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Current and Past Positions

Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure)
Williams College, Williamstown, MA Jul. 2015 –
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, Macroeconomics, Economic Demography, Agent-Based Computational Economics

Publications

“The Macrogenoeconomics of Comparative Development” (joint with Oded Galor), *Journal of Economic Literature*, forthcoming.
“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 2017, Williams College, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2017-03.

“The Nature of Conflict” (joint with Eren Arbatli and Oded Galor), August 2015, Williams College, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2015-08. *Revision requested by Econometrica*.

“Heterogeneity and Productivity” (joint with Oded Galor and Marc Klemp), April 2015, Brown University, Department of Economics, Working Paper 2015-4. *Under revision*.

“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

“Industrialization and Slavery in the Antebellum U.S. South” (joint with Boris Gershman). *In progress*.

“The Neolithic Revolution and the Long-Run Dynamics of the World Productivity Distribution” (joint with Oded Galor). *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

“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/qha1/>.

“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 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, 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

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

Conference, “Deep Determinants of Intl. Comp. Development,” Brown University May 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

Political Economy Group Meeting, NBER Nov. 2011

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

Departmental Seminar, Boston College Jan. 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* [8x], *Quarterly Journal of Economics* [4x], *Econometrica* [7x], *Review of Economic Studies* [5x], *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Economic Growth* [13x], *Review of Economics and Statistics* [7x], *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* [5x], *Economic Journal* [10x], *Journal of Development Economics* [7x], *Journal of the European Economic Association* [8x], *Review of Economic Dynamics*, *European Economic Review* [2x], *Journal of Economic Theory*, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Economics Letters* [2x], *International Economic Review* [2x], *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* [4x], *B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*, *Macroeconomic Dynamics* [6x], *Economic Inquiry*, *Journal of Comparative Economics* [2x], *Empirical Economics*, *Southern Economic Journal* [2x], *Journal of African Economies*, *Economics and Human Biology*, and *Bulletin of Economic Research* [2x]

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 *American Economic Association* and *Econometric Society*

Teaching Experience

Courses Taught at Williams College:

Principles of Macroeconomics AY 2009 – 2010; Spring 2011, 2012, 2014, 2015, 2016
Long-Run Perspectives on Economic Growth Spring, Fall 2010; AY 2011 – 2012; Fall 2014, 2015, 2016
Economic Growth and Development (Master’s level) Fall 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, 2015, 2016
Economics of Institutions Spring 2016
Growth Diagnostics (Master’s level) Winter 2016, 2017

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:

John Damstra (thesis) AY 2015 – 2016
Jeffrey Wang (thesis and independent study) AY 2015 – 2016, Fall 2014
Shara Singh (independent study) Spring 2012
Thelonious Jensen (thesis) AY 2010 – 2011
Dean Weesner (thesis) Spring 2011

Departmental Service

Department Hiring Committee, Williams College Fall 2016, Winter 2017
CDE Curriculum Self-Study Committee, Williams College Spring, Fall 2016
Department Technology Coordinator, Williams College Fall 2014 – Spring 2016
Economics Undergraduate Thesis Second Reader, Williams College Spring 2010, 2014
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

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
Oakley Center Fellows Program Research Grant, Williams College AY 2016 – 2017
Sabbatical Salary Grant, Williams College Spring 2017
Class of 1957 Summer Research Assistant Program Grant, Williams College Summer 2010 – 2016
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