

Jorge De la Roca

Sol Price School of Public Policy
University of Southern California
650 Childs Way RGL 326
Los Angeles, CA 90089

e-mail: jdelaroc@usc.edu
website: <http://jorgedelaroca.name>
phone: +1 (213) 821-4659
twitter: [@JDeLaRocaUSC](https://twitter.com/JDeLaRocaUSC)

Current employment

Associate Professor, University of Southern California, [Price School of Public Policy](#) (2022–)
Assistant Professor, University of Southern California, [Price School of Public Policy](#) (2016–2022)

Past employment

Research Fellow, New York University, [NYU Furman Center](#) (2012–2015)

Affiliations and appointments

Editor, *Journal of Economic Geography* (2023–)
Co-director, [LAUrban–LACEA Urban Economics Network](#) (2019–)
Research Director, [USC Lusk Center for Real Estate](#) (2019–)
Research Fellow, [IREFIM](#) (2018–), [CEMFI](#) (2018–)
Research Affiliate, [NYU Furman Center](#) (2015–)

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, [CEMFI](#), Spain (2008–2012)
Title: Migration, self-selection, and learning in cities
Advisor: Diego Puga
M.Phil. in Economics and Finance, [CEMFI](#), Spain (2006–2008)
Bachiller en Economía, [Universidad del Pacífico](#), Perú (1998–2002)

Fields of interest

Urban economics, Labor economics, Economic geography, Real estate

Refereed articles

[City of dreams](#) (with Gianmarco Ottaviano and Diego Puga)
Journal of the European Economic Association 21(2), April 2023: 690–726

[In search of better opportunities: Sorting and agglomeration effects among young college graduates in Colombia](#) (with Marigee Bacolod and María Marta Ferreyra)
Regional Science and Urban Economics 87, March 2021

[Does segregation matter for Latinos?](#) (with Ingrid Gould Ellen and Justin P. Steil),
Journal of Housing Economics 40, June 2018: 129–141

[Selection in initial and return migration: Evidence from moves across Spanish cities](#),
Journal of Urban Economics 100, July 2017: 33–53

[Learning by working in big cities](#) (with Diego Puga),
Review of Economic Studies 84(1), January 2017: 106–142

[The significance of segregation in the 21st century](#) (with Ingrid Gould Ellen and Justin P. Steil),
City & Community 15(1), March 2016: 8–13

Desvinculado y desigual: Is segregation harmful to Latinos?

(with Ingrid Gould Ellen and Justin P. Steil),

The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science 660(1), July 2015: 57–76

Wage cyclicalities: Evidence from Spain using social security data,

SERIEs-Journal of the Spanish Economic Association 5(2), August 2014: 173–195

Race and neighborhoods in the 21st century: What does segregation mean today?

(with Ingrid Gould Ellen and Katherine M. O'Regan),

Regional Science and Urban Economics 47, July 2014: 138–151

Working papers

Rents and mortgage lock-in (with Marco Giacoletti and Lizhong Liu)

Skill allocation and urban amenities in the developing world (with Andrii Parkhomenko and Daniel Velásquez-Cabrera)

School density and inequality in student achievement (with Petra Thiemann)

The returns of HBCUS to Black Americans: Evidence for the late 19th and early 20th centuries (with Yi-Ju Hung)

Not on my street! Housing and racial effects of Atlanta street name changes (with Raphael Bostic, Jamie Chung, and Jessica Dill)

Are there upward inter-generational education spillovers on health? The influence of children education on parental smoking cessation (with Erica Field)

Other publications

Los Angeles' housing crisis and local planning responses: an evaluation of inclusionary zoning and the transit-oriented communities plan as policy solutions in Los Angeles

(with Linna Zhu, Evgeny Burinskiy, Richard K. Green, and Marlon G. Boarnet)

Cityscape 23(1), March 2021: 133–160

Urban revitalization: assessment methodologies and expected impacts

(with Jesús Navarrete and Isidora Larraín),

Inter-American Development Bank, Report IDB-TN-1498, December 2017: 1–62

Evasión tributaria e informalidad en el Perú (with Manuel Hernández),

Economía y Sociedad 62, December 2006: 65–73

Awards and fellowships

Weimer School Academic Fellow, The Hoyt Group (2023)

August Lösch Prize for outstanding academic research in the field of Regional Science (2018)

Nourallah Elghanayan Research Fellow, NYU Furman Center (2013–2015)

Research grants as principal investigator or co-principal investigator

JP Morgan Chase Foundation, "Neighborhood data for social change civic support enterprise." \$300,000 (PI, 2024–2026)

Lift to Rise, "Evaluation of the United Lift rental assistance fund." PI: Gary Painter; co-PIs:

Moussa Diop and Ann Owens; \$277,000 (co-PI, 2021–2022)

The John Randolph Haynes Foundation, "Los Angeles' housing crisis and local planning

responses.” PI: Marlon Boarnet; co-PI: Richard Green; \$131,743 (co-PI, 2018–2020)

usc Lusk Center for Real Estate, “The long-term effects of gridding urban expansion in developing countries: The case of Lima.” \$24,000 (PI, 2016–2017)

Graduate teaching

Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California

Economics for Policy, Planning, and Development (2016, 2018)

Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University

Urban Economics (2015)

Microeconomics for Public Management, Planning, and Policy Analysis (2013–2014)

Undergraduate teaching

Sol Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California

Real Estate Development Fundamentals (2016–2023)

Presentations at seminars, workshops, and conferences

2025. Oklahoma State University† | IAB Institut für Arbeitsmarkt† | August Lösch Conferencet

2024. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign | University of Nebraska–Lincoln | CUNEF | University of Padova | Dallas Federal Reserve | George Washington University

2023. Uppsala University | Bocconi University | University of British Columbia | National University of Singapore, Business School | Nanyang Technological University | University of Padova | MIT Center for Real Estate★ | University of Geneva | American Society of Hispanic Economists ASHE★ | University of Bern | ERWIT–CURE, Torino | UEA Meeting, Toronto

2022. George Washington University★ | Online Spatial & Urban Seminar osus★ | Wharton School | LACEA-LAMES Annual Meeting, Lima (invited session) | Philadelphia Federal Reserve | CAF Development Bank of Latin America

2021. Cal State Fullerton | IESR Jinan University★ | William & Mary★

2020. Clark University★ | Johns Hopkins Carey Business School★

2019. Trinity College Dublin | London School of Economics (Geography) | Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Economia i Empresa) | UEA Meeting, Philadelphia

2018. USC INET Conference on Housing, Urban Development, and the Macroeconomy | UEA Meeting, New York

2017. Michigan State University | Kansas City Federal Reserve | UCLA–HKUST Symposium on Segregation & Neighborhood Effects | Hebrew University of Jerusalem | Canadian Real Estate and Urban Economics Symposium, Vancouver | IAAE Annual Conference, Sapporo | RUES Workshop, Paris School of Economics | IEB–UB Institut d’Economía de Barcelona

2016. AREUEA-ASSA, San Francisco | University of California, Irvine | Norwegian University of Science and Technology | SAEe Meeting, Bilbao

2015. Bocconi University | University of Southern California (Price School) | Cleveland Federal Reserve | FGV Sao Paulo School of Economics | Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México | Baruch College | Sabanci University | Koç University | AREUEA National Conference | UEA European Meeting, Lisbon | AQR Universitat de Barcelona

2014. London School of Economics (Geography) | CUNY Queens College | III Workshop on Urban Economics, Barcelona | APPAM Fall Conference, Albuquerque | UEA Meeting, Washington, DC |

SAEe Meeting, Palma de Mallorca

2013. NYU Stern Urbanization Project | Philadelphia Federal Reserve | SOLE Annual Meeting, Boston | USC Lusk Center for Real Estate | EEA Annual Congress, Gothenburg | UEA Meeting, Atlanta

2012. Universitat Rovira i Virgili | NYU Furman Center | University of Mannheim | II Workshop on Urban Economics, Barcelona | EEA Annual Congress, Malaga

2011. UEA European Meeting, Barcelona | UEA Meeting, Miami

2010. Workshop on Income Inequality, Universidad Pablo de Olavide & Bank of Spain | LSE SERC Annual Conference | EEA Annual Congress, Glasgow | IEB-UB Institut d'Economia de Barcelona | Universidad Las Palmas de Gran Canaria

2009. LSE SERC Annual Conference | UEA Meeting, San Francisco | SAEe Meeting, Valencia

2003. LACEA-LAMES, Ciudad de Panamá

† scheduled, ★ virtual

Discussions

CURE, Philadelphia (2024)† | AREUEA National Conference (2024) | Conference on low income housing and housing affordability, Los Angeles (2024) | 2nd West Coast Spatial Workshop, Berkeley (2023) | APPAM Fall Conference, Washington DC (2022) | Conference on low income housing and housing affordability, Tel Aviv (2022) | 1st West Coast Spatial Workshop, UCLA (2022) | CURE, Philadelphia (2020)★ | 5th Biennial Real Estate Conference, Atlanta Federal Reserve (2019) | UEA Meeting, Philadelphia (2019) | CURE, London (2019) | UEA Meeting, New York (2018) | v Workshop on Urban Economics, Barcelona (2018) | Launching of World Bank flagship report: Raising the bar for productive cities in Latin America and the Caribbean, Miami (panelist, 2018) | APPAM Fall Conference, Chicago (2017) | CURE, Paris (2017) | iv Workshop on Urban Economics, Barcelona (2016) | AREUEA-ASSA, San Francisco (2016) | UEA Meeting, Washington, DC | APPAM Fall Conference, Albuquerque | Migration Workshop-GSE Summer Forum, Barcelona (2014) | UEA Meeting, Atlanta (2013) | AREUEA National Conference (2013) | APPAM Fall Conference, Baltimore (2012) | II Workshop on Urban Economics, Barcelona (2012) | UEA Meeting, Miami (2011) | UEA European Meeting, Barcelona (2011)

† scheduled, ★ virtual

Referee service

Refereeing of articles for Quarterly Journal of Economics (2) | Journal of Political Economy (4) | Review of Economic Studies (4) | Economic Journal (4) | American Economic Journal: Applied Economics | Journal of the European Economic Association | American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics | Economic Policy | The Review of Economics and Statistics (3) | American Economic Journal: Economic Policy (2) | Journal of Labor Economics (2) | Journal of International Economics | Journal of Urban Economics (23) | Journal of Urban Economics: Insights | Journal of Economic Geography (10) | IZA Journal of European Labor Studies | Scandinavian Journal of Economics | Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics | Regional Science and Urban Economics (19) | International Economic Review | Journal of Development Studies | Demography | Journal of Regional Science (9) | Journal of Housing Economics | Papers in Regional Science | SERIES-Journal of the Spanish Economic Association (3) | The Annals of Regional Science | Urban Studies | International Journal of Manpower | Revue d'Economie Régionale et Urbaine | Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health

Best Referee Award, Journal of Economic Geography, 2017

Refereeing of grant applications for the European Research Commission (ERC) and the US National Science Foundation (NSF)

Short academic visits

University of Padova (2024), CEMFI (2024, 2020, 2019), University of Bologna (2023), Bocconi University (2023), Wharton School (2022), Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (2022, 2019, 2017), LSE Department of Geography & Environment (2019), Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance EIEF (2017)

Selected media coverage

Comments on an article on city size and inequality for El País (February 2, 2023):

[Las élites concentran los beneficios que generan las grandes ciudades.](#)

Our article 'Learning by working in big cities' was cited in Financial Times (September 29, 2020): [Cities are too resilient to be killed by Covid.](#)

Our article 'Learning by working in big cities' was cited in Le Monde (July 14, 2020):

[Créer une prime de déménagement pour redonner de l'élan à l'emploi des jeunes.](#)

Findings from two of our articles were cited in The New York Times (July 17, 2019):

[Integration vs. White Intransigence. Separate has never been equal.](#)

Our article 'City of dreams' was summarized by Richard Florida at CityLab (March 29, 2016):

[The Self-Confident City](#)

My articles 'Selection in initial and return migration' and 'Wage cyclicalities in Spain' were referenced in Nada es Gratis in [November 2011](#), [October 2014](#), and [March 2017](#).

Other professional activities

Consultant to the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank

Languages

English (fluent), Spanish (native), Italian (advanced)

Committees and other service

Profession. AREUEA International Committee, Chair (2024) | AREUEA Mentorship Committee (2024) | European UEA Scientific Committee (2024) | AREUEA Board of Directors (2023–2025) | AREUEA Mentorship Committee, Chair (2023) | UEA Scientific Committee (2023–2024) | AREUEA Mentorship Committee (2022) | AREUEA Virtual Seminars Committee (2022) | AREUEA-ASSA Conference Scientific Committee (2021) | AREUEA National Conference Scientific Committee (2018–2020)

Sol Price School of Public Policy. Urban Planning Department Chair Search Committee (2024) | Appointments, Promotion, and Tenure Committee (2023–2024) | Dean Search Committee (2020–2021) | Real Estate Department Recruiting Committee (2017–2019, 2021) | Urban Planning Department Recruiting Committee (2019) | PhD Committee (2017–2020) | Research Committee (2017–2020, 2023)

University of Southern California. Reviewer for Zumberge Individual grants (2020) | Reviewer for Zumberge Diversity and Inclusion grants (2018)

Citizenship

Peruvian, Italian, us Permanent Resident

Last updated: October, 2024