

Fabian Eckert

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Fields

International Trade, Macroeconomics, Spatial Economics, and Urban Economics

Employment

University of California, San Diego

Assistant Professor

2020-

Other Appointments

Journal of International Economics

Associate Editor

2023-

Prosperity and Globalization Lab, University of California, San Diego

Partner

2023-

Center for Commerce and Diplomacy, University of California, San Diego

Faculty Affiliate

2020-

Past Positions

Princeton University

IES Postdoctoral Associate

2019-2020

Visits

Kiel Institute for the World Economy

Visiting Scholar

Summer 2024

Becker Friedman Institute, University of Chicago

Visiting Scholar

December 2022

NYU Economics Department

Visiting Scholar

Fall 2022

Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis

Visiting Scholar

July, August 2019

Education

Yale University

Doctor of Philosophy, Department of Economics (with Distinction)

2019

Master of Philosophy, Department of Economics (with Distinction)

2016

Master of Arts, Department of Economics

2015

Advisors: Costas Arkolakis, Giuseppe Moscarini, Samuel Kortum, Michael Peters

University College London

Bachelor of Science in Economics (with First Class Honours and Dean's List)

2013

Publications

Combinatorial Discrete Choice

2026

Joint with Costas Arkolakis and Rowan Shi

NBER Working Paper #31877
American Economic Review (accepted)

Sprouting Cities: How Rural America Industrialized 2023
 Joint with John Juneau and Michael Peters
AEA Papers and Proceedings, Volume 113, May 2023, pp.87-92

The Return to Big City Experience: Evidence from Refugees in Denmark 2022
 Joint with Mads Hejlesen and Conor Walsh
Journal of Urban Economics, Volume 130, July 2022, 103454

The Geography of Remote Work 2022
 Joint with Lukas Althoff, Sharat Ganapati and Conor Walsh
Regional Science and Urban Economics, Volume 93, March 2022, 103770

Under Revision

Urban-Biased Growth: A Macroeconomic Analysis 2025
 Joint with Sharat Ganapati and Conor Walsh
 NBER Working Paper #30515
Journal of Political Economy

Spatial Structural Change 2025
 Joint with Michael Peters
 NBER Working Paper #30489
Review of Economic Studies

The Geography of Opportunity 2024
 Joint with Tatjana Kleineberg
Journal of Political Economy

Working Papers

More Roads or Public Transit? Insights from Measuring City-Center Accessibility (submitted) 2023
 Joint with Lucas Conwell and Mushfiq Ahmed Mobarak
 NBER Working Paper #30877

Growing Apart: Tradable Services and the Fragmentation of the U.S. Economy 2019

Work in Progress

Housing as a Growth Bottleneck
 Joint with Shane Nordquist and Fabian Trottner

Superstar ZIP Codes
 Joint with Camilo Acosta and Jack Liang

Shorter Papers

The Early County Business Pattern Files: 1946-1974 2022
 Joint with Ka-leung Lam, Atif Mian, Karsten Muller, Rafael Schwalb, and Amir Sufi
 NBER Working Paper #30578

Imputing Missing Values in the US Census Bureau's County Business Patterns 2021
 Joint with Teresa C. Fort, Peter K. Schott, and Natalie J. Yang
 NBER Working Paper #26632

A Method to Construct Geographical Crosswalks with an Application to US Counties 2020
 Joint with Andrés Gvirtz, Jack Liang, and Michael Peters
 NBER Working Paper #26770

Awards, Fellowships

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| UCSD Economics Teaching Award for Graduate Teaching | 2024 |
| The Society of Hellman Fellows | 2024 |
| Yale University George Trimis Dissertation Prize | 2019 |
| UAE Student Best Paper Runner Up ("Return to Big City Experience") | 2018 |
| University Dissertation Fellowship, Yale University | 2018 |
| Raymond Powell Prize for Outstanding Graduate Teaching | 2017 |
| Samuel K. Bushnell Fellow, Yale University | 2017 |
| Cowles Foundation Carl Arvid Anderson Prize Fellowship | 2015-2016 |
| Yale University, 2015 John Y. Campbell Fellowship | 2014-2016 |
| Yale University Doctoral Fellowship | 2013-2018 |
| University College London, Dean's List Award | 2013 |
| German National Scholarship Foundation | 2011-2016 |
| Bavarian Government Max Weber Scholarship (declined) | 2010 |
| German Physical Society (Outstanding Baccalaureate in Physics) | 2010 |

Teaching Experience

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| Instructor, Cities, Innovation, and Inequality (Undergrad), UCSD | Spring 2021-2026 |
| Instructor, Spatial Economics (PhD), UCSD | Spring 2021-2026 |
| Instructor, Third-Year Paper (PhD), UCSD | 2024-2026 |
| Teaching Assistant, Introductory Macroeconomics, Prof. Aleh Tsyvinski, Yale University | 2019 |
| Teaching Assistant, Graduate Macroeconomics, Prof. Giuseppe Moscarini, Yale University | 2017 |
| Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Prof. Tony Smith, Yale University | 2016 |
| Herbert Scarf Undergraduate Research Program Instructor, Yale University | 2016 |
| Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Prof. Michael Peters, Yale University | 2015 |
| Economics PhD Math Camp, Prof. Truman Bewley, Yale University | 2014 |

Professional Activities

Seminars/Presentations: *upcoming

2026: CREI Barcelona, SED Athens, HEC Paris, SF Fed, Claremont McKenna, West Coast Spatial Workshop at Stanford, Pizzanomics Einaudi Institute

2025: UEA Berlin, Arizona State University, LMU Munich, *Atlanta FED, *SED Meeting Copenhagen, TU Dortmund

2024: Philadelphia FED, SED Meeting Barcelona, Princeton-Chicago Spatial Conference, BSE Summer Forum Barcelona, NBER SI EFG, EEA Rotterdam, NYU Trade Day, AEA Annual Meeting, University of Warwick, Rotman School of Management, UBC, UEA Copenhagen, UEA Washington DC, Sciences Po Urban Workshop

2023: AEA Annual Meeting New Orleans, HKU Business School, The University of Hong Kong, Princeton Spatial Workshop, NBER SI Urban, Census Bureau, UC Davis, NBER ITI Fall Meeting

2022: AEA Annual Meeting, SED 2022, West Coast Spatial Workshop, Stanford Cities, Housing, and Society Student Research Group, NY FED, UC Irvine, UCLA Trade Day, University of Washington, Hitotsubashi University, Notre Dame

2021: AEA, Berkeley, Warwick, UEA Europe 2021, BU Trade Day, SAET Korea 2021, SED 2021, CREI, Virtual ITM

2020: CEPR Swiss Macro Workshop (Sils Maria), NYU Abu Dhabi, Berkeley O-Lab Urban Workshop, UCSD, University of Virginia, UEA 2020 Virtual, INSPER Brazil, USC Macro Days

2019: IZA/CREA Workshop: Exploring the Future of Work, Fudan University, HIT Shenzhen, Peking University, Tsinghua University, Princeton, NBER Cities, Labor Markets, and the Global Economy 2019, UEA Philadelphia, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, SED (St. Louis), Penn State New Faces in Trade Conference, Zoom Online Urban Seminar by Don Davis, University of Chicago, Chicago Booth, Tuck School of Business at

Darmouth, University of Pennsylvania, University of California San Diego, University of Notre Dame, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, IIES Stockholm, CREI Barcelona, Penn State

2018: Yale Macro Lunch, Yale International Trade Prospectus Workshop

2013-2017: SED (Edinburgh), SAET (Faro), Yale Macro Lunch, Yale International Trade Prospectus Workshop

Discussions:

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| "Fighting for Resources: A Unified Growth Model of the Great Divergence" by LeFur and Wasmer Urban Economics Association Conference Berlin | 2025 |
| "Is ZIP Code Destiny?" by Eshaghnia Urban Economics Association Conference Copenhagen | 2024 |
| "The Life and Death of Great British Cities" by Heblich, Nagy, Trew, Zylberberg FREIT North America Meeting at UCSD, San Diego | 2022 |
| "Global Warming and Labor Market Reallocation" by Cruz Penn State New Faces 2022 | 2022 |
| "Spatial Implications of Telecommuting" by Delventhal, Parkhomenko Urban Economics Association Conference 2021, Zoom-based | 2021 |
| "Cities, Productivity, and Trade" by Garcia-Marin, Potlogea, Voigtlaender, Yang AEA Meetings, Zoom-based | 2021 |
| "The Geography of Unemployment" by Bilal Urban Economics Association Annual Conference 2019, Philadelphia | 2019 |
| "Global Sourcing and Assembly with Scale Economies" by Anràs, Fadeev, Fort, Tintelnot Queen's Organizational Economics (QOE) Conference, Kingston, Ontario | 2019 |

Organizer:

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| West Coast Spatial Workshop at Stanford (w/ G. Schubert, A. Parkhomenko, JC Serrato) | Spring 2026 |
| West Coast Spatial Workshop at USC (w/ G. Schubert, C. Tricaud, A. Parkhomenko) | Spring 2025 |
| West Coast Spatial Workshop at UC San Diego (w/ G. Schubert, M. Reher) | Spring 2024 |
| West Coast Spatial Workshop at UC Berkeley (w/ Cecile Gaubert, T. McQuade, N. Tsivanidis) | Spring 2023 |
| West Coast Spatial Workshop at UCLA (w/ G. Schubert, C. Tricaud, A. Parkhomenko) | Spring 2022 |
| PhD Student Workshop of the Urban Economics Association 2020 (w/ C.Balboni, D.Davis, K.Schmidheiny, D.Sturm, M.Turner) | Summer 2020 |
| Urban Economics Association Lectures in Urban Economics 2020 (w/ C.Balboni, D.Davis, K.Schmidheiny, D.Sturm, M.Turner) | Summer 2020 |
| Online Spatial and Urban Seminar (w/ C.Balboni, C.Gorback, C.Severen) | Summer 2020 |
| Quantitative Spatial Economics Junior Workshop (w/ C.Balboni) | May, 2020 |
| Yale Macroeconomics Breakfast (Initiator) | Weekly, 2015-2017 |

Advising: (placement in parentheses)

Undergraduates at UCSD:

Gregory Boscaiu (UCSD Rady Business School), Evan Moore (Kyoto University), Jake DiCicco (Georgia Tech), Sehong Park (UCLA School of Law), Jack Rosetti (Columbia Pre-Doc), Henri Runge (Harvard Pre-Doc)

PhD Students at UCSD:

Carlos Goes (World Bank Group), Sabareesh Ramachandran (Indian School of Business, Hyderabad; postdoc at University of Chicago), Steven Brownstone (GiveWell), Ishani Chatterjee (IMF), Aakash Bhalothia (ongoing),

Ida Grigoryeva (ongoing), Jordan Mosqueda (ongoing), John Juneau (ongoing), Renata Abbott Navarrete (ongoing), Vafa Behnam (ongoing), Harrison Mitchell (ongoing)

Referee for:

American Economic Review
AEJ: Economic Policy
AEJ: Macroeconomics
Canadian Journal of Economics
Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft
Econometrica
Economic Theory
Economic Journal
Economica
International Economic Review
Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization
Journal of Economic Geography
Journal of Economic Growth
Journal of Economic History
Journal of Political Economy
Journal of Political Economy: Macroeconomics
Journal of the European Economic Association
Journal of Urban Economics
Journal of International Economics
Labor Economics
Nature Cities
Quantitative Economics
Quarterly Journal of Economics
Regional Science and Urban Economics
Review of Economics and Statistics
Review of Economic Dynamics
Review of Economic Studies
Scandinavian Journal of Economics

Committees:

Program Committee for Society of Economic Dynamics Conference Copenhagen 2025
Program Committee for the 2024 Annual Congress of the European Economic Association
Program Committee Member for the 2023 Meetings of the Urban Economics Association
Program Committee Member for the 2022 FREIT Meetings North America
Program Committee Member for the 2021 Meetings of the Urban Economics Association
Scientific Committee Member for the 2020 PhD Student Workshop of the Urban Economics Association
Program Committee Member for the 2020 Meetings of the Urban Economics Association
Program Committee Member for the 2019 Meetings of the Urban Economics Association

Other

Languages:

German (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), Spanish (Basic)

Updated: April 13, 2026