

Bio

Roger D. Congleton

2020

Professor Congleton is the BB&T Professor of economics at West Virginia University. He joined the Department of Economics at West Virginia University in 2011, after a long association with the Department of Economics and Center for Study of Public Choice at George Mason University. He is currently co-editor of *Constitutional Political Economy*, a past-president of the Public Choice Society, a past director of the Center for Study of Public Choice, and has published and lectured widely on the political economy of public policy, constitutional history, and constitutional theory.

His books focus on the political economy of political institutions. *Perfecting Parliament: Liberalism, Constitutional Reform and the Rise of Western Democracy* (Cambridge University Press 2011) provides a public choice-based explanation of the emergence of Western democracy. It argues that the rise of liberalism, new economies of scale in economic production, and new technologies of information and organization disrupted the medieval constitutional bargaining equilibrium and produced a long series of constitutional bargains that gradually produce liberal democracy. *Improving Democracy through Constitutional Reform* (Springer, 2003) analyzes the effects of constitutional reform on policies and economic developments within Sweden during the past two centuries. *Politics by Principle Not Interest* (Cambridge, 1998, written with Nobel prize winner James Buchanan) analyzes how a generality rule can improve the stability and performance of democratic governments.

In addition to his monographs, he has coedited several volumes on public choice and constitutional political economy. He has coedited the two volume *Oxford Handbook of Public Choice* (2019, with B. Grofman and S. Voight), the *Companion to the Political Economy of Rent Seeking* (2015, with A. Hillman), a two-volume collection of the most influential papers on rent seeking, *40 Years of Research on Rent Seeking* (2008, with A. Hillman and K. Konrad), a collection of essays on the effects of various aspects of democratic constitutional design on public policies *Democratic Constitutional Design and Public Policy* (2006, w. B. Swedenborg), a volume on the political economy of environmental protection (1996) and an early collection of papers on rent seeking (1995, w. Robert Tollison). Several have been translated.

In addition to his books, Prof. Congleton has published over a 150 papers in academic journals and books on such topics as the politics of constitutional reform, the importance of information in democratic decision making, the effects of institutions on rents seeking, the emergence, evolution, and significance of norms, and on the emergence of the welfare state in OECD countries.

Professor Congleton has also served in a number of visiting positions during summers and sabbaticals. He has served as visiting Professor at: Cambridge University (INET, Economics), Aarhus University (Economics), the University of Muenster (Interdisciplinary Studies), Bar Ilan University (Economics), Syddansk Universitet (Fulbright Distinguished Chair in Political Science and American Studies), University of Bayreuth (Adam Smith Chair, Philosophy and Economics), University of Rome (Law), University of Leiden (Public Policy), Autonomous University of Barcelona (Economics), and the Stockholm School of Economics (Economics). He has also been a visiting research fellow at the University of California-Irvine (Politics), the Max Planck Institute in Jena (Evolutionary Economics), the University of Amsterdam (Law and Economics), Oxford University (Politics, Nuffield College), Studieförbundet Näringsliv och Samhälle (SNS, in Stockholm), and at the Australian National University (Research School for Social Science).

He has given more than 100 academic seminars in nearly as many universities in more than two dozen countries.

Professor Congleton was educated in New Jersey public schools and at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia, where he earned his Ph.D. in economics in 1978, writing under James Buchanan.