

SASHA PETROV

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|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| Placement Directors: | Manasi Deshpande | mdeshpande@uchicago.edu | (773) 702-8260 |
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Office Contact Information

University of Chicago, Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics
Saieh Hall for Economics
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Education

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|---|-----------|
| University of Chicago , Ph.D. in Economics | 2019–2025 |
| New Economic School , M.A. in Economics | 2017–2019 |
| Lomonosov Moscow State University , Master’s degree in Economics | 2015–2017 |
| Lomonosov Moscow State University , Bachelor in Economics | 2011–2015 |

References

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| Professor James Robinson (Co-Chair) University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy jamesrobinson@uchicago.edu (773) 702-6364 | Professor Jonathan I. Dingel (Co-Chair) University of Chicago Booth School of Business jid2106columbia@uchicago.edu (773) 834-5458 |
| Professor Stéphane Bonhomme University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics stephane@uchicago.edu (773) 834-6831 | Professor Esteban Rossi-Hansberg University of Chicago Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics rossihansberg@uchicago.edu (650) 714-2093 |

Research and Teaching Fields

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| Primary: | International Trade, Political Economy |
| Secondary: | Computational Economics, Development Economics |

Job Market Paper

A Framework for Evaluating Border Configurations: Applications to Africa

Abstract: National border configurations significantly affect welfare: they govern trading opportunities and eligibility for public services. Empirical evidence suggests that postcolonial border design has harmed Africa’s long-term development through these two channels. This paper offers a spatial model of borders that evaluates welfare consequences through trade and the provision of public goods. This model features four key forces: the benefits of economic and fiscal integration weighed against the costs of preference heterogeneity and span of control. To evaluate the inefficiencies of border configurations, I set up an optimal borders problem to balance the trade-off between these forces and develop a decomposition method to solve it. I calibrate the parameters of the spatial model and use the proposed decomposition method

to solve the optimal borders problem in the African context. With optimal borders, Africa could gain at least 28% in welfare. The primary shortcoming of the current borders is their geographic position, not the number of countries.

Work in Progress

Design of Jurisdictional Borders and Trade Costs: The Case of Russian Imperial Colonies

Awards, Scholarships, and Grants

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| The Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund (\$5,800) | 2024 |
| Urban Doctoral Fellow at Mansueto Institute of the University of Chicago | 2023–2024 |
| University of Chicago Data Acquisition Grant (\$3,000) | 2023 |
| Financial group “Future” full tuition grant and scholarship | 2018–2019 |
| NES Alumni scholarship | 2018 |

Teaching Experience

University of Chicago

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|---|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Empirical Analysis II (graduate) | TA for Prof. Bonhomme | Winter 2024 |
| Introduction to International Trade (undergrad) | TA for Jordan Rosenthal-Kay | Fall 2023 |
| Empirical Analysis II (graduate) | TA for Prof. Uhlig | Winter 2023 |
| Econometrics (undergrad) | TA for Sidharth Sah | Fall 2022 |
| Computational Modeling for Economics (graduate) | TA for Christopher Dobronyi | Spring 2022 |

New Economic School

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| Econometrics I (MA) | TA for Prof. Stylin | Winter 2019 |
| Mathematics for Economics I (MA) | TA for Prof. Evren | Fall 2018 |

Research Experience and Other Employment

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| Research Assistant for Shlomo Weber and Paul Castañeda Dower, New Economic School | 2018–2019 |
| Research Assistant for Shlomo Weber, Lomonosov Moscow State University | 2017 |

Professional Experience

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| Graduate student representative | 2022–2024 |
| Peer mentor | 2022–2023 |
| Conferences (* scheduled) | <i>Urban Economics Association European Meeting 2025, 2025 World Congress of the Econometric Society*, 29th Annual Conference of the Society for Institutional and Organizational Economics 2025*</i> |

Additional Information

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| Citizenship | Russia |
| Programming Skills | Julia, R, Python, L ^A T _E X, Stata, MATLAB, bash, git, AMPL, GAMS |
| Languages | Russian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), Italian (intermediate), German (basic), French (basic) |

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