

# Christopher R. Esposito

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## Academic Appointments

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- 2026–Present    **Assistant Professor**  
Carter School of Public Policy  
Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts  
Georgia Institute of Technology
- 2023–2026    **Osborne Postdoctoral Fellow**  
Price Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation  
Strategy Area  
UCLA Anderson School of Management
- 2021–2023    **Mansueto Postdoctoral Fellow**  
Department of Sociology and Mansueto Institute for Urban Innovation  
University of Chicago

## Education

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- 2021    **Ph.D., Geography**  
**University of California, Los Angeles**  
Dissertation: *The Evolution of Technological Knowledge Across Space and Time*
- 2014    **B.A., Economics & Geography**  
**Colgate University**

## Working Papers

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- [The Growing Self-Reliance of Chinese Innovation](#) (with Z. Chen)
- [Global Science Sustains U.S. Innovation](#)
- [The Speed of Knowledge and the Rise of Team-Based Invention](#) (with F. van der Wouden)
- [Who Drives Technology Forward? Age and Spillovers in Inventor Networks](#)
- The Commercialization Pipeline (with Olav Sorenson)

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

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- **Esposito, C.\***, Wu, R.\*, & Evans, J. 2025. Shifting power asymmetries in scientific teams reveal China's rising leadership in global science. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. (\*Co-first authors\*)
- **Esposito, C.**, Leamer, E., & Nickelsburg, J. 2024. Who paid Los Angeles' minimum wage? A side-by-side minimum wage experiment in Los Angeles County. *Journal of Human Resources*. Forthcoming
- **Esposito, C.** 2023. The geography of breakthrough invention in the United States over the 20th century. *Research Policy*
- **Esposito, C.** 2023. Cycles of regional innovative growth. *Journal of Economic Geography*
- **Esposito, C.** & Rigby, D. 2019. Buzz and pipelines: The costs and benefits of local and non-local interaction. *Journal of Economic Geography*

- Meyer, W. & **Esposito, C.** 2014. Burgess and Hoyt in L.A.: Testing the Chicago models in the automobile-age American city. *Urban Geography*
- Meyer, W. & **Esposito, C.** 2014. Residential patterns in the pre-automobile American city. *Geographical Review*

### **Selected Research in Progress**

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- Identifying Dependencies in Chinese Invention (with Ziyu Chen and Olav Sorenson)
- Assembling Order: Tracing the Origins of Scientific Fields (with Carina Kane and James Evans)
- Diverging Search Paths in Science and Technology
- Are States the Laboratories of Democracy? (with Zander Furnas)

### **Teaching Experience**

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- Guest Lecturer, MBA Organizations and Management — Chicago Booth (2023)
- Regional Economics and Development (Graduate Public Policy), UCLA (2019–2021)
- Introduction to GIS, UCLA (2019–2020)
- People and Earth's Ecosystems, UCLA (2019–2021)

### **Seminars and Select Conferences**

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- **2026:** Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competitiveness; Geography of Innovation Budapest; Georgia Tech Carter School of Public Policy; Harvard Kennedy School of Government Growth Lab; International Conference on the Science of Science & Innovation (ICSSI) Boulder CO (Planned); Academy of Management Philadelphia (Planned)
- **2025:** NBER Summer Institute Science of Science Funding; DRUID Toronto; Columbia Business School Management, Analytics, and Data Conference (MAD); Entrepreneurship & Innovation Policy (EIP); Georgia Tech Scheller College of Business REER; HEC Montreal International Business
- **2024:** International Conference on the Science of Science & Innovation (ICSSI) Washington DC; Berkeley Haas Entrepreneurship and Innovation Brown-Bag; AOM Chicago
- **2023:** Harvard Kennedy School of Government Growth Lab; ICSSI Northwestern University; AOM Boston; University of Toronto Munk School of Global Affairs Innovation Policy Lab
- **2022:** Stanford GSB Macro Organizational Behavior; Columbia Business School Department of Management; Maryland Smith School of Business Management & Organization; Georgia Tech School of Public Policy; Kellogg School of Management Center for Science-of-Science and Innovation; ICSSI Washington DC; Entrepreneurship & Innovation Policy Seminar Series (EIP); AOM Seattle; Research Policy Early Career Workshop
- **2021:** UCLA Anderson School of Management Strategy Unit; University of Toronto Munk School of Global Affairs; DRUID Copenhagen
- **2020 and earlier:** Urban Economics Association Philadelphia; Global Conference in Economic Geography Cologne; Geography of Innovation Barcelona & Toulouse; Harvard Kennedy School Growth Lab

### **Journal Referee Service**

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- Science; Organization Science; European Economic Review; Nature Human Behaviour; Research Policy; Journal of Economic Geography; PLOS One; Industry and Innovation; Journal of Regional Science; Regional Studies

### **Professional Associations**

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- Academy of Management

- Association of American Geographers

## Professional Service

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| May 2026     | <b>Co-Organizer, Atlanta Academy of Science and Innovation Policy</b><br>Georgia Tech Carter School of Public Policy |
| 2023–Present | <b>Organizer, Quarterly Research Conference Series</b><br>UCLA Price Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation      |
| 2023         | <b>Director of Seminars</b><br>University of Chicago Knowledge Lab                                                   |
| 2020–2022    | <b>Co-Founder, Global E-Seminar Series</b><br>Seminars in Economic Geography                                         |

## Awards and Honors

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- NSF Graduate Research Fellowship (2015–2020)
- UCLA Geography Graduate Student Publication Award
- IIASA Fellowship — National Academy of Sciences
- UCLA Graduate Research Fellowship
- Colgate University Shannon McCune Award for Excellence in Geography

## Selected Media Coverage

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- [China Closing In on US as Leader in Global Science, Study Shows](#) — Bloomberg  
*Related to: “Shifting power asymmetries in scientific teams reveal China’s rising leadership in global science” (PNAS)*
- [Chinese Scientists Increasingly Lead Joint Projects with the UK, US, and Europe](#) — Nature  
*Related to: “Shifting power asymmetries in scientific teams reveal China’s rising leadership in global science” (PNAS)*
- [A Case Against Experience as a Central Driver of Innovation](#) — UCLA Anderson Review  
*Related to: “Who Drives Technology Forward? Age and Spillovers in Inventor Networks” (Working paper)*
- [A \\$15 Minimum Wage May Have Partially Arrived — But Who Pays?](#) — UCLA Anderson Review  
*Related to: “Who paid Los Angeles’ minimum wage? A side-by-side minimum wage experiment in Los Angeles County” (Journal of Human Resources)*

## Technical Skills

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R, Python, Stata, Linux/Bash, ArcMap, QGIS

## References

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|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Prof. Olav Sorenson   | <a href="mailto:olav.sorenson@anderson.ucla.edu">olav.sorenson@anderson.ucla.edu</a> |
| Prof. James Evans     | <a href="mailto:jevans@uchicago.edu">jevans@uchicago.edu</a>                         |
| Prof. David Rigby     | <a href="mailto:rigby@geog.ucla.edu">rigby@geog.ucla.edu</a>                         |
| Prof. Jacob Foster    | <a href="mailto:foster@soc.ucla.edu">foster@soc.ucla.edu</a>                         |
| Prof. Michael Storper | <a href="mailto:storper@ucla.edu">storper@ucla.edu</a>                               |