
Lee J. Alston, Professor

Ph.D., University of Washington, 1978

FIELDS

Economic History · Economic Development · Political Economy · Environmental Economics ·
New Institutional Economics

CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS

Research interests focus on the political economy of Latin America and the U.S., and issues of agricultural contracting in the U.S. and Latin America.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS AND WRITINGS

- “Electoral Fraud, the Rise of Peron, and Demise of Checks and Balances in Argentina” (with Andres Gallo), August 2009. forthcoming, **Explorations in Economic History** 2010. Published as NBER Working Paper, 15209, August 2009, Program on the Development of the American Economy.
- “Property Rights, Land Settlement and Land Conflict on Frontiers: Evidence from Australia, Brazil and the U.S.” (with Edwyna Harris and Bernardo Mueller), in *Handbook of Property* edited by Henry E. Smith and Ken Ayotte, forthcoming 2009.
- “Presidential Power, Fiscal Responsibility Laws and the Allocation of Spending: The Case of Brazil” (with Marcus Melo, Bernardo Mueller, and Carlos Pereira), in *Who Decides the Budget? A Political Economy Analysis of the Budget Process in Latin America*, edited by Mark Hallerberg, Carlos Scartascini and Ernesto Stein. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2009.
- “On the Road to Good Governance: Recovering from Economic and Political Shocks in Brazil.” (with Marcus Melo, Bernardo Mueller, and Carlos Pereira), in *Policymaking in Latin America: How Politics Shapes Policies*, edited by Ernesto Stein, Mariano Tommasi, Carlos Scartascini, and Pablo Spiller. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2008.
- “Coercion, Culture and Debt-Contracts: The Henequen Industry: Yucatán, Mexico, 1870-1915” (with Shannon Mattiace and Tomas Nonnenmacher), *Journal of Economic History*: March 2009.
Published as NBER Working Paper 13852, March 2008, Program on the Development of the American Economy.
- “The New Institutional Economics” in *The New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, edited by Steven Durlauf and Lawrence Blume, 2008, London: Palgrave Macmillan Ltd.
- “Shaping Welfare Policies in the U.S., 1895-1965: Economic Interests and Political Institutions in the South.” (with Joseph P. Ferrie), in Price Fishback (editor), *Government and the American Economy from Colonial Times to the Present*, University of Chicago Press, 2007.
- “Who Should Govern Congress? Access to Power and the Salary Grab of 1873” (with Jeffery A. Jenkins and Tomas Nonnenmacher), *Journal of Economic History*: September 2006.
- “Pork for Policy: Executive and Legislative Exchange in Brazil” (with Bernardo Mueller), *Journal of Law Economics and Organization*, Spring 2006.
- “Career Mobility in Agriculture, 1890-1938” (with Joseph Ferrie), *Journal of Economic History*, December 2005.
- “Social Reformers and Regulation: The Prohibition of Cigarettes in the U.S. and Canada” (with Ruth Dupre and Tomas Nonnenmacher), *Explorations in Economic History*, December 2002.
- “Land Reform Policies, The Sources of Violent Conflict and Implications for Deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon” (with Gary D. Libecap and Bernardo Mueller), *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 2000.
- “The Determinants and Impact of Property Rights: Census Data and Survey Results for Land Titles on the Brazilian Frontier” (Gary Libecap and Robert Schneider), *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*, 25-61, 1996.
- “Why Do Banks Fail: Evidence from the 1920s” (with Wayne Grove and David Wheelock), *Explorations in Economic History*, 409-431, September 1994.
- “Paternalism in Agricultural Labor Contracts in the U.S. South: Implications for the Growth of the Welfare State” (with Joseph Ferrie), *American Economic Review*, 852-876, September 1993.
- “The Wage Gap Between Agricultural and Manufacturing Laborers, 1925-1941” (with T.J. Hatton), *Journal of Economic History* 51, 83-100, March 1991.
- “Tenancy Choice in a Competitive Framework with Transactions Costs” (with Samar K. Datta and Jeffrey B. Nugent), *Journal of Political Economy* 92, 1121-1133, December 1984.
- “Farm Foreclosure Moratorium Legislation: A Lesson from the Past,” *American Economic Review* 74, 445-457, June 1984.

BOOKS:

- On the Road to Good Governance: Brazil, 1988 to 2006* (co-authored with Bernardo Mueller, Marcus Melo and Carlos Pereira). Manuscript in Progress.
- Paternalism and the American Welfare State: Economics, Politics, and Institutions in the U.S. South, 1865-1965* (co-authored with Joseph P. Ferrie). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999.
- Titles, Conflict, and Land Use: The Development of Property Rights and Land Reform on the Brazilian Amazon Frontier* (co-authored with Gary D. Libecap and Bernardo Mueller). University of Michigan Press, 1999.
- Empirical Studies in Institutional Change* (co-edited with Thrainn Eggertsson and Douglass North). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1996. Translated into Chinese.