

Robert K. Fleck

Work Address

Dept of Agricultural Economics & Economics
Montana State University
Bozeman, MT 59717-0292
phone: (406) 994-5603
fax: (406) 994-4838
e-mail: rfleck@montana.edu

Home Address

710 South 9th Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
phone: (406) 582-9270

Primary Fields of Interest

Political Economy
Public Finance
Economic History
Law and Economics
Development Economics

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, Stanford University, September 1994
B.A. in Economics, University of California, San Diego, June 1985
summa cum laude

Academic Positions

Professor of Economics, 2007 - present
Associate Professor of Economics, 2001 - 2007
Assistant Professor of Economics, 1995 - 2001
Department of Agricultural Economics and Economics, Montana State University

W. Glenn Campbell and Rita Ricardo-Campbell National Fellow, 2010 - 2011
Arch W. Shaw National Fellow, 2010 - 2011
Hoover Institution, Stanford University

Julian Simon Fellow, Summer 2005
Property and Environment Research Center (PERC)

Visiting Research Scholar, Winter and Spring 2003
Center for Study of Public Choice, George Mason University

Lecturer, 1994 - 1995
Public Policy Program, Stanford University

Civic Education Project Visiting Lecturer, 1992 - 1994
Microeconomics Department, Budapest University of Economic Sciences

Refereed Journal Articles

- (with F. Andrew Hanssen) "Judicial Review as a Constraint on Tyranny of the Majority." *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization* (forthcoming).
- "Natural Selection and the Problem of Evil: An Evolutionary Model with Application to an Ancient Debate." *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science* 46:561-587 (September 2011).
- (with F. Andrew Hanssen) "Repeated Adjustment of Delegated Powers and the History of Eminent Domain." *International Review of Law and Economics* 30:99-112 (June 2010). [lead article]
- (with Christopher Kilby) "Changing Aid Regimes? U.S. Foreign Aid from the Cold War to the War on Terror." *Journal of Development Economics* 91:185-197 (March 2010). [lead article]
- (with F. Andrew Hanssen) "'Rulers Ruled by Women': An Economic Analysis of the Rise and Fall of Women's Rights in Ancient Sparta." *Economics of Governance* 10:221-245 (July 2009).
- "Voter Influence and Big Policy Change: The Positive Political Economy of the New Deal." *Journal of Political Economy* 116:1-37 (February 2008). [lead article]

Reprinted in *Political Economy*, edited by Norman Schofield, Dino Falaschetti, and Andrew R. Rutten. Routledge (2011).

- (with F. Andrew Hanssen) "Why Understanding Smoking Bans is Important for Estimating Their Effects: California's Restaurant Smoking Bans and Restaurant Sales." *Economic Inquiry* 46:60-76 (January 2008).
- (with Christopher Kilby) "How Do Political Changes Influence U.S. Bilateral Aid Allocations? Evidence from Panel Data." *Review of Development Economics* 10:210-223 (May 2006).
- (with Christopher Kilby) "World Bank Independence: A Model and Statistical Analysis of U.S. Influence." *Review of Development Economics* 10:224-240 (May 2006).
- (with F. Andrew Hanssen) "The Origins of Democracy: A Model with Application to Ancient Greece." *Journal of Law and Economics* 49:115-146 (April 2006).

Reprinted in *Economics of Ancient Law*, edited by Geoffrey P. Miller. Edward Elgar Publishing (2010).

- (with Christopher Kilby) "Reassessing the Role of Constituency in Congressional Voting." *Public Choice* 112:31-53 (July 2002).

- "Democratic Opposition to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938." *Journal of Economic History* 62:25-54 (March 2002).
- "Inter-Party Competition, Intra-Party Competition, and Distributive Policy: A Model and Test Using New Deal Data." *Public Choice* 108:77-100 (July 2001).
- "Population, Land, Economic Conditions, and the Allocation of New Deal Spending." *Explorations in Economic History* 38:296-304 (April 2001).
- (with Christopher Kilby) "Foreign Aid and Domestic Politics: Voting in Congress and the Allocation of USAID Contracts Across Congressional Districts." *Southern Economic Journal* 67:598-617 (January 2001).
- "When Should Market-Supporting Institutions Be Established?" *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization* 16:129-154 (April 2000).

Reprinted in *Political Economy*, edited by Norman Schofield, Dino Falaschetti, and Andrew R. Rutten. Routledge (2011).

- "The Value of the Vote: A Model and Test of the Effects of Turnout on Distributive Policy." *Economic Inquiry* 37:609-623 (October 1999).
- "The Marginal Effect of New Deal Relief Work on County-Level Unemployment Statistics." *Journal of Economic History* 59:659-687 (September 1999).
- "Electoral Incentives, Public Policy, and the New Deal Realignment." *Southern Economic Journal* 65:377-404 (January 1999). [lead article; winner of Georgescu-Roegen Prize]

Chapters in Books

- (with F. Andrew Hanssen) "Judges." In *The Elgar Companion to Public Choice, Second Edition*, edited by Michael Reksulak, Laura Razzolini, and William F. Shughart II. Edward Elgar Publishing (forthcoming).
- "The Political Economy of Progress: Lessons from the Causes and Consequences of the New Deal." Chapter 12, pp. 311-335, in *Economic Evolution and Revolution in Historical Time*, edited by Paul W. Rhode, Joshua L. Rosenbloom, and David F. Weiman. Stanford University Press (2011).

Other Research Publications

- (with F. Andrew Hanssen) "Do Profits Promote Pollution? The Myth of the Environmental Race to the Bottom." *PERC Policy Series* PS-41 (August 2007).

- "Democratic Opposition to the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938: Reply to Seltzer." *Journal of Economic History* 64:231-235 (March 2004).

Working Papers

- "Can Prohibitions on 'Price Gouging' Reduce Deadweight Losses? New Implications from Supply and Demand."
- "God's Utility Function and the Problem of Evil: Would a Benevolent Creator Design a World with Great Evil?"
- "Is Money the Route Around Evil? Some Implications of Economic Progress for the Rationality of Religious Beliefs."
- "Loving One's Enemy, Turning to the Dark Side, and Relative Prices: Good vs Evil in an Economic Model."
- "On the Mathematics of Testing Gavin Wright's Distributive Politics Model."
- "Why Did the Electorate Swing Between Parties During the Great Depression?"
- (with F. Andrew Hanssen) "How Bad Can a Government Be? Potential Exit and the Quality of National Governments."
- (with F. Andrew Hanssen) "How Tyranny Paved the Way to Wealth and Democracy: The Democratic Transition in Ancient Greece."
- (with F. Andrew Hanssen) "On the Benefits and Costs of Legal Expertise: Adjudication in Ancient Athens."

Book Reviews

- Smith, Jason Scott. *Building New Deal Liberalism: The Political Economy of Public Works, 1933-1956*. Reviewed for *Journal of Economic History* 66:1097-1098 (December 2006).
- Barringer, Mark Daniel. *Selling Yellowstone: Capitalism and the Construction of Nature*. Reviewed for *Journal of Economic History* 63:276-277 (March 2003).
- Singleton, Jeff. *The American Dole: Unemployment Relief and the Welfare State in the Great Depression*. Reviewed for *Journal of Economic History* 63:290-291 (March 2003).
- Spiliotes, Constantine J. *Vicious Cycle: Presidential Decision Making in the American Political Economy*. Reviewed for *Journal of Economic History* 62:909-910 (September 2002).

- Webber, Michael J. *New Deal Fat Cats: Business, Labor, and Campaign Finance in the 1936 Presidential Election*. Reviewed for *Journal of Economic History* 61:853-854 (September 2001).

Courses Taught

Montana State University:

Cost-Benefit Analysis

Econometrics

Honors Economics

Industrial Organization

Intermediate Microeconomics

Introductory Microeconomics

Problem Solving Seminar

Public Finance

Research Methodology

Special Topic: "Institutions, Property Rights, and Economic Performance"

Special Topic: "Political and Property Rights During Transitions and Crises"

Study Abroad / Special Topic: "Property Rights, Economic Performance, and the Origins of Democracy: Lessons from Ancient Greece" (course included two weeks traveling in Greece), with F. Andrew Hanssen

Stanford University:

Economic Transition in Eastern Europe

Intermediate Microeconomics

Public Policy Senior Research Seminar

Budapest University of Economic Sciences:

Economics of Property Rights

Economics, Organization, and Management

Intermediate Microeconomics

Public Economics

Awards and Honors

Professor of the Month, October 2011

Awarded by Montana State University Mortar Board.

Arch W. Shaw National Fellowship, 2010-2011

Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

W. Glenn Campbell and Rita Ricardo-Campbell National Fellowship, 2010-2011

Hoover Institution, Stanford University.

Honorable Mention for President's Excellence in Teaching Award, 2009

Montana State University.

Award for Excellence, 2008

Awarded by MSU Alumni Association and Bozeman Area Chamber of Commerce, for excellence in undergraduate mentoring.

Julian Simon Fellowship, Summer 2005
Property and Environment Research Center (PERC).
Georgescu-Roegen Prize in Economics, 1999
Awarded for the best article in the *Southern Economic Journal*.
Centennial Teaching Assistant, Stanford University, 1991
Awarded by the university for record of excellence in teaching.
Outstanding Teaching Award, Economics Department, Stanford University, Winter 1991
For performance as a teaching assistant.
Outstanding Teaching Award, Economics Department, Stanford University, Fall 1990
For performance as a teaching assistant.
Provost's Scholarship Award, Warren College, University of California, San Diego, 1985
Top academic honor at Warren College (one student per graduating class).

Grants

Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation (\$5,000)
To fund scholarships for students participating in a seminar on the "Economics of Property Rights" and conducting original research on the way property rights and incentives influence the success of development projects. (The seminar was designed for students doing volunteer work on Engineers Without Borders projects in Kenya.) Summer 2010 through Spring 2011.

Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation (\$12,000)
To fund scholarships for graduate students and outstanding undergraduates conducting original research and participating in a seminar on "Political and Property Rights During Transitions and Crises." Spring 2010.

Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation (\$16,500), with F. Andrew Hanssen
To fund scholarships for outstanding undergraduates conducting original research and participating in a course on "Property Rights, Economic Performance, and the Origins of Democracy: Lessons from Ancient Greece." Spring 2009.

Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation (\$11,000)
To fund scholarships for outstanding undergraduates conducting original research and participating in a course on "Institutions, Property Rights, and Economic Performance." Spring 2008.

BEST Program (\$8000)
Awarded by Montana State University, to support ongoing research. Fall 2005.

Scholarship and Creativity Grant (\$6240)
Awarded by Montana State University, to support ongoing research. Summer 2004.

CORE 2.0 (\$2500)
Awarded by Montana State University, for curriculum innovation in Honors Economics. Summer 2004.

CORE 2.0 (\$2000)
Awarded by Montana State University, for curriculum innovation in Cost-Benefit Analysis. Summer 2004.

Service

Resident Instruction Committee (Department), 2009-2010.
Search Committee Chair, Economics Faculty, 2009-2010.
Scholarship Committee (Department), 2008-2010.
Transferability Initiatives Economics Council (Montana Univ. System), 2008-2010.
Faculty Senate (University), 2007-2010.
University Honors Program Advisory Committee, 2007-2010.
Search Committee Chair, Economics Faculty, 2008-2009.
Advisory Committee (Department), 2007-2008.
Promotion and Tenure Committee (Department), 2007.
Search Committee, Ag Econ and Econ Department Head, 2006-2007.
Peer Reviewer of Teaching (Department), 2001-2007.
Resident Instruction Committee (Department), 2004-2006.
Scholarship Committee (Department), 2004-2006.
University Honors Program Advisory Committee, 2003-2006.
Promotion and Tenure Committee Chair (Department), 2005.
Advisory Committee (Department), 2003-2004.
Promotion and Tenure Committee (Department), 2003-2004.
Search Committee Co-Chair, Economics Faculty, 2003-2004.
Search Committee Chair, Economics Faculty, 2001-2002.
Advisory Committee / Promotion and Tenure Committee (Department), 2000-2002.
University Honors Program Advisory Committee, 2000-2002.
Scholarship Committee (Department), 1998-2002.
Library Representative (Department), 1995-2002.
Graduate Affairs Committee (Department), 1999-2001.
Advisory Committee / Promotion and Tenure Committee (Department), 1996-1998.
Referee: *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *American Economic Review*,
American Journal of Political Science, *American Political Science Review*,
Australian Economic Papers, *Constitutional Political Economy*, *Contemporary
Economic Policy*, *Economic Inquiry*, *Economics & Politics*, *Economics Letters*,
Economics of Governance, *Environmental Politics*, *Explorations in Economic
History*, *Independent Review*, *International Interactions*, *International
Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*,
Journal of Economic History, *Journal of Law and Economics*, *Journal of Peace
Research*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *Journal of Politics*, *Law & Society
Review*, *National Science Foundation*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Public
Choice*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Quarterly Review of Economics and
Finance*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Review of Development
Economics*, *Review of International Organizations*, *Social Science and
Humanities Research Council of Canada*, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*,
South African Journal of Economics, *Southern Economic Journal*, University of
Chicago Press.