



The last 30 years of *Public Choice*: An analysis of author and institution rankings*

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Abstract. In this paper we provide a statistical analysis of authorship in *Public Choice* over the past 30 years. We explore trends in article length and coauthorship, as well as provide rankings of individual authors and institutions by total pages published in the journal. This is the first such ranking of publications in the journal since 1987. We find a significant degree of turnover among the leading authors in *Public Choice*, and that George Mason University is clearly the leading institution making a large share of the new contributions in the field.

1. Introduction

Public Choice is widely viewed as the top journal in the field of public choice. While certainly some public choice articles are published in other journals, regular scholars in this area generally find *Public Choice* as the main outlet for their research. In this article we analyze contributions to *Public Choice* over the past 30 years in an attempt to look for any significant changes in the patterns of authorship, and to gain insights into the most influential authors and academic institutions in the journal over this period.

Rankings of authors and institutions based on the number of pages in the journal is, of course, not the only way to construct such a ranking. Durden, Ellis, and Millsaps (1991), for example, do an analysis of citations to papers published in *Public Choice*. However, the last attempt to conduct a ranking of authors and institutions based on pages published in *Public Choice* was by Durden and Marlin (1990) who analyze the articles appearing in the journal between 1973 and 1987. That data is, however, now more than 15 years old. Here we not only update their analysis by considering all articles published between 1973 and 2002, but we also attempt to do a somewhat more detailed ranking of authorship, paying particular attention to how the rankings have changed over the 3 decades in our sample.

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Table 1. Articles and coauthorship in *Public Choice*, 1973–2002

	1973–1982	1983–1992	1993–2002	Total 1973–2002
Number of articles in period	518	802	893	2213
Average number of articles per year	51.8	80.2	89.3	73.8
Average number of pages per article	11.1	13.2	17.1	14.3
Number of distinct authors in period	453	702	965	1772
Percent of articles coauthored	33.8%	41.8%	49.2%	42.9%
Average authors per article	1.37	1.48	1.58	1.5

Our data comes from the on-line database, EconLit, and includes all articles published in *Public Choice* between 1973 and 2002, excluding other items, such as book reviews, that would not be considered new academic contributions to the field.¹ For each article, data was obtained on the length of the article (in pages) and on the article's authors. The database contains the institutional affiliation of the authors (their affiliation at the time the article was published) for all articles beginning in 1990. Our data includes 2,213 articles and 1,772 distinct authors. We begin our analysis by exploring trends in general items such as the overall rate of coauthorship and article length, and continue in the subsequent sections to present rankings of authors and institutions based on contributions in *Public Choice* over the past three decades.

2. Overall trends in *Public Choice* articles

To begin our analysis, we consider several, more general characteristics of the articles in *Public Choice* and how they have changed over the past 30 years. Table 1 presents this data, both for the total over the 30 year period, and broken down into the three equal decades in the sample.

The number of articles appearing in *Public Choice* per year has grown significantly over the period. During the 1973–1982 period the journal published an average of 51.8 articles per year, which rose to 80.2 during 1983–1992, and to 89.3 during 1993–2002. That amounts to a 72.4% increase over the period in the average number of articles per year. The third line in the table shows the average length of the articles appearing in *Public Choice*. This has also risen, going from 11.1 pages during 1973–1982 to 13.2 during 1983–1992, and again increasing to 17.1 during 1993–2002. Thus over the past 30 years,

the average length of an article appearing in *Public Choice* has risen by more than 50%.

The number of *distinct* authors publishing in *Public Choice* each year has risen along with the rise in the number of articles published. During 1993–2002, a total of 965 different authors contributed to the journal, compared to 702 in 1983–1992 and 453 in 1973–1982. Thus over the period, the average number of different authors appearing in the journal per year has more than doubled. The increase in the number of distinct authors being so much larger than the percentage increase in the number of articles published indicates that the journal today has significantly more widespread activity than it did thirty years ago.

The final two rows of the table show the trends in coauthorship of articles in *Public Choice*. During the 1993–2002 period, almost one out of every two articles was coauthored (as opposed to single authored). This is a significant increase from the 1973–1982 period when only about one in three articles was a coauthored article. This is reflected as well in the data on the average number of authors per article, which has risen from 1.37 in 1973–1982 to 1.58 in 1993–2002.

The data presented in this section suggest that there have been some substantial changes in *Public Choice* over the past 30 years. Not only does the journal now publish significantly more articles (by a wider variety of authors as well), but these articles are also likely to be longer and also are more likely to be coauthored than they were 30 years ago.

3. Rankings of authors by pages published in *Public Choice*

We now turn our attention to rankings of individual authors in terms of total pages published in *Public Choice* over the period.² Table 2 shows the top 50 *Public Choice* authors for each of the three decades, and for the entire period. For the entire period (shown in the final set of columns), Gerald Scully holds the honor of publishing the most total pages, and he is closely followed by Bernard Grofman. These two authors have accounted for almost 200 pages each over the past 30 years. Gordon Tullock comes in third with Peter Ordeshook and Frans van Winden finishing out the top five. For the 30 year period, only 19 authors have 100 or more pages.

Looking more closely at the rankings within each decade shows quite a bit of turnover in the leading publishers in the journal. No single author appears in the top 10 for all three decades, although 1 author, Gordon Tullock, appears in the top 50 for all three decades.³ With respect to the individual decades, the five most prolific authors in the 1973–1982 period were William Welch, Gordon Tullock, Jeffrey Richelson, Kenneth Koford, and Robert Inman. The

Table 2. Authorship in *Public Choice* – rankings by pages per author

Rank	Author	Pages		Author	Pages		Author	Pages		Total pages
		1973–1992	1993–2002		1983–2002	1993–2002		1973–2002		
1	Welch, William P.	68.0	Coughlin, Peter J.	103.0	Scully, Gerald W.	119.0	Scully, Gerald W.	197.0		
2	Tullock, Gordon	67.0	Grofman, Bernard	80.0	Coates, Dennis	100.0	Grofman, Bernard	195.5		
3	Richelson, Jeffrey T.	60.0	Scully, Gerald W.	78.0	van Winden, Frans	98.5	Tullock, Gordon	177.0		
4	Koford, Kenneth J.	58.0	Lott, John R., Jr.	72.5	Sobel, Russell S.	98.0	Ordeshook, Peter C.	140.5		
5	Inman, Robert P.	56.0	Mitchell, William C.	69.0	Grofman, Bernard	90.5	van Winden, Frans	140.2		
6	Bernholz, Peter	55.0	Lee, Dwight R.	67.0	Palda, Filip	90.0	Lott, John R., Jr.	134.0		
7	Schofield, Norman	50.0	Marlow, Michael L.	63.0	de Haan, Jakob	89.5	Congleton, Roger D.	132.0		
8	Ordeshook, Peter C.	49.5	Rowley, Charles K.	62.5	Adams, James D.	86.0	Munger, Michael C.	124.3		
9	Aldrich, John H.	49.0	Roberts, Russell D.	62.0	Munger, Michael C.	85.8	Bernholz, Peter	124.0		
10	Cebula, Richard J.	48.7	Tullock, Gordon	62.0	Mueller, Dennis C.	83.5	Mitchell, William C.	119.0		
11	McKelvey, Richard D.	48.0	Wickstrom, Bengt-Arne	62.0	Bailey, Martin J.	81.0	Buchanan, James M.	116.5		
12	Fishburn, Peter C.	47.5	Congleton, Roger D.	61.5	Matusaka, John G.	79.0	Coughlin, Peter J.	115.0		
13	Abrams, Burton A.	45.5	Kuran, Timur	60.0	Swank, Otto H.	79.0	Mueller, Dennis C.	115.0		
14	Rosenthal, Howard	44.5	Pack, Janet Rothenberg	57.0	Milyo, Jeffrey	73.5	Greene, Kenneth V.	108.0		
15	De Alessi, Louis	42.0	Jacobson, Gary C.	56.0	Knack, Stephen	73.0	Schofield, Norman	105.0		
16	Buchanan, James M.	41.5	Yandle, Bruce	56.0	Mixon, Franklin G., Jr.	68.5	Rowley, Charles K.	103.5		
17	Hinich, Melvin J.	39.5	Nitzan, Shmuel	55.3	Sutter, Daniel	67.5	Holcombe, Randall G.	102.2		
18	Chamberlin, John R.	39.0	Durden, Garey C.	55.2	Lott, John R., Jr.	61.5	Abrams, Burton A.	102.0		
19	Rubin, Paul H.	37.0	Weingast, Barry R.	54.0	Rasmusen, Eric B.	59.5	Coates, Dennis	100.0		
20	Aranson, Peter H.	36.8	Riker, William H.	51.5	Belke, Ansgar	59.0	Palda, Filip	99.5		
21	DiLorenzo, Thomas J.	35.0	Zupan, Mark A.	51.5	Congleton, Roger D.	58.5	Aldrich, John H.	98.0		
22	Miller, Nicholas R.	35.0	Tollison, Robert D.	50.3	Ordeshook, Peter C.	55.5	Sobel, Russell S.	98.0		
23	Rader, J. Trout	34.5	Samuelson, Larry	50.0	Bernholz, Peter	52.0	Adams, James D.	97.5		
24	Brams, Steven J.	34.0	Holcombe, Randall G.	49.5	Feld, Lars P.	52.0	Rosenthal, Howard	97.5		
25	Brennan, Geoffrey	34.0	Aldrich, John H.	49.0	Pecorino, Paul	51.8	Koford, Kenneth J.	95.0		

Table 2. Continued

Rank	Author	Pages		Pages		Pages		Total pages
		1973–1992	Author	1983–2002	Author	1993–2002	Author	
26	Fiorina, Morris P.	34.0	Courchene, Thomas J.	49.0	Boyce, John R.	51.0	Cebula, Richard J.	93.2
27	Spindler, Zane A.	33.7	Austen-Smith, David	48.0	Epstein, David	51.0	Nitzan, Shmuel	91.8
28	Oppenheimer, Joe A.	33.5	Hillman, Arye L.	46.5	Fort, Rodney D.	50.0	Yandle, Bruce	91.0
29	West, Edwin G.	33.5	Denzau, Arthur T.	46.0	Overbye, Einar	50.0	Lee, Dwight R.	89.7
30	Giertz, J. Fred	33.0	Ingberman, Daniel E.	45.5	Twight, Charlotte	50.0	de Haan, Jakob	89.5
31	Shepsle, Kenneth A.	32.5	Wagner, Richard E.	45.5	Buchanan, James M.	48.0	Enelow, James M.	84.5
32	Backhaus, Jurgen G.	32.0	Cebula, Richard J.	44.5	Pedersen, Karl R.	48.0	Marlow, Michael L.	84.5
33	Borcherding, Thomas E.	32.0	Greene, Kenneth V.	44.0	Tullock, Gordon	48.0	Twight, Charlotte	83.0
34	McKenzie, Richard B.	31.0	Shepsle, Kenneth A.	44.0	Borge, Lars-Erik	46.7	Rubin, Paul H.	81.8
35	Schwartz, Thomas	31.0	Levy, David M.	43.3	Shughart, William F., II	46.5	Bailey, Martin J.	81.0
36	Silver, Morris	30.5	Grossman, Philip J.	43.0	Usher, Dan	45.0	Matusaka, John G.	79.0
37	Ruttan, Vernon W.	30.0	Hammond, Thomas H.	43.0	Berggren, Niclas	44.0	Schwartz, Thomas	79.0
38	Sloss, Judith	30.0	Keeler, Theodore E.	43.0	Iversen, Torben	44.0	Swank, Otto H.	79.0
39	Gehrlein, William V.	29.5	Miller, Gary J.	42.5	Schnytzer, Adi	44.0	Oppenheimer, Joe A.	77.0
40	Mackay, Robert J.	29.5	Alt, James E.	42.0	Caplan, Bryan	43.0	Hinich, Melvin J.	76.8
41	Goldin, Kenneth D.	29.0	Ledyard, John O.	42.0	Voigt, Stefan	43.0	Spindler, Zane A.	76.7
42	Gardner, Roy	28.5	Maser, Steven M.	42.0	Goff, Brian L.	42.0	Paldam, Martin	76.5
43	Carling, Alan H.	28.0	Wyckoff, Paul Gary	42.0	Kirchgassner, Gebhard	42.0	Shepsle, Kenneth A.	76.5
44	Gartner, Manfred	28.0	van Winden, Frans	41.8	Linster, Bruce G.	42.0	Frey, Bruno S.	74.8
45	Green, Edward J.	28.0	Murrell, Peter	41.5	Witt, Ulrich	42.0	McKelvey, Richard D.	74.5
46	Shapiro, Perry	28.0	Hahn, Robert W.	41.0	Dow, Jay K.	41.8	West, Edwin G.	74.5
47	Thompson, Fred	28.0	Gardner, Roy	40.5	Greene, Kenneth V.	41.5	Millyo, Jeffrey	73.5
48	Tideman, T. Nicolaus	28.0	Dudley, Leonard	40.0	Tabarrok, Alexander	41.0	Shughart, William F., II	73.5
49	Arnold, R. Douglas	26.0	Enelow, James M.	40.0	Heyndels, Bruno	40.5	Knack, Stephen	73.0
50	Beck, Nathaniel	26.0	Laband, David N.	39.5	Steunenberg, Bernard	40.5	Witt, Ulrich	73.0
tie	Pittman, Russell W.	26.0			Tollison, Robert D.			73.0

Table 3. Percent of *Public Choice* pages accounted for by top authors

	1973–1982	1983–1992	1993–2002	Total 1973–2002
Top 10	9.7%	6.8%	6.2%	4.7%
Top 25	20.1%	14.6%	12.4%	9.6%
Top 50	33.2%	24.8%	19.8%	16.0%
Top 100	50.7%	40.2%	31.2%	25.8%

top five in the 1983–1992 period were Peter Coughlin, Bernard Groffman, Gerald Scully, John Lott, and William Mitchell. Finally, the top five authors in the most recent decade were Gerald Scully, Dennis Coats, Frans van Winden, Russell Sobel, and Bernard Grofman.

Table 3 shows the percent of total pages accounted for by the top authors in the journal. Over the entire sample, the top 10 authors account for just under 5% of all pages, while the top 100 authors account for just over 25% of all pages. There has been a significant change, however, in this “concentration” of pages within the top authors over the period. While the top 10 authors accounted for almost 10% of all pages in the 1973–1982 period, they accounted for only about 6% of all pages in 1993–2002. Similarly, the top 100 authors accounted for just over 50% of all pages in 1973–1982 while accounting for only 31% of all pages in 1993–2002. These results seem to support our earlier contention in the previous section that the field is becoming more competitive and that the activity in the field is more dispersed than it was 30 years ago.

Any ranking presented through time, such as the one presented in Table 2, naturally begs questions as to the rate of turnover and persistence through time in authorship in the journal. Table 4 shows data to help answer these questions.

The data presented in the top portion of Table 4 are for all authors, not just those presented in Table 2, while the bottom portion of the table shows the data only for the top 50 lists from Table 2. For the all author data, the number of “new” authors is simply the number of authors publishing an article in *Public Choice* during the decade who did not publish in the journal during previous decade(s). Just over 80% of the authors publishing in the journal during 1983–1992 were new to that decade, and this proportion remained roughly the same in 1993–2002. The percent of authors dropping out is measured as the number of authors who published in the previous decade who did not publish in the following decade(s) as a proportion of the total number of authors in the previous decade. In both decades, roughly 70% of the authors

Table 4. Turnover among *Public Choice* authors

	1983–1992	1993–2002
Among all authors		
Total number of authors	702	965
Number of “new” authors	562	757
Percent of authors “new”	80.1%	78.4%
Number of old authors dropping out	313	511
Percent of old authors dropping out	69.1%	72.8%
Among top 50 authors		
Number of “new” authors	45	40

from the previous decade did not publish again. However, for both of these final two decades in the sample, more new authors appeared than the number of old authors dropping out of the sample.

The bottom rows of Table 4 show the rate of turnover among the top 50 lists presented in Table 2. Among the top 50 in 1983–1992, 45 were “new” in that they were not on the top 50 list for the previous decade, while 40 of the top 50 for 1993–2002 were appearing in the top 50 for the first time. This data suggests a rather high rate of turnover through time in the leading authors in *Public Choice*.

For each of the “new” authors in the sample in the final two decades (the ones appearing in the journal for the first time during the decade), a ranking of pages was constructed only among these authors and the results are presented in Table 5. The five most productive “new entrants” to *Public Choice* for the 1983–1992 decade were Gerald Scully, John Lott, Dwight Lee, Russell Roberts, and Bengt-Arne Wickstrom.⁴ The five most productive “new entrants” to *Public Choice* for the 1993–2002 decade were Dennis Coates, Russell Sobel, Jakob de Haan, Martin Bailey, and tied at fifth are John Matsusaka and Otto Swank.

It is also worthwhile to consider rankings only among those authors who contributed at least one article in each of the three decades. Surprisingly, there are only 62 authors who published at least one article in each of the three decades. These are certainly the authors who form the current core of the profession and have had significant influence on the field. Table 6 shows the rankings (by total pages published over the entire sample) among these 62 authors who contributed at least one paper in each of the decades. The top 5 are Bernard Grofman, Gordon Tullock, Peter Ordeshook, Roger Congleton,

Table 5. Most productive “new entrants” to *Public Choice*

Rank	Author	Pages	
		1983–1992	1993–2002
1	Scully, Gerald W.	78.0	100.0
2	Lott, John R., Jr.	72.5	98.0
3	Lee, Dwight R.	67.0	89.5
4	Roberts, Russell D.	62.0	81.0
5	Wickstrom, Bengt-Arne	62.0	79.0
6	Kuran, Timur	60.0	79.0
7	Pack, Janet Rothenberg	57.0	73.5
8	Jacobson, Gary C.	56.0	73.0
9	Zupan, Mark A.	51.5	68.5
10	Samuelson, Larry	50.0	67.5
11	Courchene, Thomas J.	49.0	59.0
12	Hillman, Arye L.	46.5	52.0
13	Denzau, Arthur T.	46.0	51.8
14	Ingberman, Daniel E.	45.5	51.0
15	Levy, David M.	43.3	51.0
16	Grossman, Philip J.	43.0	50.0
17	Hammond, Thomas H.	43.0	48.0
18	Keeler, Theodore E.	43.0	46.7
19	Alt, James E.	42.0	44.0
20	Maser, Steven M.	42.0	44.0
21	Wyckoff, Paul Gary	42.0	44.0
22	van Winden, Frans	41.8	43.0
23	Hahn, Robert W.	41.0	43.0
24	Laband, David N.	39.5	42.0
25	Collier, Kenneth	39.0	41.8

and Peter Bernholz. Other influential and well-known authors such as James Buchanan and Charles Rowley also appear in the top 10.

Among these 62 authors, we explored which ones had the ‘best’, worst decade. That is, for each author, we computed the minimum number of pages in *Public Choice* across the three decades and ranked them according to which authors had the highest, minimum values. Gordon Tullock ranked first on this list with his least productive decade in *Public Choice* being 1993–2002 with 48 pages (compared to 67.0 and 62.0 in the other two decades). The top

Table 6. Ranking of *Public Choice* authors who contributed in all three decades

Rank	Author	Pages	Pages	Pages	Total pages
		1973-1982	1983-1992	1993-2002	1973-2002
1	Grofman, Bernard	25.0	80.0	90.5	195.5
2	Tullock, Gordon	67.0	62.0	48.0	177.0
3	Ordeshook, Peter C.	49.5	35.5	55.5	140.5
4	Congleton, Roger D.	12.0	61.5	58.5	132.0
5	Bernholz, Peter	55.0	17.0	52.0	124.0
6	Mitchell, William C.	16.0	69.0	34.0	119.0
7	Buchanan, James M.	41.5	27.0	48.0	116.5
8	Greene, Kenneth V.	22.5	44.0	41.5	108.0
9	Schofield, Norman	50.0	18.0	37.0	105.0
10	Rowley, Charles K.	4.2	62.5	36.8	103.5
11	Holcombe, Randall G.	14.0	49.5	38.7	102.2
12	Abrams, Burton A.	45.5	17.0	39.5	102.0
13	Adams, James D.	5.0	6.5	86.0	97.5
14	Rosenthal, Howard	44.5	29.8	23.2	97.5
15	Koford, Kenneth J.	58.0	21.0	16.0	95.0
16	Nitzan, Shmuel	17.3	55.3	19.0	91.7
17	Yandle, Bruce	22.0	56.0	13.0	91.0
18	Enelow, James M.	16.5	40.0	28.0	84.5
19	Marlow, Michael L.	8.0	63.0	13.5	84.5
20	Rubin, Paul H.	37.0	16.5	28.3	81.8
21	Schwartz, Thomas	31.0	29.0	19.0	79.0
22	Oppenheimer, Joe A.	33.5	34.0	9.5	77.0
23	Hinich, Melvin J.	39.5	16.0	21.3	76.8
24	Spindler, Zane A.	33.7	14.0	29.0	76.7
25	Paldam, Martin	19.0	26.0	31.5	76.5
26	Frey, Bruno S.	17.0	30.5	27.3	74.8
27	West, Edwin G.	33.5	20.0	21.0	74.5
28	Tollison, Robert D.	18.3	50.3	4.3	73.0
29	Wagner, Richard E.	17.0	45.5	10.0	72.5
30	Backhaus, Jurgen G.	32.0	9.0	30.0	71.0
31	Brennan, Geoffrey	34.0	5.5	31.5	71.0
32	Gartner, Manfred	28.0	8.5	33.0	69.5
33	Merrill, Samuel, III	20.0	19.0	29.5	68.5
34	Pasour, E.C., Jr.	21.5	31.0	16.0	68.5
35	Faith, Roger L.	23.5	14.0	24.5	62.0
36	Tideman, T. Nicolaus	28.0	22.0	11.0	61.0
37	Chappell, Henry W., Jr.	17.0	8.0	34.0	59.0

Table 6. Continued

Rank	Author	Pages	Pages	Pages	Total pages
		1973-1982	1983-1992	1993-2002	1973-2002
38	Frohlich, Norman	9.5	33.0	12.5	55.0
39	Feld, Scott L.	9.0	38.5	5.0	52.5
40	Mehay, Stephen L.	10.0	38.3	4.0	52.3
41	Winer, Stanley L.	8.0	25.0	15.5	48.5
42	Sandler, Todd	10.0	6.0	32.0	48.0
43	Toma, Eugenia F.	8.0	31.5	7.0	46.5
44	Toma, Mark	14.0	23.5	8.0	45.5
45	Crain, W. Mark	7.8	12.0	21.0	40.8
46	Breton, Albert	5.0	22.0	13.0	40.0
47	Kau, James B.	16.5	5.5	18.0	40.0
48	Kenny, Lawrence W.	9.5	6.5	24.0	40.0
49	Romer, Thomas	8.5	24.5	6.0	39.0
50	Schneider, Friedrich	19.0	16.0	2.3	37.3
51	Boyes, William J.	16.0	6.5	13.0	35.5
52	Orzechowski, William P.	4.0	23.0	8.0	35.0
53	Hunter, William J.	9.0	16.0	7.5	32.5
54	Pommerehne, Werner W.	5.0	17.5	9.5	32.0
55	DeLorme, Charles D., Jr.	4.0	20.3	6.3	30.7
56	Breyer, Friedrich	6.5	11.5	11.0	29.0
57	Isaac, R. Mark	3.0	19.0	6.7	28.7
58	Willett, Thomas D.	6.5	12.5	9.0	28.0
59	Gifford, Adam, Jr.	4.0	20.5	2.0	26.5
60	Havrilesky, Thomas	7.0	10.5	6.5	24.0
61	Brady, Gordon L.	7.0	8.5	5.0	20.5
62	Stroup, Richard L.	3.5	9.0	8.0	20.5

five in this ranking (not shown) were rounded out by Peter Ordeshook, James Buchanan, Bernard Grofman, and Howard Rosenthal.

The data presented in this section clearly show that there is a substantial rate of turnover among the top publishers in *Public Choice*. Most of the authors ranked in Durden and Marlin (1990) using 1973-1987 data (although they only present the top 25) are replaced by new authors in the most recent decade. In addition, this data allow us to see which few senior authors have been consistently present throughout the entire thirty-year period analyzed here.

While our method of ranking authors by page count that is adjusted for the number of authors is the most commonly used technique in the rankings literature, it is certainly not the only means by which authors could be ranked. For example, one might consider simply counting the number of articles (without regard to the page length). In addition, some might take issue with the process of deflating by the number of authors, and simply wish for a ranking that gave each author full credit for the article. In an effort to please readers who desire to see how these different techniques would affect the rankings, we have provided a table, Appendix Table 1, that shows how authors rank simply by the number of articles, without making any adjustment for coauthorship, essentially taking care of both of these alternatives in one ranking. This alternative method produces many ties in the rankings so we have only presented whatever was the closest cut off to a top 50 rank. The rankings mirror those already presented for the vast majority of authors, suggesting this adjustment doesn't make a substantial impact on the rankings. However, several notable authors, including Richard Cebula, Robert Tollison, and William Shughart, jump substantially in the rankings using this alternative methodology. Robert Tollison, for example, jumps from being tied for 50th over the entire period to being tied with James Buchanan for 4th place.

4. Rankings of institutions by pages published in *Public Choice*

In this section we turn our attention to ranking academic institutions by pages published in *Public Choice* using the institutional affiliation (at time of publication) data in EconLit.⁵ Since this data is only available for articles published since August 1989 (Volume 62, Number 2), we simply construct one ranking for this entire period (which we term 1990–2002), which roughly corresponds to the most recent decade data used in the previous sections. This should allow significant insights into the universities who are most influential in the field, as well as the ones who have a large concentration of scholars in the field. The top 50 institutions by pages published in *Public Choice* in 1990–2002 are shown in Table 7.

These top 50 institutions account for about 39% of the pages published during this period. George Mason University clearly has a substantial position at number one on the list. Over this period of just more than a decade, authors from George Mason University accounted for 621.3 pages in the journal, more than two times the number of pages accounted for by the second place institution (University of California – Irvine). In fact, George Mason University accounted for more pages in this period than numbers two and three

Table 7. Ranking of institutions by pages published in *Public Choice* (based on affiliation at time of publication)

Rank	University/institution	Total pages 1990–2002
1	George Mason University	621.3
2	University of California – Irvine	279.5
3	Indiana University	233.7
4	University of Amsterdam	231.5
5	Florida State University	225.8
6	Bar Ilan University	224.7
7	University of North Carolina	218.7
8	University of Groningen	214.3
9	University of Maryland	199.7
10	Washington University	194.3
11	University of St Gallen	185.0
12	University of Texas – Dallas	166.0
13	University of Mississippi	159.2
14	UCLA	151.8
15	University of Southern California	151.5
16	University of Zurich	142.5
17	University of Texas	141.8
18	University of Chicago	141.0
19	University of Mannheim	133.0
20	University of Oklahoma	129.5
21	University of Georgia	127.7
22	American University	125.7
23	Duke University	123.5
24	Emory University	122.7
25	University of Alabama	122.0
26	Texas A&M University	118.8
27	University of Munich	118.5
28	Princeton University	117.7
29	Auburn University	116.5
30	Michigan State University	113.5
31	Southern Methodist University	112.8
32	Harvard University	112.7
33	University of Pennsylvania	110.5
34	Appalachian State University	109.0
35	University of Arizona	106.3

Table 7. Continued

36	Montana State University	105.5
37	Carnegie Mellon University	105.5
38	University of California – Santa Barbara	105.0
39	Simon Fraser University	100.5
40	LA State University	98.8
41	West Virginia University	98.0
42	Humboldt University	97.2
43	University of Missouri	97.0
44	University of Maryland – Baltimore County	96.0
45	University of Delaware	95.0
46	Boise State University	89.5
47	Iowa State University	88.0
48	Tilburg University	87.7
49	University of South Carolina	87.3
50	Max Planck Institute, Germany	85.0

combined. It is clear that George Mason University is the current leading institution in terms of new academic contributions to the journal. While to some this may seem obvious, it is a substantial change from the results found by Durden and Marlin (1990) using publication data from 1973–1987. They conclude that “[t]he George Mason-Virginia Tech influence is strong with respect to *Public Choice*, but is not, in our opinion, dominant.” Our updated data seem to suggest that this influence is now clearly dominant.

5. Is the George Mason influence due to in-house editorship?

At this point, some readers may be wondering if the dominance of George Mason University in the rankings is simply due to favoritism toward in-house authors since the journal’s main editorial home is there. In order to check for this, we analyzed all of the similar data in EconLit for *The Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice* (also known as *Economia Delle Scelte Pubbliche*) editorially housed at The University of Rome “La Sapienza.” This is a European journal that also primarily specializes in papers in public choice. The journal is much newer than is *Public Choice*, and the data in EconLit only cover the period 1992 (Volume 10, Number 1) through 2000 (Volume 18, Number 2–3). Data similar to what has been presented so far is replicated

Table 8. *The Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice* comparison data 1992–2000

Overall data on Journal		
Number of articles in period		103
Average number of articles per year		11.4
Average number of pages per article		14.2
Number of distinct authors in period		106
Percent of articles coauthored		27.18%
Average number of authors per article		1.29
University/institution rankings		
Rank	University/institution	Total pages 1992–2000
1	George Mason University	153.5
2	Florida State University	73.0
3	University of Torino	53.0
4	University of Napoli	47.0
5	University of Catania	45.0
6	Texas A&M University	43.0
7	West Virginia University	41.0
8	University of Rome “Tor Vergata”	41.0
9	University of Maryland	40.0
10	University of Rome “La Sapienza”	34.0
11	University of Siena	33.5
12	University of Cassino	32.5
13	University of Rome III	28.5
14	Bank of Italy	28.0
15	University of Trento	26.0
16	University of Valencia	25.0
17	Ecole Nationale d’Administration	24.0
18	European University	23.0
19	California State University – Northridge	22.7
20	University of Illes Balears	22.0
Author’s rankings		
Rank	Author	Total pages 1992–2000
1	Congleton, Roger D.	52.0
2	Fausto, Domenicantonio	47.0
3	Creaco, Salvo	45.0
4	Pejovich, Svetozar	43.0
5	Sobel, Russell S.	39.0
6	Holcombe, Randall G.	34.0
7	Trupiano, Gaetana	32.0

Table 8. Continued

8	Baba, Stephen A.	31.0
9	Colombatto, Enrico	30.5
10	Benson, Bruce L.	28.0
11	Mittone, Luigi	26.0
12	Palda, Filip	24.0
13	Winiiecki, Jan	23.0
14	Villalonga, Joan Rossello	22.0
15	Zecchini, Salvatore	22.0
16	Wagner, Richard E.	21.5
17	Fontini, Fulvio	21.0
18	van Meerhaeghe, Marcel A.G.	21.0
19	Wagner, Gary A.	21.0
20	de Vanssay, Xavier	20.5

for this journal in Table 8. The rankings presented in Table 8 are much shorter not only because of the shorter sample period, but also because the journal only publishes an average of 11.4 articles per year. While some what of a side point, the overall data on *The Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice* in the table shows that it publishes significantly fewer articles per year, and that the rate of coauthorship is significantly less (about half) than in *Public Choice*.

Even in this journal, George Mason University's dominance is clear. Again, George Mason University's page count beats the second ranked school by a factor of at least two over the last decade, and again George Mason University accounts for more pages than both the second and third place universities combined. Additional data shows that, in fact, George Mason University's dominance is even greater in this journal than in *Public Choice*. Taking George Mason University's page count as a percent of all pages in the period, George Mason University accounts for 3.3% of all pages in *Public Choice*, but 10.5% of all pages in *The Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice*. In addition, a faculty member at George Mason University (Roger Congleton) is the leading publisher in that journal during the past decade. It is also interesting to note that many of the same authors ranked highly in the *Public Choice* rankings also rank highly in this journal (notably, Roger Congleton, Russell Sobel, Randall Holcombe, Bruce Benson, and Richard Wagner). It is also interesting to note that publications in this journal are somewhat more concentrated in the upper ranks than in *Public Choice*. While the top 50 institutions in *Public Choice* account for 38.6% of all pages, the top

20 institutions in *The Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice* account for 57.4% of all pages. Similarly, the top 25 authors in *Public Choice* account for 12.4% of all pages in the last decade while the top 20 authors in *The Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice* account for 41.3% of all pages in that journal.

While this data is much more limited than the data for *Public Choice*, it clearly shows that George Mason University's dominance in *Public Choice* is not simply due to it being the editorial home to the journal. In fact, George Mason University is somewhat under-represented in *Public Choice* when compared to *The Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice*. Over the past decade, the average article in *The Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice* is more likely to be authored by someone from George Mason University than is the average article in *Public Choice*.

6. Current rankings among economics departments in *Public Choice*

In this section we supplement the author data on publications in *Public Choice* from EconLit with data on the *current* institutional affiliation of the author (recall our earlier department rankings used data on the institutional affiliation at the time the paper was published taken from the article itself), the author's Ph.D. granting institution, and year of Ph.D. degree. This additional data is taken primarily from two sources, the *Prentice Hall Economics Faculty Guide* and the *American Economic Association Survey of Members*.⁶ While these sources provide a wealth of additional information, unfortunately they only provide data for faculty members in economics departments. Thus authors housed in political science departments are generally not included (unless they share a joint appointment in economics, or are a member of the American Economic Association). Despite its drawbacks, this additional data will allow us to examine the age distribution of authors in the journal (by the number of years since receiving their Ph.D.), the rank of current economics programs by the stock of pages in *Public Choice* held by their current faculty, and the rank of economics departments by the stock of pages published by their Ph.D. graduates. We begin our analysis by examining the distribution of all pages published during the 1973–2002 period by the Ph.D. year of the authors (for those 816 authors for which this data were available). Figure 1 shows the total pages published by each "Ph.D. class" from 1944 to 1999. In the figure, the upward trend begins in the mid-1960s, probably reflecting the impact of the 1962 publication of the *Calculus of Consent* and similar works on graduate students at the time. The most productive Ph.D. class was that of 1976, who have cumulatively published more than 1,000 pages in the journal over the past 30 years. One of the problems in examining

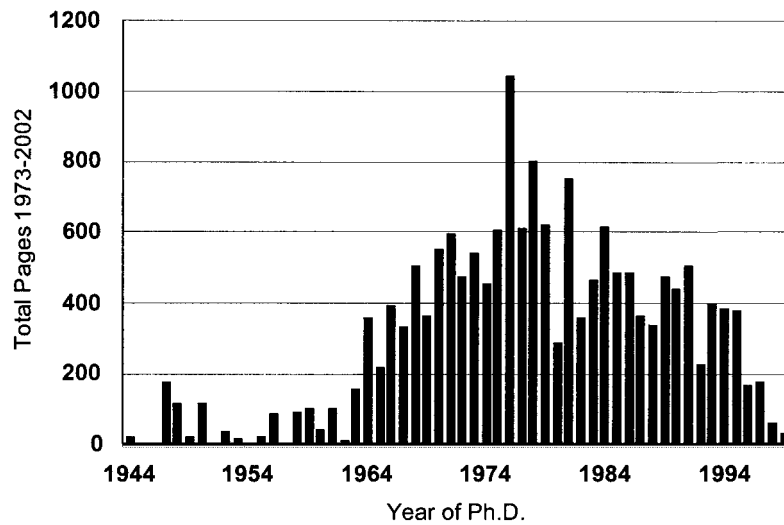


Figure 1. Distribution of *Public Choice* pages by Ph.D. year of author

Table 9. Percentage distribution of *Public Choice* pages by vintage of author

Ph.D. earned	Percent of pages published during		
	1973–1982	1983–1992	1993–2002
That decade	44.30%	20.44%	49.50%
Decade before	43.73%	49.41%	27.66%
Two or more decades before	11.98%	30.15%	22.84%

the data as is done in Figure 1 is that older authors are weighted more heavily simply because they have had more time to publish in the journal than those who received their Ph.D.s more recently. In an attempt to correct for this, Table 9 shows the percentage breakdown of pages published in each decade according to the vintage of the authors' Ph.D.

Table 9 shows that of all pages published during 1973–1982, 44.3% of those pages were authored by individuals receiving their Ph.D. during that same decade, 43.73% were authored by individuals receiving their Ph.D. during the decade immediately prior to that period, while the remaining 11.98% of pages were authored by individuals who received their Ph.D. two or more decades before. Of most interest is how this age distribution has changed through time. In particular, the percent of pages accounted for by those individuals receiving their Ph.D. within the decade fell substantially during the 1983–1992 period, but then rose again during the 1993–2002 period to a level

even higher than during the 1973–1982 period. This data suggest a substantial influx of new scholars into the field during the most recent decade, as well as the retirement (or productivity decline) of many older authors in the field.

Finally, we turn our attention to departmental rankings based on this additional data. Because we know each author's current affiliation, we can examine the total stock of pages held by the faculty across institutions. Table 10 shows the rankings of departments by the total pages published in *Public Choice* from 1973–2002 by their current faculty members. George Mason University again tops the list, as its current faculty have a stock of pages over this period almost three times as large as the second ranked university. Finishing out the top five are Indiana University, University of Delaware, Florida State University, and University of Maryland.

An alternative way to rank departments with this data is to examine the current output of their Ph.D. recipients. The second set of columns in Table 10 show this ranking using the pages published during 1993–2002. In this ranking, the University of Chicago tops the list. Authors earning their Ph.D.s from the University of Chicago accounted for more than twice as many pages during this most recent decade than did authors earning their Ph.D.s from George Mason University. Rounding out the top five on the list are University of Maryland, Virginia Tech, and UCLA.

Finally, the last set of columns in Table 10 adds the combined pages from both the current faculty's stock and the recent publications of its Ph.D. graduates. This ranking reflects the productivity of both the current faculty as well as their recent graduates. In this list, George Mason University is again in first place, followed by University of Chicago, University of Maryland, Indiana University, and Florida State University.

The data in this section again confirms George Mason University's dominance in the field, although it points to several other institutions that also remain very productive in the field. The most encouraging news from the analysis of this section is the rather large percentage of pages accounted for during the past decade by recent Ph.D. recipients. We believe this is a good sign of ongoing scholarship in *Public Choice* among younger authors in the profession. In addition, the data in this section should be of substantial help in pointing students toward those graduate programs which offer the best training in the field.

7. Conclusion

This paper has presented the first update of authorship rankings in *Public Choice* in more than 15 years. Our analysis suggests that there have been some substantial changes in *Public Choice* over the past 30 years. Not only

Table 10. Ranking of institutions by pages published in *Public Choice* (based on current affiliation and Ph.D. output)

Rank	University/institution	Faculty		Ph.D.	Faculty + Ph.D. pages
		Total pages 1973–2002	University/institution		
1	George Mason University	1012.3	University of Chicago	611.2	George Mason University
2	Indiana U – Bloomington	354.0	George Mason University	275.2	University of Chicago
3	University of Delaware	256.0	University of Maryland	273.0	University of Maryland
4	Florida State	239.8	Virginia Tech	248.3	Indiana U -Bloomington
5	University of Maryland	226.5	UCLA	203.5	Florida State
6	University of Georgia	225.7	Harvard	187.7	Virginia Tech
7	Emory	223.0	Stanford	183.5	Washington U
8	Washington U	209.0	Princeton	183.0	UCLA
9	University of Texas – Dallas	197.0	Calif. Inst. of Tech.	175.7	Calif. Inst. of Tech.
10	University of St Gallen, Switzerland	190.0	Texas A&M	174.5	Stanford
11	University of Pennsylvania	189.7	Johns Hopkins	165.5	Harvard
12	Carnegie Mellon	189.5	Florida State	142.3	University of Pennsylvania
13	University of Southern Calif	184.0	University of Virginia	141.2	Duke
14	UC – Irvine	183.0	Washington U	140.7	University of Delaware
15	Duke	180.8	University of Wisconsin	136.8	University of Georgia
16	Bar-Ilan U	173.2	University of Michigan	136.0	Auburn
17	University of Oklahoma	165.3	MIT	129.5	University of Wisconsin
18	University of Florida	162.5	Rutgers	119.0	Columbia
19	New York U	156.5	Auburn	116.3	Princeton
20	Columbia	154.0	Michigan State	111.3	Carnegie Mellon
21	Univ. of Maryland – Baltimore Co.	151.0	Purdue	109.7	Emory
22	Clemson	150.0	University of Washington	106.0	University of Michigan
23	Carleton U	149.0	Leydon U	98.5	University of Southern Calif
24	SUNY – Binghamton	146.5	UC – Santa Barbara	95.5	University of St Gallen, Switzerland
25	American University	142.3	Yale	91.0	University of Texas – Dallas

Table 10. Continued

Rank	University/institution	Faculty		Ph.D.		Faculty + Ph.D. pages
		Total pages 1973–2002	University/institution	Total pages 1993–2002	University/institution	
26	University of Quebec, Canada	142.0	University of Konstanz	88.8	UC – Berkeley	191.8
27	University of Amsterdam	140.2	Erasmus U, Rotterdam	88.0	Texas A&M	191.0
28	Auburn	134.2	Duke	87.0	University of Florida	189.0
29	UCLA	130.3	University of Oslo	83.8	Clemson	188.0
30	Ball State	127.2	Columbia	81.3	UC – Irvine	186.0
31	Montana State	120.5	UC – Davis	81.0	Johns Hopkins	185.5
32	UC – Berkeley	119.0	University of Pennsylvania	79.5	UC – Santa Barbara	184.5
33	Calif. Inst. of Tech.	118.8	University of NC – Chapel Hill	76.3	SUNY - Binghamton	183.5
34	Arizona State	117.5	Northwestern	75.7	Erasmus U, Rotterdam	178.3
35	University of Mississippi	117.3	UC – Berkeley	72.7	MIT	173.5
36	West Virginia University	116.5	University of Rochester	66.0	Bar-Ilan U	173.2
37	University of Fribourg	116.0	University of Colorado – Boulder	61.5	Rutgers	170.8
38	University of Vienna, Austria	115.0	Claremont	59.3	West Virginia University	169.5
39	University of Illinois	114.5	U Bochum	59.0	University of Colorado – Boulder	168.5
40	University of Wisconsin	112.0	University of Wyoming	58.3	New York U	168.0
41	Boise State	111.5	Ohio State	56.0	University of Oklahoma	165.3
42	Tufts	111.5	West Virginia University	53.0	University of Virginia	164.7
43	NC State	111.3	University of Munich	50.5	University of Illinois	162.7
44	University of Arizona	108.2	University of Goettingen	50.0	American University	162.3
45	Georgia Tech	108.0	London School of Economics	49.7	Carleton U	158.5
46	University of Colorado – Boulder	107.0	University of Illinois	48.2	Northwestern	154.3
47	Cal State – Northridge	106.8	Brown	44.0	Claremont	153.3
48	Humboldt U, Berlin	104.0	Indiana U – Bloomington	43.8	University of Konstanz	152.3
49	Stanford	103.2	University of Freiburg	43.0	Univ. of Maryland – Baltimore Co.	151.0
50	Virginia Tech	103.0	University of Minnesota	41.0	Michigan State	149.3

does the journal now publish significantly more articles (by a wider variety of authors as well), but these articles are also likely to be longer and also are more likely to be coauthored than they were 30 years ago. In addition, our analysis clearly shows that there is a substantial rate of turnover among the top publishers in *Public Choice*, particularly in terms of the age distribution of authors moving more toward a diverse set of younger authors during the past decade. Finally, we find that George Mason University is clearly the leading institution making a large share of the new contributions in the journal, and that this dominance is not simply due to the in-house editorship of the journal.

Notes

1. EconLit is available on-line for member institutions at <http://www.econlit.org/>. The data used here covers Volume 14 (Spring 1973) through Volume 114, Numbers 3/4 (December 2002).
2. For coauthored articles, the pages are divided equally among the authors.
3. However, 13 authors made the top 50 list in two of the three decades.
4. As an interesting note, only one of the top five new authors from 1983–1992 (Gerald Scully) went on to publish more pages in the following decade (1993–2002) than in the “entry” decade (1983–1992).
5. In cases where multiple affiliations are listed for an author, the first affiliation is taken in EconLit.
6. The 1997 AEA survey was used as the primary source but the Prentice Hall guide was more recent (2000/2001) so in cases where the current affiliation differed between the sources, this source was used.

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Appendix

Table A 1. Author rankings by article count (not divided by number of authors)

Rank	Author	# Articles 1973– 2002	Rank	Author	# Articles 1993– 2002
1	Grofman, Bernard	32	1	Grofman, Bernard	12
2	Tullock, Gordon	31	2	Munger, Michael C.	10
3	Cebula, Richard J.	27	3	Shughart, William F., II	9
4	Buchanan, James M.	18		Tullock, Gordon	9
	Tollison, Robert D.	18	5	Sobel, Russell S.	8
6	Munger, Michael C.	16		de Haan, Jakob	8
	Shughart, William F., II	16		Scully, Gerald W.	8
8	Holcombe, Randall G.	15	8	Mixon, Franklin G., Jr.	7
	Lott, John R., Jr.	15		Palda, Filip	7
	Nitzan, Shmuel	15		Rowley, Charles K.	7
	Rubin, Paul H.	15	11	Abrams, Burton A.	6
12	Abrams, Burton A.	14		Coates, Dennis	6
	Greene, Kenneth V.	14		Sutter, Daniel	6
	Rowley, Charles K.	14		Swank, Otto H.	6
	Scully, Gerald W.	14		van Winden, Frans	6
16	Marlow, Michael L.	13	16	Amegashie, J. Atsu	5
17	Congleton, Roger D.	12		Buchanan, James M.	5
	Laband, David N.	12		Glazer, Amihai	5
	Lee, Dwight R.	12		Greene, Kenneth V.	5
	Yandle, Bruce	12		Holcombe, Randall G.	5
21	Feld, Scott L.	11		Holler, Manfred J.	5
	Fishburn, Peter C.	11		Laband, David N.	5
	Ordeshook, Peter C.	11		Lott, John R., Jr.	5
	van Winden, Frans	11		Matsusaka, John G.	5
	West, Edwin G.	11		Mueller, Dennis C.	5
26	Enelow, James M.	10		Navarra, Pietro	5
	Glazer, Amihai	10		Nitzan, Shmuel	5
	Hinich, Melvin J.	10		Pecorino, Paul	5
	Katz, Eliakim	10			
	McKenzie, Richard B.	10			
31	Bernholz, Peter	9			
	Frey, Bruno S.	9			
	Mehay, Stephen L.	9			
	Mitchell, William C.	9			
	Tideman, T. Nicolaus	9			
36	Brams, Steven J.	8			
	Sobel, Russell S.	8			
	Coughlin, Peter J.	8			
	Crain, W. Mark	8			
	de Haan, Jakob	8			
	Kau, James B.	8			
	Pasour, E. C., Jr.	8			