

# DR MAX NATHAN

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## SUMMARY

I am an economic geographer with a background in public policy. My **research** focuses on urban economic development, especially the economics of immigration and diversity, innovation systems and tech clusters, and public policy for cities. I use mainly quantitative methods. I am currently a **Senior Birmingham Fellow (Associate Professor)** at the **University of Birmingham**, and a **Deputy Director** of the ESRC-funded **What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth**. Prior to this I spent 15 years outside academia in non-profits and consultancy, and some time in central government. I am a co-founder of the **Centre for Cities** think tank. I am also an affiliate at **CEP**, **IZA**, **NIESR** and the **Spatial Economics Research Centre**.

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## ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2015 – Senior Birmingham Fellow, Regional Economic Development, University of Birmingham (Associate Professor, research-intensive)**
- 2013 – Deputy Director, What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth, London School of Economics and Political Science**
- 2012-2015 Senior Research Fellow, National Institute of Economic and Social Research  
2012-2015 Public Affairs Research Fellow, Spatial Economics Research Centre, London School of Economics and Political Science

## NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

- 2007-2010 ESRC-funded Policy Advisor, Department of Communities & Local Government  
2004-2007 Co-founder and Head of Research, Centre for Cities  
2000-2004 Senior Researcher, Work Foundation  
1998-2000 Research Assistant, Centre for Local Economic Strategies
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## OTHER AFFILIATIONS

IZA; CEP; Spatial Economics Research Centre; Centre for London; NIESR

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## EDUCATION

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|-------------|---|--------------------------|
| <b>2011</b> | <b>PhD Economic Geography and Spatial Economics</b><br>Supervisors: Henry Overman, Ian Gordon | <b>LSE</b>               |
| <b>2009</b> | <b>Visiting Scholar</b><br>Institute of Urban and Regional Development                        | <b>UC Berkeley</b>       |
| <b>1998</b> | <b>MSc Social Policy and Planning</b><br>Awarded: Distinction                                 | <b>LSE</b>               |
| <b>1997</b> | <b>BA (Hons) Politics, Philosophy and Economics</b><br>Awarded: 2:1                           | <b>Oxford University</b> |

## PEER REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Spatial Imaginaries and Tech Cities: Place-branding East London's Digital Economy (with E. Vandore and G. Voss). Forthcoming in *Journal of Economic Geography*.

'Ethnic diversity and business performance: Which firms? Which cities?' (2016) *Environment and Planning A*, 48:12, pp 2462-2483.

'Do Inventors Talk to Strangers? On proximity and collaborative knowledge creation' (2016) (with R. Crescenzi and A. Rodríguez-Pose). *Research Policy*, 45:1, pp 177-194.

'Mapping Digital Businesses with Big Data: some early lessons from the UK' (2015) (with A. Rosso). *Research Policy*, 44:9, pp 1714-1733.

'Same Difference? Ethnic inventors, diversity and innovation in the UK' (2015). *Journal of Economic Geography*, 15:1, pp 129-168. ECONOMICS STREAM, Editor: Kristian Behrens

'After Florida: Towards an economics of diversity' (2015). *European Urban and Regional Studies*, 22:1, pp 3-19. LEAD ARTICLE. **2016 Jim Lewis Prize winner, best paper in European Urban and Regional Studies during 2015**

'Here Be Startups: Exploring a young digital cluster in Inner East London' (2014) (with E. Vandore). *Environment and Planning A*, 46:10, pp 2283-2299. LEAD ARTICLE

'The Wider Economic Impacts of High-Skilled Migrants: A review of the literature for receiving countries' (2014). *IZA Journal of Migration*, 3:4, doi: 10.1186/2193-9039-3-4.

'Evaluating Spatial Policies' (2014) (with S. Gibbons and H. Overman), *Town Planning Review*, 85:4, pp 427-432.

'Cultural Diversity, Innovation and Entrepreneurship: Evidence from London firms' (2013) (with N. Lee). *Economic Geography*, 89:4, pp 367-394.

'Agglomeration, Clusters and Industrial Policy' (2013) (with H. Overman). *Oxford Review of Economic Policy*, 29:2, 383-404.

'East London Tech City: Ideas without a Strategy?' (2011). *Local Economy*, 26:3, pp 197-202.

'Cultural diversity and innovation in London: Evidence from firm-level data' (2010) (with N. Lee). *International Journal of Knowledge-Based Development*, 1:1/2, pp 53-78.

'The Wrong Stuff: Creative Class theory in UK cities' (2007). *Canadian Journal of Regional Science*, XXX, Autumn, pp 127-148.

'Beyond City Living' (2006) (with R. Unsworth). *Built Environment*, 32:3, pp 235-249.

'Them And Us: Britain and the European City' (2006) (with A Marshall) *Public Policy Research*, 13:2, pp 109-118.

## PAPERS IN REVIEW

Innovative Events (with A. Rosso). Reject and resubmit, *Management Science*.  
See: *Centro Studi Luca D'Angliano Working Paper 2017-429*, Milan University.

Creative Economy Employment in the US and UK (with T. Kemeny and A. Pratt). Under review.  
See: *NESTA Discussion Paper 2016-X*, NESTA.

## BOOKS

*Urban Economics and Urban Policy* (with P. Cheshire and H. Overman). May 2014.  
Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

## BOOK CHAPTERS

'Linking Research and Policy in Local Economies', in L. Andres, J. Bryson and R. Mulhall (eds.), *A Research Agenda for Regeneration Economies*, forthcoming, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

'Exploring Digital Technology Industry Clusters using Administrative and Frontier Datasets' (with A. Rosso), in Z. Chen and L. Schintler (2017) (eds.) *Big Data for Urban and Regional Economies*, Oxford: Routledge.

'Microsolutions for Megaproblems: What works in urban regeneration policy?' in D. O'Brien and P. Matthews (eds) (2015), *After Urban Regeneration: People, communities and place*. Bristol: Policy Press.

'All in the mix? Top team demographics and business performance in English firms', in J. Bakens, P. Nijkamp and J. Poot (eds.) (2015) *E Pluribus Prosperitas: The economics of cultural diversity*. (2015), Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.

'Exploring Munich's innovation system' (with P. Rode et al), in R. Burdett, A. Colantonio and P. Rode (eds.) (2013) *Transforming Urban Economies: Policy Lessons from European and Asian Cities*, London, Routledge.

## WORKING PAPERS

Using Crunchbase to explore innovative ecosystems (with T. Kemeny and B. Almeer)  
See: *Birmingham Business School Discussion Paper 2017-01*, Birmingham University

The Creative Economy in the EU and the UK (with A. Pratt, T. Kemeny and A. Rincon-Aznar)  
See: *NESTA Working Paper 2015-Y*, NESTA.

The Economics of Superdiversity: Evidence from British Cities 2001-6  
See: *Spatial Economics Research Centre Discussion Paper SERCDP0068*, LSE.

The Long Term Impacts of Migration on UK Cities  
See: *LSE Migration Studies Unit Working Paper 10/09*, LSE

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Identifying the causal impact of tech accelerators on startups (with H. Overman and O. Silva).  
Funded by the Leverhulme Foundation

Evaluating the Causal Impact of the Tech City cluster programme. Funded by the Regional Studies Association

Industry 4.0 and hybrid tech startups in Sweden. Funded by Horizon 2020 / MAKERS

Academic inventors and talent flows (with E. Tranos, D. Arribas-Bel and C. Ozgen)

Escape from Smart City (with D. Hill)

## POLICY REPORTS AND CONSULTANCY (selected)

High Streets for All (2017) (with H. Lewis, H. Martin, M. Meyere, P. Seguin, M. Worrell, S. Hall, J. King, F. Sajjid, C. Morris and R. Meera), report for the Greater London Authority.

Industrial Clusters in England (2016) (with M. Bernini, P. Ramirez, S. Adderley, R. Mulhall and SpazioDati), report for BIS.

Measuring the Creative Economy in the EU and the UK (2015) (with A. Pratt and A. Rincon-Aznar), report for NESTA, London: NESTA.

Evaluating Spatial Policies (with S. Gibbons and H. Overman). *SERC Policy Paper SERCPP0012*. London: SERC/LSE.

Analysis of the Economic and Labour Market Impacts of Tier 1 Entrepreneur and Investor Migrants (2013) (with H. Rolfe and C. Vargas-Silva), report for the Migration Advisory Committee.

Measuring the UK's Digital Economy with Big Data (2013) (with A. Rosso). London: NIESR / Growth Intelligence.

A Tale of Tech City: The Future of East London's Digital Economy (2012) (with E. Vandore and R. Whitehead). London: Centre for London.

Assessing the Government's Proposals to Reform the UK Planning System (2011) (with Henry Overman). *SERC Policy Paper SERCPP0011*. London: SERC/LSE.

Towards a Green Economy: Cities: Investing in energy and resource efficiency (2011) (with P. Rode, R. Burdett et al). UN Environment Programme, Nairobi: UNEP.

Munich: Staying Ahead on Innovation (2010) (With P. Rode, G. Kippenberg et al). LSE Cities / Brookings Metro Program Next Urban Economy Report, London: LSE.

Your Place or Mine: The local economics of migration (2008). London: ippr.

A Twenty-First Century Peabody Community (with D Ben-Galim and N Newman) (2008). London: ippr (for Peabody Trust).

Getting By, Not Getting On: Technology in UK workplaces (2003) (with G Carpenter, L Ferguson, H Knox and S Roberts). London: The Work Foundation.

Manchester: Ideopolis? (2002) (with A Westwood). London: The Work Foundation.

Reality IT: Technology in everyday life (2002) (with J Crabtree and R Reeves). London: TWF.

Getting Attached: New routes to full employment (2001). London: Fabian Society

The New Regionalism (2000) (with H Roberts). Manchester: CLES.

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## **CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS (selected / upcoming)**

### Invited seminars, workshops and events

CIFAR / Sciences Po Urban Governance workshop, Paris (December 2017), University of Liverpool (November 2017), Centre for London / Brookings Institution Innovation and placemaking seminar, London (September 2017), LSE Cities symposium, 'Urban Incubators, Innovation and Inequality', London (September 2017, co-organiser and speaker), PBL Autumn School: What Works? The Hague (October 2016, keynote speaker), PIK Cities as Complex Systems Symposium 2016, Hannover (July 2016), Manchester Business School (April 2016), RGS-IBG forum on 'Europe's Migration Crisis', London (March 2016, keynote speaker), CIRCLE, Lund University (March 2016), Birmingham Business School GVC Cluster (March 2016), University of Leeds (December 2015), Imperial College London Business School (February 2015), UCL Bartlett School of Planning (January 2015), University of Birmingham (November 2014), ESRC Spaces of Evidence workshop, 'New Directions for Economic Policy', London (September 2014), LSE London workshop, 'How is London being transformed by migration?', LSE (March 2014), IGC Immigration Working Group (March 2014), LSE London (November 2013), Transatlantic Council on Migration (October 2013), 1<sup>st</sup> European Big Data workshop, Brussels (October 2013), LLAKES (June 2013), VU University / Tinbergen Institute workshop 'E Pluribus Prosperitas' (April 2013), LSE (October 2012), IZA AM<sup>2</sup> Migration Workshop (June 2012), APE-INV-ESF 'Science and Invention' workshop (May 2012), UCL Bartlett School of Planning (March 2012), LSE (March 2012), EUROLIO Geography of Innovation Workshop (January 2012), University of Amsterdam (June 2011), University of Oxford (May 2011), UCL Urban Lab (October 2008), LSE (February 2007), Prime Minister's Strategy Unit (July 2003), RSA lecture, Reigate (September 2002).

## Conferences

Urban Economics Association European Meeting 2018, Dusseldorf (May 2018), GEOINNO 2018, Barcelona (January 2018), Regional Studies Association Winter Conference, London (November 2017), ESRC Urban Transformations Spring School, Oxford (May 2017), University of Birmingham CREME 2016 Conference, Birmingham (October 2016, keynote speaker), NESTA-Kauffman Innovation Growth Lab Annual Conference, London (May 2016), Association of American Geographers, San Francisco (March 2016), Pathways, Connections and Circuits 2015 (keynote lecture), Wellington, NZ (July 2015), RCUK / Imperial College London Digital Economy 2014 Conference, London (December 2014), Regional Studies Association, London (November 2014), North American Regional Science Council, Washington DC (November 2014), Urban Economics Association Summer Meeting, Palermo (August 2013), NORFACE / UCL Annual Migration Conference, London (April 2013), Urban Economics Association, Ottawa (November 2012), Urban Economics Association, Miami (November 2011) Regional Studies Association, Newcastle (April 2011), Association of American Geographers, Seattle (April 2011), NORFACE / UCL Annual Migration, London (April 2011), Regional Studies Association Early Careers, Manchester (November 2010), SERC Annual Conference, London (May 2010), Association of American Geographers, Washington DC (April 2010), North American Regional Science Council, San Francisco (November 2009), European Regional Science Association, Liverpool (August 2008), Work, Employment and Society, Leicester (September 2001).

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## **GRANTS AND FUNDING AWARDS (selected, last 5 years)**

- 2017** ESRC/BEIS/DCLG/DWP/DfT: What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth Phase 2. LSE, Centre for Cities and Arup (CI) (£2.7m)
- 2016** Leverhulme Foundation, An RCT to evaluate the causal impact of Tech Accelerators on Startups (CI) (£230k)
- 2015** RSA Early Career Grant, Evaluating Tech City (PI) (£9.5k)
- 2015** HEFCE HEIF5, LSE: Supporting Devolution Deals (CI) (£29k)
- 2015** New Economy Manchester: Economic Impacts of Low Pay (PI) (£29k)
- 2015** AAIR, University of Southampton: Tech ecosystems (CI) (£8.2k)
- 2014** NESTA: International comparisons of the creative economy (PI) (£30k)
- 2014** British Academy: Quantitative skills for public policymakers (CI) (£31k)
- 2014** NESTA/Kauffman Foundation: Innovation Growth Lab grant for innovation, entrepreneurship and growth experiments (PI) (£25k)
- 2013** ESRC/BIS/DCLG: What Works Centre for Local Economic Growth. LSE, Centre for Cities and Arup (CI) (£3.1m)
- 2013** LLAKES: Top team diversity and business performance (PI) (£8.5k)
- 2013** Heseltine Institute: Quantifying the economic impact of elected mayors (PI) (£5k)
- 2013** NESTA/Google: Exploring the drivers of the UK Digital Economy. NIESR and Growth Intelligence (PI) (£115k)
- 2013** UK Migration Advisory Committee: Economic and Labour Market Impacts of Tier 1 Entrepreneur and Investor Migrants (PI) (£40k)
- 2012** LLAKES: UK industrial policy (CI) (£55k)
- 2012** HEFCE HEIF5, LSE: From Urban Economics to Urban Policy (CI) (£91k)
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## **HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

- 2017** *Journal of Economic Geography*, Best Referee
- 2016** Jim Lewis Prize winner, best paper in *European Urban and Regional Studies* 2015 for 'After Florida: Towards an economics of diversity'

<b>2010</b>	LSE Research Studentship Award
<b>2009</b>	ESRC Overseas University Visit Award
<b>2008</b>	ESRC CASE +3 Grant, in partnership with DCLG
<b>1998</b>	LSE Titmuss Prize for outstanding achievement
<b>1995</b>	Oriel College Scholarship, Oxford

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## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

**Co-organiser**, City-REDI work-in-progress seminar series, Birmingham Business School. 2017-2018. With Tasos Kitsos, Charlotte Hoole and Chloe Billing

**Co-organiser**, GVC/City-REDI seminar series, University of Birmingham, 2016-2017. With Pam Robinson, Lisa De Propriis and Catherine Harris

**ESRC peer reviewer** for Open Research Grants (x2), SDAI Open Call

**Approved researcher**, UK Secure Data Service and ONS Virtual Microdata Lab

**Referee**, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Economic Geography* (x8), *Economic Geography* (x4), *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Journal of Population Economics* (x3), *Research Policy* (x6), *Economica*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Human Relations, Environment and Planning A*, *Environment and Planning C*, *Journal of Regional Science* (x2), *Papers in Regional Science* (x2), *Regional Studies*, *Urban Studies* (x2), *Entrepreneurship and Regional Development*, *Urban Geography*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Big Data and Society*, *IZA World of Labor*, *National Institute Economic Review*.

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## PHDs EXAMINED

**2017**            **Eduardo Ferrucci, Skilled Migration and Innovation: Three Essays**  
University of Bordeaux and University of Turin  
*Supervisors: Francesco Lissoni, Fabio Montobbio*

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## TEACHING

**2017**            **BBS 0724909 The Place of Business in Society**  
Lectures on cities and urban economies; automation and the labour market

**2015**            **Imperial College London co-supervisor MSc thesis, (with Dr. Matthew Hannon)**. Niko Graspas, "Examining the factors key to the success of innovative 'smart' energy startups in the UK".

**2013**            **University of Warwick PHD DTC Training Day (organiser: Dr. Will Davies)**

**2010-2012**    **LSE GY305 Applied Spatial and Location Analysis**  
Taught seminars on globalisation, housing markets, peer/neighbourhood effects, spatial mismatch, crime and cities, economics of immigration  
Ave student satisfaction score 90/100. Commendation from Head of Department

**2010-2012**    **LSE GY350 Independent Research Project Adviser**  
Supervised five undergraduate dissertations per year  
Average grade 62, four distinctions

**2011-2012**    **PGCert Higher Education Teaching Diploma, Associate Level**

## RESEARCH IMPACT AND MEDIA

Appearances and op-ed pieces include CNN, NPR, News 24, Sky News, ITN, BBC News, BBC Radio 4 and Radio 5 Live, Financial Times, Guardian, Mirror, Telegraph, Economist, Prospect, Huffington Post, Wired, and regional/local/specialist outlets. My research has also featured on the BBC, ITV, Sky News, FT, Guardian, Daily Mail, Times, Telegraph, Independent, Vice, and specialist platforms. I am a regular contributor to the City-REDI, SERC, What Works Centre for Local Economics Growth and LSE British Politics and Policy blogs, as well as my own platforms at Medium and maxnathan.com. I tweet at @iammaxnathan.

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## LANGUAGES

English (mother tongue), German (intermediate), French (intermediate)

Stata (advanced), R (basic), Unix / Bash (basic), Python (beginner)

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## REFERENCES

### Henry Overman

Professor of Economic Geography  
London School of Economics and Political  
Science  
[h.g.overman@lse.ac.uk](mailto:h.g.overman@lse.ac.uk)

### William R. Kerr

Professor of Entrepreneurial Management  
Harvard Business School  
[w.kerr@hbs.edu](mailto:w.kerr@hbs.edu)

### Ian Gordon

Emeritus Professor of Human Geography  
London School of Economics and Political  
Science  
[i.r.gordon@lse.ac.uk](mailto:i.r.gordon@lse.ac.uk)

### Anne Green

Chair in Regional Economic Development  
University of Birmingham  
[a.e.green.1@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.e.green.1@bham.ac.uk)