- Bocconi University (Milan, Italy, 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 (CDDRL) (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)
- ERSA Conference on Slavery, Colonial History and the New Economic History of Southern Africa (Stellenbosch, South Africa, November 2009)
- University of San Francisco (San Francisco, February 2010)
- University of California Santa Barbara (Santa Barbara, April 2010)
- Eric William Centenary Conference (Oxford, Sept 2011)
- Harvard University, Workshop in History, Culture and Society (Cambridge, Oct 2011)
- University of Zurich, Behavioral Economics Workshop (Zurich, December 2011)

“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 Structure 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)

Public Lectures and Keynote Presentations

A Global Perspective on the History of Nutrition, Health and Prosperity

Food Environment: The Effects of Context on Food. Agricultural and Applied Economics Association (AAEA) and European Association of Agricultural Economists (EAAE). Boston, MA, May 30-31, 2012.

Historical Perspectives on Economic Development

IMF Institute Training Seminar. Washington, D.C. October 28, 2011.

External Influence and Economic Development: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives

III Workshop in International Economics. Real Colegio Complutense en la Universidad de Harvard. Cambridge, MA. Sept 19-22, 2011.

The Importance of History and Culture for Understanding Human Behavior
Emerging Science of Culture and its Implications Lecture Series. Centre for Human Evolution, Cognition and Culture, University of British Columbia. Vancouver, Canada. December 6, 2010.

The Importance of History for Economic Development
ERSA conference on Slavery, Colonial History, and the New Economic History of Southern Africa. Stellenbosch, South Africa, November 16, 2009.

What Makes Some Countries Rich and Others Poor?
CIFAR's The Next Big Question National Tour. Ottawa, Canada. October 26, 2007.

The Legacy of Slave Trading in Africa
CIAR Appetite for Discovery Luncheon. Vancouver, Canada. April 24, 2006.

Teaching

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

Graduate Economic History (Harvard University)

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

Professional Activities

Refereeing: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, American Economic Review, American Political Science Review, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, British Journal of Political Science, Canadian Journal of Economics, Econometrica, Economic History Review, Economic Inquiry, Economic Journal, Economics and Politics, Economics of Transition, Economics Letters, Explorations in Economic History, European Economic Review, International Regional Science Review, Journal of African Economics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Economic Literature, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Industrial Economics, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of World Economics (Weltwirtschaftliches Archiv), Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Science, World Development, Cambridge University Press, European Research Council (ERC), Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET), MIT Press, National Science Foundation (NSF), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC).*

Committees:

- Harvard University: Junior Recruiting Committee, 2008-2009, 2011-2012
- Harvard University: Graduate Admissions Committee, 2010-2011
- Harvard University: Undergraduate Instruction Committee, 2011-present

- Harvard University: Fulbright Scholarship Evaluation Committee, 2010-present
- University of British Columbia: Graduate Studies Committee, 2005-2007
- University of British Columbia: Graduate Admissions Committee, 2005-2007
- University of Toronto: Graduate Advisory Committee, 2004-2005
- University of Toronto: Graduate Appeals Committee, 2002-2004

- Other activities:
- Board Member, Association for Comparative Economic Studies (ACES), 2010-
 - Program Committee, Society for Economic Dynamics (SED) 2009 Meetings, Turkey.
 - Program Committee, African Studies Association (ASA) Annual Meetings 2009, Chicago.
 - Conference co-organizer. African Poverty over the Longue Duree. Accra, Ghana, 2010.
 - Program Committee, SITE New Frontiers in Economic History Conference 2010, Palo Alto.