

# Quamrul H. Ashraf

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## Current and Past Academic Positions

Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure)  
Williams College, Williamstown, MA ..... Jul. 2015 –

Associate Editor  
*Journal of Economic Growth* ..... Apr. 2018 –  
*Journal of Population Economics* ..... Jan. 2019 –

Assistant Professor of Economics  
Williams College, Williamstown, MA ..... Jul. 2009 – Jun. 2015

Visiting Assistant Professor of Public Policy  
Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA ..... Aug. 2012 – Jun. 2013

Visiting Scholar  
Center for International Development, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA .... Aug. 2012 – Jun. 2013

## Education

Ph.D., Economics, Brown University, Providence, RI ..... May 2009  
Thesis Title: “Essays on Deep Determinants of Comparative Economic Development”  
Thesis Committee: Oded Galor (primary), Peter Howitt, David N. Weil

M.A., Economics, Brown University, Providence, RI ..... May 2004

B.A. (summa cum laude), Economics and Computer Science, Trinity College, Hartford, CT ..... May 1999

## Research and Teaching Fields

Economic Growth and Development, Political Economy, Macroeconomics, Economic Demography, Agent-Based Computational Economics

## Publications

“Diversity and Conflict” (joint with Eren Arbatli, Oded Galor, and Marc Klemp), *Econometrica*, forthcoming.

“The Macrogenoeconomics of Comparative Development” (joint with Oded Galor), *Journal of Economic Literature*, September 2018, 56(3), pp. 1119–1155.

“Banks, Market Organization, and Macroeconomic Performance: An Agent-Based Computational Analysis” (joint with Boris Gershman and Peter Howitt), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, March 2017, 135, pp. 143–180.

“How Inflation Affects Macroeconomic Performance: An Agent-Based Computational Investigation” (joint with Boris Gershman and Peter Howitt), *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, March 2016, 20(S2), pp. 558–581.

“Climatic Fluctuations and the Diffusion of Agriculture” (joint with Stelios Michalopoulos), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, July 2015, 97(3), pp. 589–609.

“Genetic Diversity and the Origins of Cultural Fragmentation” (joint with Oded Galor), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, May 2013, 103(3), pp. 528–533.

“The Effect of Fertility Reduction on Economic Growth” (joint with David N. Weil and Joshua Wilde), *Population and Development Review*, March 2013, 39(1), pp. 97–130.

“The ‘Out of Africa’ Hypothesis, Human Genetic Diversity, and Comparative Economic Development” (joint with Oded Galor), *American Economic Review*, February 2013, 103(1), pp. 1–46. [lead article]

- “[Macroeconomics in a Self-Organizing Economy](#)” (joint with Boris Gershman and Peter Howitt), in Jean-Luc Gaffard and Mauro Napoletano (eds.), *Agent-Based Models and Economic Policy, Revue de l'OFCE: Debates and policies*, October 2012, 124, pp. 43–65.
- “[Dynamics and Stagnation in the Malthusian Epoch](#)” (joint with Oded Galor), *American Economic Review*, August 2011, 101(5), pp. 2003–2041.
- “[Isolation and Development](#)” (joint with Oded Galor and Ömer Özak), *Journal of the European Economic Association*, April/May 2010, 8(2-3), pp. 401–412.
- “[When Does Improving Health Raise GDP?](#)” (joint with Ashley Lester and David N. Weil), in Daron Acemoglu, Kenneth Rogoff, and Michael Woodford (eds.), *NBER Macroeconomics Annual 2008, Vol. 23*, April 2009, pp. 157–204, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

### **Current Working Papers**

- “[Capital-Skill Complementarity and the Emergence of Labor Emancipation](#)” (joint with Francesco Cinnirella, Oded Galor, Boris Gershman, and Erik Hornung), March 2018, Williams College, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2017-03. *Under review*.
- “[Heterogeneity and Productivity](#)” (joint with Oded Galor and Marc Klemp), April 2015, Brown University, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2015-4.
- “[The ‘Out of Africa’ Hypothesis of Comparative Development Reflected by Nighttime Light Intensity](#)” (joint with Oded Galor and Marc Klemp), April 2014, Brown University, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2014-4.
- “[Cultural Diversity, Geographical Isolation, and the Origin of the Wealth of Nations](#)” (joint with Oded Galor), December 2011, NBER Working Paper 17640.

### **Selected Works in Progress**

- “[Economic Growth, 4th Edition](#)” (joint with David N. Weil), textbook project (under contract with Routledge, Taylor & Francis Group). *In progress*.
- “[Population Diversity and Differential Paths of Long-Run Development since the Neolithic Revolution](#)” (joint with Oded Galor and Marc Klemp). *In progress*.
- “[Industrialization and Slavery in the Antebellum U.S. South](#)” (joint with Boris Gershman). *In progress*.
- “[On the Deep-Rooted Origins of Heterogeneity in Political Preferences](#)” (joint with Oded Galor and Marc Klemp). *In progress*.
- “[Divided by Diversity: Genetic Diversity and the Roots of Mistrust in Human Societies](#)” (joint with Oded Galor and Marc Klemp). *In progress*.
- “[Population Diversity, Colonial Migrations, and the ‘Reversal of Fortune’ in Long-Run Development](#)” (joint with Gregory Casey and Oded Galor). *In progress*.

### **Commentary and Other Writings**

- “[Interpersonal Diversity and Socioeconomic Disparities Across Populations: A Reply to Rosenberg and Kang](#)” (joint with Oded Galor and Marc Klemp), December 2018, Brown University, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2018-14.
- “[The ‘Out of Africa’ Hypothesis of Comparative Economic Development: Common Misconceptions](#)” (joint with Oded Galor and Marc Klemp), November 2018, Brown University, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2018-13.
- “[Deep Roots of Comparative Development](#)” (joint with Oded Galor), in Stelios Michalopoulos and Elias Papaioannou (eds.), *The Long Economic and Political Shadow of History, Volume 1. A Global View*, January 2017, pp. 19–50, London: CEPR Press.
- “[The ‘Out of Africa’ Hypothesis, Human Genetic Diversity, and Comparative Economic Development: A Response to Commonly Raised Criticisms](#)” (joint with Oded Galor), June 2014, accessible online at <http://econ.williams.edu/profile/qa1/>.

["Response to Comments made in a Letter by Guedes et al. on "The 'Out of Africa' Hypothesis, Human Genetic Diversity, and Comparative Economic Development""](#) (joint with Oded Galor), October 2012, accessible online at <http://econ.williams.edu/profile/qha1/>.

["Reply to Comments by Alan Kirman on 'Macroeconomics in a Self-Organizing Economy'"](#) (joint with Boris Gershman and Peter Howitt), in Jean-Luc Gaffard and Mauro Napoletano (eds.), *Agent-Based Models and Economic Policy, Revue de l'OFCE: Debates and policies*, October 2012, 124, pp. 13a–14a.

["The 'Out of Africa' Hypothesis, Human Genetic Diversity, and Comparative Economic Development"](#) (joint with Oded Galor), *VoxEU.org*, August 1, 2011.

["Cultural Assimilation, Cultural Diffusion, and the Origin of the Wealth of Nations"](#) (joint with Oded Galor), *VoxEU.org*, September 13, 2007.

### **Older Working Papers**

["The Nature of Conflict"](#) (joint with Eren Arbatli and Oded Galor), August 2015, Williams College, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2015-08. *Superseded by "Diversity and Conflict."*

["The Nature of Civil Conflict"](#) (joint with Eren Arbatli and Oded Galor), September 2013, Brown University, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2013-15. *Superseded by "The Nature of Conflict."*

["The Climatic Origins of the Neolithic Revolution: Theory and Evidence"](#) (joint with Stelios Michalopoulos), February 2011, Williams College, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2010-02. *Superseded by "Climatic Fluctuations and the Diffusion of Agriculture."*

["Human Genetic Diversity and Comparative Economic Development"](#) (joint with Oded Galor), June 2008, Brown University, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2008-3. *Superseded by "The 'Out of Africa' Hypothesis, Human Genetic Diversity, and Comparative Economic Development."*

["Malthusian Population Dynamics: Theory and Evidence"](#) (joint with Oded Galor), March 2008, Brown University, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2008-6. *Superseded by "Dynamics and Stagnation in the Malthusian Epoch."*

["Cultural Assimilation, Cultural Diffusion, and the Origin of the Wealth of Nations"](#) (joint with Oded Galor), April 2007, Brown University, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2007-3. *Superseded by "Cultural Diversity, Geographical Isolation, and the Origin of the Wealth of Nations."*

### **Presentations and Discussions**

Departmental Seminar, Boston College ..... Jan. 2009; Mar. 2019 (scheduled)

Departmental Seminar, Lehigh University ..... Mar. 2019 (scheduled)

Income Distribution and Macroeconomics Group Meeting, NBER ..... Jul. 2008; Jul. 2013; Jul. 2017

Political Economy Group Meeting, NBER ..... Nov. 2011; Jul. 2017

Conference, "Deep Determinants of Intl. Comp. Development," Brown University ... May 2013; May 2017

Departmental Seminar, Williams College ..... Jan. 2009; Mar. 2010; Nov. 2016

Workshop, "Economic History and Development," George Mason University ..... Aug. 2016

Conference, "The Long Shadow of History," LMU Munich ..... Nov. 2013; Nov. 2015

International Trade and Development Workshop, George Washington University ..... Oct. 2014

Public Choice Seminar Series, George Mason University ..... Oct. 2013

Annual Meeting, American Economic Association ..... Jan. 2010; Jan. 2012; Jan. 2013

Conference, "The Long-Term Persistence of Economic Outcomes," UCLA ..... May 2012

Departmental Seminar, Clark University ..... Mar. 2012

Culture and Institutions Group Meeting, NBER ..... Nov. 2010

Departmental Seminar, Amherst College ..... Apr. 2010

Economic History and Development Workshop, UMass Amherst ..... Apr. 2010

Departmental Seminar, GEM Group, UCLA Anderson ..... Feb. 2009

Workshop in Macroeconomics, Brown University ..... Oct. 2008  
Annual Meeting, Society for Economic Dynamics ..... Jul. 2008  
Macro Lunch Workshop, Brown University ..... Oct. 2006; Dec. 2006; Jun. 2008

### **Professional Service**

Peer reviewer for *American Economic Review* [8×], *Quarterly Journal of Economics* [6×], *Econometrica* [8×], *Review of Economic Studies* [5×], *American Economic Review: Insights*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Economic Growth* [23×], *Review of Economics and Statistics* [9×], *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* [5×], *Economic Journal* [12×], *Journal of Development Economics* [7×], *Journal of Economic Theory*, *European Economic Review* [2×], *Journal of the European Economic Association* [9×], *Journal of Applied Econometrics* [3×], *Review of Economic Dynamics*, *International Economic Review* [2×], *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, *Economics Letters* [2×], *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* [4×], *Economic Inquiry*, *B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*, *Journal of Comparative Economics* [2×], *Empirical Economics*, *Macroeconomic Dynamics* [6×], *Journal of African Economies*, *Southern Economic Journal* [2×], *Economics and Human Biology*, and *Bulletin of Economic Research* [2×]

External reviewer for *National Science Foundation*, *Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada*, *U.S.-Israel Binational Science Foundation*, and *Research Grants Council of Hong Kong*

Organizer, Conference on “Historical Persistence in Comparative Development,” Center for Development Economics, Williams College, Oct. 17–18, 2014.

Member of the *American Economic Association* and the *Econometric Society*

### **Teaching Experience**

*Courses Taught at Williams College:*

Principles of Macroeconomics ..... Since Fall 2009 (8 semesters)  
Long-Run Perspectives on Economic Growth ..... Since Spring 2010 (9 semesters)  
Economic Growth and Development (Master’s level) ..... Since Fall 2009 (8 semesters)  
Economics of Institutions ..... Since Spring 2016 (2 semesters)  
Growth Diagnostics (Master’s level) ..... Since January 2016 (4 January terms)

*Courses Taught at Harvard Kennedy School:*

Why Are So Many Countries Poor, Volatile, and Unequal? ..... Spring 2013  
Development Policy Strategy ..... Spring 2013

*Courses Taught as Graduate TA at Brown University:*

Intermediate Macroeconomics ..... Fall 2005  
Financial Markets ..... Spring 2005  
Corporate Finance ..... Fall 2004  
Growth and Development ..... Summer 2004

*Courses Taught as Undergraduate TA at Trinity College:*

Basic Econometrics ..... Fall 1998  
Macroeconomics ..... Fall 1997

*Thesis and Independent Study Advising at Williams College:*

Anand Butler (thesis) ..... AY 2018 – 2019  
Robert Dulin (thesis) ..... AY 2018 – 2019  
Jad Hamdan (thesis) ..... AY 2018 – 2019  
Ziqi Lu (thesis and independent study) ..... AY 2017 – 2018  
John Damstra (thesis) ..... AY 2015 – 2016  
Jeffrey Wang (thesis and independent study) ..... Fall 2014; AY 2015 – 2016  
Shara Singh (independent study) ..... Spring 2012  
Thelonious Jensen (thesis) ..... AY 2010 – 2011  
Dean Weesner (thesis) ..... Spring 2011

### **Departmental Service**

Department Technology Coordinator, Williams College ..... Fall 2014 – Spring 2016; AY 2018 – 2019

Department Recruiting Committee, Williams College ..... Fall 2016 – Spring 2018  
CDE Curriculum Self-Study Committee, Williams College ..... Spring, Fall 2016  
Economics Undergraduate Thesis Second Reader, Williams College ..... Spring 2010, 2014, 2018, 2019  
Economics Graduate School / Post-Graduate Advisor, Williams College ..... Fall 2010 – Spring 2012  
Department Brown Bag Lunch Workshop Coordinator, Williams College ..... AY 2010 – 2011  
Macro Lunch Workshop Organizer, Brown University ..... AY 2006 – 2007

### **Institutional Service**

Committee on Diversity and Community, Williams College ..... Since Fall 2017 (current faculty co-chair)  
Oakley Fellow Selection Committee, Oakley Center, Williams College ..... Spring 2018  
Ruchman Fellow Selection Committee, Oakley Center, Williams College ..... Spring 2017  
Honor and Discipline Committee, Williams College ..... Spring 2014 – Spring 2016  
Faculty Program Director, Wood Neighborhood, Williams College ..... AY 2011 – 2012

### **Academic Grants, Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships**

National Science Foundation, Award No. SES 1338738 ..... Sep. 2013 – Aug. 2015  
Class of 1957 Summer Research Assistant Program Grant, Williams College ..... Summer 2010 – 2018  
Oakley Center Fellows Program Research Grant, Williams College ..... AY 2016 – 2017  
Sabbatical Salary Grant, Williams College ..... Spring 2017  
Hellman Fellows Program Research Grant, Williams College ..... AY 2012 – 2013  
Henry George Summer Research Grant, Williams College ..... Summer 2012  
Economics Merit Dissertation Fellowship, Brown University ..... AY 2007 – 2008  
Summer Research Fellowship, Brown University ..... Summer 2005, 2006  
University Fellowship, Brown University ..... AY 2003 – 2004  
Economics Department Fellowship, Brown University ..... AY 2003 – 2004  
Honors in General Scholarship, Commencement, Trinity College ..... May 1999  
Departmental Honors (Economics and Computer Science), Commencement, Trinity College ..... May 1999  
Class of '99 President's Fellow (Computer Science), Trinity College ..... 1998 – 1999  
Class of '99 Thomas Holland Scholar, Trinity College ..... 1997 – 1998  
Faculty Honors List, Trinity College ..... 1996 – 1999  
Phi Beta Kappa ..... Initiated in 1999  
Pi Gamma Mu ..... Initiated in 1998

### **Related Work Experience**

#### *Academic:*

Short-Term Consultant, The World Bank, Washington, DC ..... May 2013  
Research Assistant to Peter Howitt, Brown University ..... Summer 2005; Spring 2006 – Spring 2007  
Research Assistant to David N. Weil, Brown University ..... Summer 2006  
Research Assistant to Ralph Walde, Trinity College ..... Summer 1997

#### *Non-academic:*

Software Engineer, Research and Development Group, Bluestreak Inc., RI ..... Dec. 2000 – Aug. 2003  
Financial Analyst, Equity Derivatives and Risk Technology, Merrill Lynch, NY ..... Aug. 1999 – Nov. 2000  
Finance Intern, Prudential Securities, Hartford, CT ..... Sep. 1998 – Jun. 1999  
IT Consultant, Information Technology Services Division, United Nations, NY ..... Jun. 1998 – Aug. 1998

### **Personal**

Nationality: Bangladeshi (U.S. Permanent Resident since June 2012)  
D.O.B.: June 23, 1976  
Family status: Married to Elizaveta A. Koryushkina, two children (Zamir Q. Ashraf & Zarina Q. Ashraf)  
Languages: Bilingual in English and Bengali, knowledge of Hindi and Arabic