

## Transportation and the Emergence of Cities

**Faculty Member:** [Costas Arkolakis](#)

### Proposal Description:

This project led by Professor Costas Arkolakis ([costas.arkolakis@yale.edu](mailto:costas.arkolakis@yale.edu)) aims to understand and model the creation and development of historical cities around the globe. We will utilize a spatial model to understand the driving forces behind the formation of a centralized large city versus multiple smaller cities, trade between cities, and the welfare implications of changes to transportation infrastructure or technology. We seek RAs to help find and organize data on transportation costs and wages from historical sources. We are particularly interested in trade costs in medieval or ancient periods. Students with some knowledge of historic or modern Romance languages, Ancient Greek, Arabic, or Japanese are welcome to apply. Also students with interests or background on history may be a particular fit for the project.

### Requisite Skills and Qualifications:

Students with some knowledge of historic or modern Romance languages, Ancient Greek, Arabic, or Japanese are welcome to apply. Also students with interests or background on history may be a particular fit for the project. Knowledge of stata is helpful but not required.

**Award:** Max Sahlins

Madison Smith

Moises Escobar

**Tobin Application Link:** [Tobin Application](#)

**Project Type:** Tobin RA

**Project Year:** 2018

**Term:** Fall 2018

**Source URL:** <https://economics.yale.edu/undergraduate/tobin-ra/fall-2018/transportation-and-emergence-cities>