

Edward Lopez

Professor at Western Carolina University

Cullowhee, NC, US

Edward Lopez is Professor of Economics and founding director of Western Carolina University's Center for the Study of Free Enterprise.

Biography

Edward J. Lopez is the founding director of WCU's Center for the Study of Free Enterprise, and Executive Director and Past President of the Public Choice Society. In the past, he has overseen WCU's Free Enterprise Speaker Series and the BB&T Moral Foundations of Capitalism Programs, which offer research and educational grants to WCU students and faculty. Edward is a public choice economist focusing on institutional entrepreneurship. He uses the tools of economics to research the dynamics of social institutions, which are the interleaving sets of rules that govern particular decision settings. Edward tends to focus on the origins of institutions and the process of institutional change through time. His early papers used natural experiments and econometric methods to model the political choice of institutions like term limits, eminent domain, teacher pay, committee assignments, and more. In later work, Edward began focusing on conceptual frameworks that combine non-market entrepreneurs implementing alternative ideas to create change, captured in his 2013 co-authored book with Stanford University Press. Recent and current paper topics include the cognitive origins of institutions, co-production of knowledge governance, informal institutions, U.S. fiscal history, bottom-up socialism, coordination between think tanks & academia, eminent domain in Michigan cf. North Carolina, and the economic thought of Nobel Laureate James Buchanan.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Writing and Editing

Areas of Expertise

Economics of Ideas, Public Choice, Ethics of Capitalism, Public Finance, Principles of Economics, Intermediate Microeconomics, Law & Economics, Entrepreneurship

Affiliations

Political Economy in the Carolinas : Editorial Board, The Independent Institute : Research Fellow

Education

George Mason University

Ph.D. Economics

George Mason University
M.A. Economics

Texas A&M University
B.S. Economics

Accomplishments

Kent-Aronoff Service Award
2017 Association of Private Enterprise Education

Faculty Excellence Award
2018-19 Honors College Board of Directors, Western Carolina University

Excellence in Research Award
2014-15 College of Business, Western Carolina University

Distinguished Scholar Award
2014 Association of Private Enterprise Education

Most Valuable Player Award
2012 Department of Economics, San Jose State University

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