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Current and Past Academic Positions

Professor of Economics

Williams College, Williamstown, MA Jul. 2019 –

Associate Editor

Journal of Economic Growth Apr. 2018 –

Journal of Population Economics Jan. 2019 –

Associate Professor of Economics

Williams College, Williamstown, MA Jul. 2015 – Jun. 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

“[The Ancient Origins of the Wealth of Nations](#)” (joint with Oded Galor and Marc Klemp), in Alberto Bisin and Giovanni Federico (eds.), *The Handbook of Historical Economics*, forthcoming, Cambridge: Elsevier, Academic Press.

“[Diversity and Conflict](#)” (joint with Eren Arbatli, Oded Galor, and Marc Klemp), *Econometrica*, March 2020, 88(2), pp. 727–797.

“[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

- “Structural Change, Elite Capitalism, and the Emergence of Labor Emancipation” (joint with Francesco Cinnirella, Oded Galor, Boris Gershman, and Erik Hornung), June 2020, Manuscript. *Revise and resubmit at the Review of Economic Studies*.
- “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/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

“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. *Superseded by “Structural Change, Elite Capitalism, and the Emergence of Labor Emancipation.”*

“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

Labor, Development, and Health Workshop, University of Connecticut Oct. 2019
Departmental Seminar, Boston College Jan. 2009; Mar. 2019
Departmental Seminar, Clark University Mar. 2012; Mar. 2019
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
 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* [9×], *Review of Economic Studies* [5×], *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* [5×], *American Economic Review: Insights* [2×], *American Political Science Review*, *B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*, *Bulletin of Economic Research* [2×], *Economic Inquiry*, *Economic Journal* [13×], *Economics and Human Biology*, *Economics Letters* [2×], *Empirical Economics*, *European Economic Review* [4×], *Explorations in Economic History*, *International Economic Review* [2×], *Journal of African Economies*, *Journal of Applied Econometrics* [3×], *Journal of Comparative Economics* [2×], *Journal of Development Economics* [7×], *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control*, *Journal of Economic Growth* [30×], *Journal of Economic Theory*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association* [10×], *Macroeconomic Dynamics* [6×], *Review of Economic Dynamics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics* [9×], *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* [4×], and *Southern Economic Journal* [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.

Doctoral dissertation external reader for American University (Student: Katsuki Morihara; Date of defense: Jan. 24, 2019).

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)
 The Economics of Global Inequality Since Fall 2020 (1 semester)
 Long-Run Perspectives on Economic Growth Since Spring 2010 (10 semesters)
 Economic Growth and Development (Master’s level) Since Fall 2009 (9 semesters)
 The Economics of Institutions Since Spring 2016 (3 semesters)
 Growth Diagnostics (Master’s level) Since January 2016 (4 winter terms, 1 semester)

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
Amy Qiu (thesis) Spring 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

CDE Executive Committee, Williams College Fall 2017, 2020
Department Recruiting Committee, Williams College Fall 2016 – Spring 2018; AY 2019 – 2020
Department Technology Coordinator, Williams College Fall 2014 – Spring 2016; AY 2018 – 2019
CDE Curriculum Self-Study Committee, Williams College Spring, Fall 2016
Economics Undergraduate Thesis Second Reader, Williams College . . . Spring 2010, 2014, 2018, 2019, 2020
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 Fall 2017 – Spring 2020
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
Sabbatical Research Salary Grant, Williams College Spring 2017, 2021
Center for Development Economics Research Grant, Williams College Spring, Fall 2020
Class of 1957 Summer Research Assistant Program Grant, Williams College Summer 2010 – 2020
Oakley Center Fellows Program Research Grant, Williams College AY 2016 – 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 by origin, naturalized U.S. citizen
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