

# Kaj Thomsson – Curriculum Vitae

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## Primary Research/Teaching Interests

Political Economy  
History of Economic Institutions  
Emerging Markets / Development Economics  
Applied Game Theory

## Education

Ph.D. Economics, Yale University  
M.Phil. Economics, Yale University  
M.Sc. Industrial Engineering and Management, Royal Institute of Technology (KTH)  
B.A. Economics, Stockholm University  
Studies in Telecommunication Theory, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid

## Honors and Awards

Educator of the Year Award, School of Business and Economics, Maastricht U, 2016  
Runner-up, Educator of the Year Award, School of Business and Economics, Maastricht U, 2011, 2014  
Finalist, Wynand Wijnen Education Prize, Maastricht University, 2015  
Marie Curie International Incoming Fellowship (European Commission), 2010  
Dr. Marcus Wallenberg Foundation Grant, 2008  
Tom Hedelius Foundation Grant, 2006  
University Fellowship, Yale University, 2003-2006  
Cowles Foundation Prize, Yale University, 2005  
Economic Growth Center Prize, Yale University, 2003  
Fulbright Award, 2003-2004 (declined grant)  
School of Industrial Management Award, Royal Institute of Technology, 2003  
(as only person with a perfect grade point average in program/class of 120 students)  
University Award for Perfect GPA (5.0), Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden, 2001, 2002  
Sergeant of the Year & Soldier of the Year All Categories, Fårösunds Marinbrigad

## Teaching Experience

Courses Taught as Primary Instructor:

Socio-Economic Development in Emerging Markets (MSc course), Maastricht University  
Economics and Society in Contemporary Latin America (BSc course) Maastricht University  
Institutions, Politics and Entrepreneurship in Emerging Economies (BSc course), Maastricht U  
Culture, Society and Politics in Latin America (BSc course), Maastricht University  
Management and Organization of Latin American Enterprises (BSc course), Maastricht University  
Development Economics (BSC course), Maastricht University  
Globalisation Debate (BSC course), Maastricht University  
Political Economy (PhD course), Maastricht University / United Nations University (MERIT)  
Business in the Global Political Environment (BSc course), The Wharton School, Univ. of Pennsylvania  
Strategic Firm Behaviour and Competition Policy (MSc course), Maastricht University  
Political Economy (MSc course), Maastricht University  
Information, Justice and the Political Process (BSC course), Maastricht University  
Intermediate Microeconomics (BSC course), Maastricht University  
International Competitiveness and Antitrust Policy (MSc course), Maastricht University  
Internet Economics (MSc course), Maastricht University

#### Courses Taught as Teaching Assistant:

Game Theory - Teaching Assistant, Yale University  
Mathematical Game Theory - Teaching Assistant, Yale University  
Introduction to Microeconomics – Teaching Assistant, Stockholm University

#### Other Research and Work Experience

Visiting Professor, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Spring Semester 2013  
Affiliated Researcher, The Research Institute of Industrial Economics, Sweden. 2007 - 2012  
Research Assistant for Professor Giuseppe Moscarini, Yale University, June 2005 – Dec 2005  
[Project: Labor Market Mobility in the US]  
Research Assistant for Professor Nathaniel Keohane, Yale University, June 2004 – Sep 2004  
[Project: Estimating the Value of Clear Air]  
Economic Analyst, The Research Institute of Retail Trade (HUI), Sweden, June 2002 – Sep 2002  
Trainee Engineer, Nippon Ericsson, Japan, June 1999 – July 1999  
Artillery Teacher and Field Instructor, Göteborgs Marinbrigad, Sweden, Jan 1997 – Aug 1997  
Military Service, Fårösunds Marinbrigad, Sweden, Aug 1995 – Nov 1996 (Final Rank: Sergeant)

#### Supervision of PhD theses:

Biniam Bedasso: *The Arc of Institutional Change in the Long Shadow of Elites* (2013)  
Luciana Cingolani: *Bureaucracies for Development: Oxymoron or Reality?* (2014)  
Tobias Broich; PhD student at Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (2017)  
Rose Camille Vincent; PhD student at Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (ongoing)  
Bart Kleine Deters; PhD student at Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (ongoing)  
Dina Kamal; PhD student at Maastricht Graduate School of Governance (ongoing)

#### Supervision of master's theses:

Talin Holtermann: *An empirical evaluation of the European Leniency Program* (2010)  
Catalin Teodorescu: *Compatibility Choice in an Open Source Environment* (2010)  
Georgi Deyanov: *Why do Societies Fail to Adopt Efficient Policies* (2012)  
Tobias Broich: *State Capacity and Economic Performance* (2012)  
Nina Stephan: *Political Budget Cycles in Europe* (2013)  
Laura Ioana Bidea: *Colonialism, Trust and Institutional Development in Africa* (2013)  
Daan de Koning: *Partisanship and Political Business Cycles* (2014)  
Nathalie Wiersma: *The pass-through of petrol prices into output prices* (2014)  
Guy Puylaert: *Why good revolutions lead to bad economies* (2014)  
Linda de Jongh: *Modernization Hypothesis Revisited* (2015)  
Imke Verbeek: *Aid for Free Press* (2015)  
Elias Sobotka: *A Political Economy Analysis of Harmful Voter Manipulation* (2015)  
Anne Lina Tholen: *Electoral Cycles in Fiscal Policy, Maastricht University* (2017)  
Morten Normann: *Midterm Loss in a Unitary State* (2018)  
Sara Munaretto: *E-Government in Developing Countries* (2018)  
Silvia Biancorosso: *The European Debt Crisis and the Rise of Populist Parties* (2019)  
Daniel Waters: *China's Growing Influence in Sub-Saharan Academia* (2019)  
Alina Buscher: *Does Investment in Public Goods Reduce Internal Conflict?* (2019)

## Refereed Publications

[Holding on? Ethnic divisions, political institutions and the duration of economic declines](#)”, with Richard Bluhm. *Journal of Development Economics*, Volume 144, May 2020.

["Small-World Consevatives and Rigid Liberals: Attitudes towards Sharing in Self-Proclaimed Left and Right"](#), with Alexander Vostroknutov. *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, Volume 135, March 2017, pages 181-192.

[“The Political Economy of Sovereign Debt: Global Finance and Electoral Cycles”](#)”, with Stephen Kaplan. *Journal of Politics*, Volume 79, Issue 2, April 2017.

[“Minding Weber More than Ever? The Impacts of State Capacity and Bureaucratic Autonomy on Development Goals”](#)”, with Luciana Cingolani and Denis de Crombrughe. *World Development*, Volume 72, August 2015, Pages 191–207.

[“Occupational and Job Mobility in the US”](#)”, with Giuseppe Moscarini, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, Volume 109, Issue 4, Page 807-836, March 2008.

## Completed Working Papers

[“Foreign Aid, Precolonial Institutions and the Evolution of State Capacity in Africa”](#)”, with Tobias Broich and Eddy Szirmai. United Nations University UNU-MERIT Working Paper 2015-025.

[“Public and Private Welfare State Institutions - A Formal Theory of American Exceptionalism,”](#) IFN Working Paper No. 822.

[“Bargaining Over a New Welfare State: A Model of the Regional Distribution of New Deal Funds,”](#) with Alessandro Bonatti, IFN Working Paper No. 713.

[“Legislative Vetoes and Economic Reform – Theory and Evidence from the History of American Labor Regulation”](#)”, Working Paper.

## Work in Progress

“China’s entry into the foreign aid game and its implications for donor-recipient relationships – A game theoretical approach”, with Tobias Broich: First version coming May 2020.

“Historical path dependence in fiscal institutions: Explaining the level of tax (de)centralization”, with Rose Camille Vincent: First version completed April 2020.

“Coordination and Collaboration among Interest Groups”, with Carlos Scartascini and Mariano Tommasi.

“Global Investors and Domestic Politics”, with Stephen Kaplan.

“Political Preferences and Behavior in Social Settings”, with Alexander Vostroknutov

## Research Reports/Other Writings

[Book Review of \*Integrating Varieties of Capitalism and Welfare State Research: A Unified Typology of Capitalisms\* by Martin Schroeder, \*American Journal of Sociology\*, Vol. 120 \(1\).](#)

“Karriär i Handeln – En Dynamisk Studie av Handelns Arbetsmarknad,” with Fredrik Bergström, *Research Report S75*, The Research Institute of Retail Trade (HUI), Stockholm, 2002.

”Income Mobility in Sweden: A Study on Immigrants and Native Swedes,” with Andre Lippman, *Research Report S72*, The Research Institute of Retail Trade (HUI), Stockholm, 2002.

“Integrating Bluetooth Access in Wireless LANs,” with Mats Arvedsson and Magnus Edlund, KTH, Stockholm, 2002. [Written for Swedish wireless product developer Possio AB’s white paper series]

## Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE) Conference, Stockholm, June 2019

University of Texas, Dallas, April 2019

American Political Science Association Conference, Washington, DC, Aug 2018

Universidad the Los Andes, Colombia, Department Seminar, June 2017

Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics (SIOE) Conference, New York, June 2017

Association of Public Economic Theory Conference, Rio de Janeiro, July 2016

Voting, Power and Decision-Making, Netherlands Institute for Advances Studies, Leiden, May 2016

Varieties of Capitalism in Emerging Markets Conference, Budapest, Nov 2015

European Historical Economics Society, Pisa, Sep 2015

Political Economy of International Organizations Conference, Berlin, Feb 2015

Netherlands Economist Day, October 2014

University of Namur, Economics Department Seminar, May 2014

Workshop on Global Climate Cooperation, University of St Gallen, July 2013

Dial Conference, Paris, June 2013

The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, Applied Microeconomics Seminar, April 2013

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, University of Milan, June 2012

International Political Economy Society, November 2012

Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics, MIT Boston, June 2012

European Political Science Association Meeting, June 2012

Mannheim University, Political Economy of Reform Group, Dec 2011

European Historical Economics Society, August 2011

Leitner Political Economy Seminar, Yale University, February 2011

IMT Lucca, November 2010

American Political Science Association, Washington DC, September 2010

Journées Louis-André Gérard-Varet, Marseille, June 2010

Oxford University, Economic History Seminar, May 2010

Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN), Stockholm, March 2010

Max Planck Institute for the Study of Common Goods, Bonn, Nov 2009

Inter-American Development Bank, March 2009

Stockholm School of Economics – Institute for Transition Economics, March 2009

Colby College, Department of Economics, Feb 2009

University of Virginia, Department of Economics, Feb 2009

Oberlin College, Department of Economics, Feb 2009

University of Toronto, Department of Economics, Feb 2009

Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm University, Jan 2009

Uppsala University, Department of Economics, Jan 2009

University of Copenhagen, Department of Economics, Jan 2009

Maastricht University, Department of Economics, January 2009

Five-College Faculty Seminar in Economics, Amherst, MA, Oct 2008

Comparative Political Economy Workshop, Yale University, May 2008  
Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm University, Dec 2007  
Leitner Political Economy Seminar, Yale University, October 2007  
Economic History Association Meeting, Austin, TX, Sep 2007  
Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2007  
Leitner Political Economy Seminar, Yale University, September 2006  
Stockholm Mobility Roundtable Conference, Stockholm, May 2003  
Scandinavian Ad Hoc Systems Workshop, Stockholm, May 2003