

Curriculum Vitae Mattias K. Polborn

Contact

Mail:

VU Station B #351819
2301 Vanderbilt Place
Nashville, TN 37235-1819

Office: 416 Calhoun Hall

phone: 615-875-8113

email: mattias.polborn@vanderbilt.edu

homepage: <https://my.vanderbilt.edu/polborn/>

Education

1996-1998 Dr. oecologiae publicae (Ph.D. in economics), University of Munich

1991-1995 Diplom-Volkswirt (B.A. in economics), University of Munich

Employment

2019 – E. Bronson Ingram Chair in Economics,
Vanderbilt University

2020 – International faculty member, Universität zu Köln

2016 – Professor of Economics and of Political Science,
Vanderbilt University

2011 – 2016 Professor of Economics and of Political Science,
University of Illinois, Urbana–Champaign

2007 – 2011 Associate Professor of Economics and of Political Science
University of Illinois, Urbana–Champaign

2003 – 2007 Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Illinois, Urbana–Champaign

2000 – 2003 Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Western Ontario

1998 – 2000 Assistant Professor, University of Munich

Professional service

Associate editor, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 2014 –

Associate editor, *Social Choice and Welfare*, 2014 –2022

Associate editor, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 2013 – 2018

Associate editor, *Berkeley Electronic Journals for Theoretical Economics*, 2006 – 2016

Editor, *Economics of Governance*, 2012–2014

Program Committee, Econometric Society World Congress 2015

Visiting positions and short-term visits

Center of Economic Studies, University of Munich (2006, 2008, 2010, 2013, 2018)

Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin (2009)

Free University of Berlin (2011)

Central Bank of Armenia (2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021)

Honors and Prizes

Bayerische Begabtenförderung (1991-1995)

Dissertation Prize of the University of Munich (1998)

Ernst Meyer Prize of the Geneva Association (best PhD thesis in insurance economics, 1999)

CESifo Prize in Public Economics (“Distinguished Affiliate”, 2007)

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent, University of Illinois (2008, 2010, 2012, 2014)

Excellence in Refereeing Award, Journal of the European Economic Association (2012)

Excellence in Refereeing Award, American Economic Review (2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2021)

Keynote speaker, Armenian Economic Association meetings (Yerevan, 2014)

Publications (by field, in reverse chronological order)

Political economy / formal political theory

- [1] “Veto Institutions, Hostage-taking, and Tacit Cooperation”, **American Journal of Political Science**, forthcoming. With Justin Fox.
- [2] “On the Separation of Executive and Legislative Powers: Executive Independence, Liberty, and Social Welfare”, **Journal of Theoretical Politics**, 33 (2021), 430–454. With Justin Fox.
- [3] “Political Conflict over Time”, **American Journal of Political Science**, 64 (2020), 554–568. With Will Howell and Stefan Krasa.
- [4] “Candidate Competition and Voter Learning in Sequential Primary Elections: Theory and Evidence”, **Public Choice**, 178 (2019), 115–151. With George Deltas.
- [5] “Political Competition in Legislative Elections”, **American Political Science Review**, 112 (2018): 809–825. With Stefan Krasa.
- [6] “Costly Voting with Multiple Candidates under Plurality Rule”, **Games and Economic Behavior**, 106 (2017): 38–50. With Mariam Arzumanyan.
- [7] “Party Polarization in Legislatures with Office-Motivated Candidates”, **Quarterly Journal of Economics**, 132 (2017): 1509–1550. With James Snyder.

-
- [8] “Learning and coordination in the Presidential primary system”, **Review of Economic Studies**, 83 (2016): 1544-1578. With George Deltas and Helios Herrera.
- [9] “Social ideology and taxes in a differentiated candidates framework”, **American Economic Review**, 104 (2014), 308-22. With Stefan Krasa.
- [10] “The rule of law in the fight against terrorism”, **American Journal of Political Science**, 58 (2014), 511-525. With Tiberiu Dragu.
- [11] “Policy divergence and voter polarization in a structural model of elections”, **Journal of Law and Economics**, 57 (2014), 31-76. With Stefan Krasa.
- [12] “The administrative foundation of the rule of law”, **Journal of Politics**, 75 (2013), 1038-1050. With Tiberiu Dragu.
- [13] “Political competition between differentiated candidates”, **Games and Economic Behavior**, 76 (2012), 249-271. With Stefan Krasa.
- [14] “The option to wait in collective decisions”, **Journal of Public Economics**, 96 (2012), 524-540. With Matthias Messner.
- [15] “Competition between specialized candidates”, **American Political Science Review**, 104 (2010), 745-765. With Stefan Krasa.
- [16] “The binary policy model”, **Journal of Economic Theory**, 145 (2010), 661-688. With Stefan Krasa.
- [17] “Defending against committed terrorists”, **Economics Letters**, 107 (2010), 52-54. With Dan Bernhardt.
- [18] “Optimal agenda-setter timing”, **Canadian Journal of Economics**, 42 (2009), 1527-1546. With Gerald Willmann.
- [19] “Is mandatory voting better than voluntary voting?”, **Games and Economic Behavior**, 66 (2009), 275-291. With Stefan Krasa.
- [20] “Political polarization and the electoral effects of media bias”, **Journal of Public Economics**, 92 (2008), 1092-1104. With Stefan Krasa and Dan Bernhardt.
- [21] “Strong and coalition-proof political equilibria under plurality and runoff rule”, **International Journal of Game Theory**, 35 (2007), 287-314. With Matthias Messner.
- [22] “Dynamic lobbying conflicts”, **Economics of Governance**, 8 (2007), 263-279. With Zaruhi Sahakyan.
- [23] “Positive and negative campaigning”, **Quarterly Journal of Political Science**, 1 (2006), 351-371. With David Yi.

- [24] “Investment under uncertainty in dynamic conflicts”, **Review of Economic Studies**, 73 (2006), 505-529.
- [25] “Primaries and the New Hampshire effect”, **Journal of Public Economics**, 90 (2006), 1073-1114. With Tilman Klumpp.
- [26] “Paying politicians”, **Journal of Public Economics**, 88 (2004), 2423-2445. With Matthias Messner.
- [27] “Voting on majority rules”, **Review of Economic Studies**, 71 (2004), 115-132. With Matthias Messner.

Public economics, insurance economics, applied game theory and IO

- [28] “Can Teachers Learn Online? Evidence from Armenia”, **Education Economics**, forthcoming. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1080/09645292.2023.2273224>. With Naneh Hovanesian, Gevorg Minasyan, Armen Nurbekyan and Tigran Polborn.
- [29] “Incentives for investments in defensive technology: An economic analysis of the Safety Act”, **International Review of Law and Economics**, 73 (March 2023), 106116. Available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.irle.2022.106116>
- [30] “The Value of Technology Improvements in Games with Externalities: A Fresh Look at Offsetting Behavior”, **Journal of Public Economics**, 131 (November 2015), 12-20. With Mike Hoy.
- [31] “Strategic buying to prevent seller exit”, **Journal of Economics and Management Strategy**, 20 (2011), 339-378. With Rob Clark.
- [32] “Competing for recognition through public good provision”, **Berkeley Electronic Journal of Theoretical Economics**, 8 (2008), Article 22 (Contributions).
- [33] “Endogenous categorization in insurance”, **Journal of Public Economic Theory**, 10 (2008), 1095-1113.
- [34] “Coordination and status influence”, **Rationality and Society**, 18 (2006), 367-391. With Rob Clark and Samuel Clark.
- [35] “Information with crowding externalities”, **Economic Theory**, 27 (2006), 565-581. With Rob Clark.
- [36] “Advantageous effects of regulatory adverse selection in a life insurance market”, **Economic Journal**, 116 (2006), 327-354. With Mike Hoy and Asha Sadanand.
- [37] “Cooperation in stochastic OLG models”, **Journal of Economic Theory**, 108 (2003), 152-168. With Matthias Messner.

- [38] “Herding and antitherding: A model of reputational differentiation”, **European Economic Review**, 45 (2001), 385-403. With Matthias Effinger.
- [39] “The value of genetic information in the life insurance market”, **Journal of Public Economics**, 78 (2000), 235-252. With Mike Hoy.
- [40] “A new test of price dispersion”, **German Economic Review**, 1 (2000), 221-237. With Ekkehard Kessner.
- [41] “A model of vertically differentiated education”, **Journal of Economics**, 69 (1999), 53-69. With Matthias Effinger.
- [42] “A model of an oligopoly in an insurance market”, **Geneva Papers on Risk and Insurance Theory**, 23 (1998), 41-48.
- [43] “Mandatory insurance and the judgment-proof problem”, **International Review of Law and Economics**, 18 (1998), 141-146.

Work in Progress

Working papers

Most of these papers are available at <https://my.vanderbilt.edu/polborn/>

“Values as Luxury Goods and Political Polarization” (with Benjamin Enke and Alex Wu); R&R at *Journal of the European Economic Association*

“Competitive Fair Redistricting” (with Felix Bierbrauer)

“Expressive Politics: How Animus and Cognitive Dissonance Translate into Electoral Extremism” (with Will Howell and Stefan Krasa)

“Populism, Stigma and Political Correctness” (with Justin Fox)

“Core Supporters and Party Switchers in U.S. Presidential Elections” (with Stefan Krasa)

“Insecure Property Rights and the Missing Middle” (with Aram Grigoryan)

“Miscounts, Duverger’s Law and Duverger’s Hypothesis” (with Matthias Messner)

Work in progress

“Voting for extremists? A rational theory of populism” (with Emmanuelle Auriol and Nicolas Bonneton)

“Whipping and the quality of legislation” (with Jim Snyder)

“Endogenous Research Agendas” (with Georgy Egorov)

Research Grants

- 2013–2015 NSF grant, “Policy divergence, sorting and electoral polarization”, together with Stefan Krasa
- 2003–2006 Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada: Standard research grant and teaching buyout (returned after leaving UWO)
Proposal title: Endogenous political institutions
- 2002–2003 Canadian Institute for Health Research
Proposal title: “Impact on Consumer Welfare of Genetic Testing in Insurance Markets” (with Mike Hoy, University of Guelph)
- 1999 DAAD grant (German academic exchange service) for a one year postdoc stay at the University of Western Ontario

Teaching Experience

- Political Economy* UIUC (Ph.D.), Vanderbilt (Ph.D.)
- Public Economics* UIUC (Master’s), UWO (Undergraduate)
- Game Theory* UIUC (Master’s), Vanderbilt (Master’s)
- Microeconomics* Vanderbilt (Ph.D.), UIUC (Master’s, UG)

Department and university service (selection)

- 2023– Vice chair, Dept. of Economics, Vanderbilt
- 2017–2023 Director of Graduate Studies, Dept. of Economics, Vanderbilt
- multiple years Recruiting committees (theory; political economy; lecturers and postdocs)
- 2019 – Faculty council, College of LAS, Vanderbilt
- 2018–2020 SARC (college-level tenure and promotion committee)
- 2013–2016 Director of Graduate Studies, Dept. of Economics, UIUC

Refereeing

American Economic Journal - Micro, American Economic Review, American Economic Review - Insights, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, American Politics Research, American Sociological Review, Comparative Political Studies, Econometrica, Economic Journal, Economic Theory, Economics and Politics, Economics of Governance, European Economic Review, Finanzarchiv, Games and Economic Behavior, International Economic Review, Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Institutional and Theoretical Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Politics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Public Economic Theory, Journal of Theoretical Politics, Naval Research Logistics, Political Behavior, Political Science Research and Methods, Public Choice, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Rand Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, Social Choice and Welfare, Theoretical Economics.

Presentations in seminars and conferences

2023/2024	ETH/U of Zurich Michigan State U U of Rochester (Wallis conference) Stanford (SITE conference, Political Economy)
2022/2023	Princeton U National University of Singapore (online)
2021/2022	UC Berkeley Washington State U Armenian Economic Association Conference
2020/2021	University of Cologne University of Bonn Global Seminar on Contests and Conflict
2018/2019	U of Pittsburgh U of Cologne U of Chicago, Harris School
2017/2018	UQAM Queen's U Columbia U ETH Zurich Workshop on Democracy Barcelona GSE Summer Forum EPSA
2015/2016	Yale U Vanderbilt U Southern Methodist U
2014/2015	Max-Planck-Institute Munich New York U Caltech U of Southern California Illinois State U U of Mannheim ETH Zurich Princeton Workshop on Public Economics Brigham Young U Priorat Workshop on Theoretical Political Science Higher School of Economics, Moscow New Economic School, Moscow
2013/2014	UC Irvine U of Michigan U of Notre Dame

	Western Illinois U American Political Science Association meeting Central Bank of Armenia
2012/2013	GSB Stanford PECA Conference (Chicago/Northwestern) Northwestern Midwest Political Science Association meeting Princeton Political Economy Conference
2011/2012	Princeton U Washington U Midwest Political Science Association Meetings, Chicago Erasmus U Rotterdam (Political Economy workshop) U of Cologne U of Bielefeld
2010/2011	Purdue U U of Southern California Midwest Political Science Association Meetings, Chicago New York U FU Berlin
2009/2010	PECA conference (U Chicago/ Northwestern) U of Rochester Wallis conference, U of Rochester U of Iowa Texas Tech Duke U U of Frankfurt U of Munich
2008/2009	Harvard/MIT Clemson U UC Berkeley Columbia U Northern Illinois U Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin U of Rotterdam U of Copenhagen Free U of Berlin
2007/2008	U of Munich U of Bonn University College London UQAM Political Economy Conference UNC-Charlotte
2006/2007	Penn State U

	U of Pennsylvania, PIER conference UC Berkeley U of Toronto Simon Fraser U Michigan State U Gerzensee, CEPR – European Summer Symposium on Economic Theory U of Bern
2005/2006	U of Dresden Wissenschaftszentrum Berlin U of Rochester, Wallis Conference on Political Economy U of Guelph U of Zurich
2004/2005	Northwestern, MEDS–Kellogg U of Maastricht
2003/2004	Indiana U Iowa State U Bocconi U U of Munich
2002/2003	U of Rochester U of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign U of California, Davis Ohio State U New York U U of Montreal U of Toronto U of Pennsylvania Queen’s U