

Bio

Roger D. Congleton

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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 President of the Public Choice Society and co-editor of *Constitutional Political Economy*, and has lectured and published widely on the political economy of public policy, constitutional history, and constitutional theory.

He has 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), Max Planck Institute in Jena (Evolutionary Economics), University of Amsterdam (Law and Economics), Oxford University (Politics, Nuffield College), Studieförbundet Näringsliv och Samhälle (SNS, in Stockholm), and the Australian National University (Research School for Social Science).

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. *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 performance of democratic governments.

In addition to his monographs, he has coedited several volumes on public choice and constitutional political economy. He has coedited (with B Grofman and S Voight) the two volume *Oxford Handbook of Public Choice* (forthcoming 2019). He has coedited (w. A. Hillman) *Companion to the Political Economy of Rent Seeking*, which provides essays on the theory of rent seeking and its many applications. He has coedited a two volume collection of the most influential papers on rent seeking (w. A. Hillman and K. Konrad), *40 Years of Research on Rent*

Seeking. He has coedited a collection of essays on the effects of various aspects of democratic constitutions on public policies (w. B. Swedenborg) *Democratic Constitutional Design and Public Policy*. He has also edited another collection of papers on rent seeking (w. Robert Tollison) and a volume on the political economy of environmental protection.

In addition to his books, Prof. Congleton has published well over a 100 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.

He has given more than 100 academic seminars in nearly as many universities around the world.

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.