

Jordi Vidal-Robert

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Education

Ph.D. Economics, Department of Economics, Boston University, January 2013

Dissertation Title: *Historical Institutions and their Legacy: The Case of the Spanish Inquisition*

Dissertation Committee: Robert A. Margo, Christophe Chamley and Carola Frydman

M.Sc., Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, 2006

B.A., Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, 2004

Employment

Lecturer, School of Economics, University of Sydney, August 2015- present

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, CAGE and Department of Economics, University of Warwick, August 2012- July 2015

External Grants

2025-2029 Discovery Project Grant - Australian Research Council, joint with Marian Vidal-Fernandez, Michele Battisti, Sayantan Ghosal, AUD 824,458.

2015-2019 Insight Grant - Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC), Canada (joint with Mauricio Drelichman and Hans-Joachim Voth), CAD183,634 (AUD191,132)

2015-2018 Fondecyt Initiation into Research 2015, Chile (joint with Francisco J. Pino and Sascha o. Becker), CLP63,310,000 (AUD125,266)

Fellowships and Awards

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (HEA), 2025- present

Research Excellence and Inclusion Grant - Laffan, University of Sydney, 2024

FASS Teaching Excellence Award, 2020

Nominated for the VC excellence in teaching during Covid-19 award, 2020

Faculty of Arts and Sciences Research Incubator Award 2016, University of Sydney, AUD4,965.29

Rosenstein-Rodan Prize for the Best PhD Student Paper in Development Economics, May 2011

Tuition Fellowship, Department of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2011

Economic History Association Exploratory and Travel Grant, 2010

Ramon Areces Foundation Scholarship, Fall 2007-Spring 2010

Caja Madrid Foundation Scholarship, Fall 2006-Spring 2007 (renewal awarded)

MSc in Economics Tuition Fellowship, Department of Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Fall 2005-Spring 2006

Publications

"The Long Run Effects of Religious Persecution: Evidence from the Spanish Inquisition" (with Mauricio Drelichman and Joachim Voth), *Proceedings of the National Academie of Sciences (PNAS)*, vol. 118, no. 33, 2021

"Comparative dimensions of COVID-19 visual health literacy: social media news imagery in Germany and China" (with Ben Nickl and Qiu Kuanyong), *Human and Social Sciences Communications*, vol.11, Article 1403, 2024

Working Papers

"War and Inquisition: Repression in Early Modern Spain", CAGE Working Paper 119/2013,

"Habemus papam? Polarization and Conflict in the Papal States" (with Francisco J. Pino)", Rj&R at *Journal of Economic Growth*, CAGE Working Paper 189/2014 and IZA Discussion Paper 12911,

"Long-run Effects of the Spanish Inquisition", CAGE Working Paper 192/2014

"The Economic Effects of Catholic Church Censorship During the Counter-Reformation" (with Sascha Becker and Francisco J. Pino), CEPR Discussion Paper 16092, April 2021, submitted to *Journal of Political Economy*.

"Early-life Trade Exposure, Education, and Labour Market Outcomes: Microeconomic Evidence from China's Treaty-Port Era" (with Carlton Li and Vladimir Tyazhelnikov)

Work in Progress

"Long live the Pope! Life expectancy in the Catholic Church hierarchy" (with Francisco J. Pino)

"Behind the emergence of Zipf's law: Evidence from Catalonia (1358-1991)" (with Marc Badia and Pau de Soto)

"Cultural Centers and literacy gender gap: evidence from Catalonia (1860-1930)", with Marian Vidal-Fernandez and Shelly Lundberg

"A New municipal dataset of Historical population in Spain (1515-1717)" (with Mauricio Drelichman)

Research Coverage Outside Academic Journals

Radio

ABC Radio [2022](#)

SBS in Spanish [2021](#)

website coverage

Voxeu [2021](#)

The Conversation , [Spain](#), [Australia](#)

5centims, [2021](#)

Nada es Gratis, [2021](#), [2014](#)

[DONDNA \(Centre for Research on Social Dynamics\) Interviews](#)

Teaching Experience

ECON1002, Introductory Macroeconomics, University of Sydney, S2, 2015; S1, 2016; S1, 2017; S2 2020; S1 2024, S1 2025

ECON4913/6913, Topics in Economic History, University of Sydney, S1 2018; S1 2023; S2 2024, S2 2025

ECON6034, Global Economic History, University of Sydney, S2 2022; S1 2023

FASS3999, Interdisciplinary Impact, University of Sydney, 2017-

ECOS2307, The European Economy, University of Sydney, 2018-2023

ECON5002, Macroeconomic Theory, University of Sydney, S2, 2016 and S1, 2017

ECON4101/6948, Trade in Historical Perspective, University of Sydney, S1, 2016 and S1, 2017

ECON7030, Economics Research Project (Master of Economics) , University of Sydney, S2, 2015

Lecturer, The Industrial Economy: Its Global Shift, University of Warwick, 2013-2015

Instructor, SMG222, Modelling Business Decisions, School of Management, Boston University, Spring 2012

Teaching Fellow, Public Finance History, African-American Economic History and Law and Economics, Department of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2011

Instructor, Economic Institutions in Historical Perspective, Department of Economics, Boston University, Fall 2010

Teaching Fellow, Econometrics and Development Economics, Department of Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Fall 2005 and Spring 2006

Research Visits

University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia - Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin, Italy - Universitat de Barcelona - Singapore Management University - Universidad de Chile - University of California Santa Barbara, Universitat de Girona, University of Mannheim

Conferences and Seminars

2024: Australian Cliometrics Workshop (discussant)

2023: Universitat de Barcelona, Universitat de Girona, Australian Cliometrics Workshop (discussant)

2020: Economic History Association Annual Meeting, online

2019: University of Auckland; CEPR/CAGE Conference on The Economics of Religion, Venice; SIOE, Sweden; Universitat Illes Balears; Institut Analisi Economica, UAB, Barcelona; Catalan Economic Society Conference (CESC), Barcelona

2018: World Economic History Congress, Boston; Australasian Cliometrics Meeting, Adelaide; 5th Annual Workshop on Natural Experiments in History: Development, Health and Labour, Deakin University, Melbourne;

2017: University of Melbourne; Social Sciences History Association Annual Meeting, Montreal; 4th Annual Workshop on Natural Experiments in History: Development, Health and Labour, Deakin University, Melbourne

2016: Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History (APEBH) Conference, Adelaide - Economic History conference "Markets and States in History", University of Warwick - Seminar at Monash University - Economic History Association Annual Conference, Boulder, Colorado - Natural Experiments and History Workshop at Deakin University, Melbourne

2015: World Economic History Congress, Kyoto, Japan - Historical Economics and the Economics of Religion Workshop - Queen's University, Belfast - Iberometrics VII, University of Porto, Portugal - (forthcoming) Conference on the contribution of history to development, NES Center for the Study of Diversity and Social Interactions, Moscow - Second Australian Cliometrics Meeting, Adelaide - Spanish Economic Association Annual Meeting, Girona

2014: University of Southern Denmark, Odense, Denmark - BIG Seminar Series, Universitat de Barcelona - Seminar of the Department of Economic History and Institutions, Universitat de Barcelona - Workshop on Culture and Institutions, Universitat de Valencia - Oxford Development Economics Workshop, Oxford University

2013: AEA/ASSA Meetings 2013, San Diego, US, January 2013 - Iberometrics VI, Discussant, Zaragoza - Workshop "Political Economy, Economic History, and Religion", Berlin - University of Sydney, Australia - Australasian Econometrics Society Meetings, Sydney, Australia, July 2013 - University of Tasmania, Hobart, Australia - Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin - DONDENA Institute, Bocconi University, Milan - European University Institute, Economic History Working Group, Florence - Spanish Economic Association Annual Meeting, Santander, December 2013

2012: Barcelona Graduate School of Economics Winter Workshop, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, December 17, 2012 - Spanish Economic Association Annual Meeting, Vigo, December 2012 - Economic History Association 2012 Annual conference (discussant), Vancouver, September 2012 - All-UC Group in Economic History UCLA conference. How long is the shadow of history? The long-term persistence of economic outcomes, UCLA, Los Angeles, May 2012 - University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia, February 2012 - Higher School of Economics - LSE, Moscow, Russia, February 2012

2011: Northeast Universities Development Consortium (NEUDC) Conference, Yale University, November 2011 - Harvard Economic History Tea, Harvard University, Boston, October 2011 - Economic History Association 2011 Annual Meeting, Poster Session, Boston, MA, September 2011 - European Historical Economics Society Conference, Dublin, Ireland, September 2011 - Australasian Econometrics Society Meetings, Poster Session, Adelaide, Australia, July 2011 - Australian National University, Canberra, Australia, June 2011 - Royal Economic History Society Annual Meeting, Cambridge (UK), April 2011 - Iberometrics V, Barcelona, March 2011 - Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference, San Francisco, February 2011

2010: Spanish Economic Association Annual Meeting, Madrid, December 2010 - NBER Summer Institute, Development of the American Economy, Poster Session, July 2010 - Harvard Economic History Tea, Harvard University, Boston, March 2010 - CLADHE-II/AMHE-IV, Mexico DF, February 2010

Referee for the following Journals

Quarterly Journal of Economics, Economic Journal, Journal of Economic History, Explorations in Economic History, Journal of Economic Growth, Canadian Journal of Economics, European Economic Review, European Review of Economic History, Journal of the European Economic Association, Revista de Historia Económica - Journal of Iberian and Latin American Economic History, Social Science History, Economic Record

Conference, Workshop and Seminar Organization

2016 - 2019: Seminar coordinator, School of Economics, University of Sydney

2016: Australasian Cliometrics Workshop, University of Sydney

2015: CAGE Research Day, Warwick

2014: CAGE Research Day, Warwick - Economic History Workshop, University of Warwick

2013: CAGE Research Day, Warwick - Monash Workshop on Development Economics, Melbourne

Supervision

PhD thesis: Matthew Ho (ongoing, co-supervision with Rebecca Edwards), Amorina Yang (ongoing, co-supervision with Marian Vidal-Fernandez, Michele Battisti, Sayantan Ghosal).

Honours Thesis: Sara Kie (2024, co-supervision with Marian Vidal-Fernandez), Chongxuan Li (2023, co-supervision with Vladimir Tyazhelnikov), Liam Varley (2020, co-supervision with Marian Vidal Fernandez), Timothy Grey (2019, co-supervision with Valentina Duque), Suk Jae Chung (2018)

MSc Thesis: Chongxuan Li (2022), Chuhn Hei Li (2022), Mark McGrillen (2018), Justin Dixon (2017), Claudia Deijl (2014) - Prize for the best Warwick MSc thesis in Economic Development, Oluwadamilola Omoniyi (2014), Chung Lam (2014)

Languages

Catalan and Spanish (native), English (fluent)

Professional Affiliations

Economic History Association (EHA), Economic History Society (EHS), European Historical Economics Society (EHES), Econometrics Society, European Economic Association, Spanish Economic Association, American Economic Association (AEA)