

# Alex Nowrasteh

1000 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20001 ■ (202) 999-9805 ■ [anowrasteh@cato.org](mailto:anowrasteh@cato.org)

## EDUCATION

**London School of Economics (London, United Kingdom)**  
*Master of Science, Economic History, September 2011*

**George Mason University (Fairfax, Virginia)**  
*Bachelor of Arts, Economics, December 2006*

## EMPLOYMENT

**Cato Institute (Washington, DC)**  
*Vice President for Economic and Social Policy Studies*

## PEER-REVIEWED ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

“Do Immigrants Affect Economic Institutions? Evidence from the American States,” (with Michael Howard and Andrew C. Forrester) *Public Affairs Quarterly* Vol. 37, Issue 3, July 2023.

“Trust Plays No Role In Regional U.S. Economic Development—And Five Other Problems with the Trust Literature,” (with Andrew C. Forrester) *Kyklos* Vol. 76, Issue 3, April 14, 2023.

“Do Immigrants Import Terrorism?” (with Andrew C. Forrester, Benjamin Powell, and Michelangelo Landgrave) *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization* Vol. 166, October 2019.

“How Mass Immigration Affects Countries with Weak Economic Institutions: A Natural Experiment in Jordan,” (with Andrew C. Forrester and Cole Blondin) *The World Bank Economic Review*, July 2019.

“US Immigration Levels, Urban Housing Values, and their Implications for Capital Share,” (with Ryan H. Murphy) *Economic Affairs* Vol. 37, Issue 3, October 2017.

“The Deep Roots of Economic Development in the U.S. States: An Application of Putterman and Weil (2010),” (with Ryan H. Murphy) *Journal of Bioeconomics* Vol. 19, Issue 55, September 2017.

“Does Mass Immigration Destroy Institutions? 1990s Israel as a Natural Experiment,” (with Benjamin Powell and J.R. Clark) *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* Vol. 141, September 2017.

“Does Immigration Impact Institutions?” (with Ben Powell, Bob Lawson, Robert Murphy, and J.R. Clark) *Public Choice* Vol. 163, Issue 3-4, June 2015.

“Privateers! Their History and Future,” (with Alex Tabarrok) *Fletcher Security Review* Vol. 2, No. 1, January 2015.

“Was Privateering Plunder Efficient?” (with Pete Leeson) *Journal for Economic Behavior and Organization* Vol. 79, Issue 3, August 2011.

“Somalia After State Collapse: Chaos or Improvement?” (with Ben Powell and Ryan Ford) *Journal for Economic Behavior and Organization* Vol. 67, Issue 3-4, September 2008.

## POLICY PAPERS

“The Consequences of a Middle Eastern or North African (MENA) Survey Question,” September 28, 2023.

“Terrorism and Immigration,” August 22, 2023.

“The Fiscal Impact of Immigration in the United States,” (with Sarah Eckhardt and Michael Howard), March 21, 2023.

“Immigrant and Native Consumption of Means-Tested Welfare and Entitlement Benefits in 2020,” (with Michael Howard), January 31, 2023.

“Immigrant and Native Consumption of Means-Tested Welfare and Entitlement Benefits in 2019,” (with Michael Howard), March 30, 2022.

“A Brief History of U.S. Immigration Policy from the Colonial Period to the Present Day,” (with Andrew M. Baxter), August 3, 2021.

“Drunk Driving Deaths and Illegal Immigration,” (with Michael Howard), July 6, 2021.

“Criminal Immigrants in Texas in 2019: Illegal Immigrant Conviction Rates and Arrest Rates for Homicide, Sex Crimes, Larceny, and Other Crimes,” May 11, 2021.

“Espionage, Espionage-Related Crimes, and Immigration: A Risk Analysis, 1990–2019,” February 9, 2021.

“Immigration Policy by Presidential Decree,” (with David J. Bier), December 2, 2020.

“12 New Immigration Ideas for the 21st Century,” Editor, May 13, 2020.

“Illegal Immigrant Incarceration Rates, 2010–2018: Demographics and Policy Implications,” (with Michelangelo Landgrave), April 21, 2020.

“Financing Immigration: The Financial-Market Value of a Market-Based Immigration System,” (with Andrew C. Forrester), February 12, 2020.

“Immigrant and Native Consumption of Means-Tested Welfare and Entitlement Benefits in 2016: Evidence from the Survey of Income and Program Participation,” (with Tu Le) January 14, 2020.

“Criminal Immigrants in Texas in 2017: Illegal Immigrant Conviction Rates and Arrest Rates for Homicide, Sex Crimes, Larceny, and Other Crimes,” August 27, 2019.

“Terrorists by Immigration Status and Nationality: A Risk Analysis, 1975–2017,” May 7, 2019.

“Immigrants Recognize American Greatness: Immigrants and Their Descendants Are Patriotic and Trust America’s Governing Institutions,” (with Andrew C. Forrester), February 4, 2019.

“The Case for an Immigration Tariff: How to Create a Price-Based Visa Category,” January 8, 2019.

“Criminal Immigrants in Texas in 2017: Illegal Immigrant Conviction Rates and Arrest Rates for Homicide, Sex Crimes, Larceny, and Other Crimes,” August 27, 2019.

“Immigrant Wages Converge with Those of Native-Born Americans,” (with Andrew C. Forrester), October 4, 2018.

“Incarcerated Immigrants in 2016: Their Numbers, Demographics, and Countries of Origin” (with Michelangelo Landgrave), June 4, 2018.

“Immigration and the Welfare State: Immigrant and Native Use Rates and Benefit Levels for Means-Tested Welfare and Entitlement Programs” (with Robert Orr), May 10, 2018.

“Border Patrol Termination Rates: Discipline and Performance Problems Signal Need for Reform,” November 2, 2017.

“The DREAMer Incarceration Rate,” (with Michelangelo Landgrave) August 30, 2017.

“Criminal Immigrants: Their Number, Demographics, and Countries of Origin,” (with Michelangelo Landgrave) March 15, 2017.

“Immigrants Assimilate into the Political Mainstream,” (with Sam Wilson) January 19, 2017.

“Terrorism and Immigration: A Risk Analysis,” September 13, 2016.

“Voice, Exit, and Liberty: The Effect of Emigration on Origin Country Institutions,” (with Michelangelo Landgrave) May 26, 2016.

“Checking E-Verify: The Costs and Consequences of a National Worker Screening Mandates,” (with Jim Harper) July 27, 2015.

“The Political Assimilation of Immigrants and Their Descendants,” (with Sam Wilson) February 24, 2015.

“Building a Wall around the Welfare State, Instead of the Country,” (with Sophie Cole) July 25, 2013.

“How to Make Guest Worker Visas Work,” January 31, 2013.

“The Economic Case against Arizona's Immigration Laws,” September 25, 2012.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

“The Minimum Wage Undermined the Au Pair Program in Massachusetts,” (with Vanessa Brown Calder and Andrew C. Forrester).

“Immigrants Reduce Unionization in the United States,” (with Town Oh).

“Do Immigration Enforcement Programs Reduce Crime? Evidence from the 287(g) Program in North Carolina,” (with Andrew C. Forrester). Revise and Resubmit at the *Journal of Quantitative Criminology*.

“How U.S. Travel Restrictions on China Affected the Spread of COVID-19 in the United States,” (with Andrew C. Forrester).

“Singapore’s Immigration System: Past, Present, and Future.”

“The Political Externalities of Immigration: Evidence from the United States,” (with Zac Gochenour).

“Public Choice Examination of Immigration Restriction in the United States: 1895-1925.”

“The Output Maximizing Bureaucrat and a Theory of Nationalization.”

“The Economics of Counterinsurgency: An Examination of Doctrine and Strategy in Malaysia.”

## **BOOKS**

*Wretched Refuse? The Political Economy of Immigration and Institutions*, (with Benjamin Powell), Cambridge University Press, 2020. Winner of the “Best Book in Austrian Economics” prize, awarded by the Society for the Development of Austrian Economics.

