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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics, George Washington University, Washington, DC Expected August 2009
M.A. Economics, George Washington University, Washington, DC May 2004
B.A. Economics, B.A. Philosophy, *Magna Cum Laude* May 2000
Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, Pennsylvania

DISSERTATION

“Political Regime Changes and Economic Growth: A Historical Perspective”
Committee: Graciela L. Kaminsky (chair), Marco Cipriani, Ana Fostel

FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION

Primary: International Economics, Econometrics
Secondary: Macroeconomics, Development Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

George Washington University:

Instructor

International Economics - Finance Spring 2007-2008, Fall 2006-2008
Intermediate Macroeconomic Theory Spring 2009
Introductory Macroeconomics Summer 2005, 2007, 2008
Introductory Microeconomics Fall 2007
Game Theory With Economic Applications Summer 2004

Teaching Assistant/Lab Instructor (Ph.D. level courses)

Macroeconomic Theory I and II Fall 2005, Spring 2006
Microeconomic Theory I Spring 2004
Econometrics I and II Fall 2004, Spring 2005

Teaching Assistant (undergraduate courses)

Introductory Macroeconomics Spring 2002-2003, Fall 2003
Introductory Microeconomics Fall 2001, Fall 2002

Instructor, Elliott School of International Affairs

Review of Macroeconomics August 2005–2008, January 2005

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Department of Economics, Summer 1999
Franklin and Marshall College. *Project: Economic Development
and Income Distribution in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania*

Research Assistant, Department of Philosophy, Summer 1998
Franklin and Marshall College.
*Project: “Moods as Our Sense of Priorities”,
co-authored with Bennett Helm and Aleksandra Markovic*

MEMBERSHIPS/CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Member, Conference Presenter/Discussant, Southern Economic Association November 2008
Member, Conference Presenter, Eastern Economic Association March 2008
Presenter, Mid-South Philosophy Conference March 1999

HONORS AND AWARDS

George Washington University:

John W. Kendrick Prize for a graduate student paper in macroeconomics	April 2007
Graduate Teaching Fellowship , Department of Economics	2006-2007
Graduate Teaching Assistantship , Department of Economics	2001-2006
Graduate Teaching Assistant “Super GTA” Award , Department of Economics	2003
J.W. Kendrick Prize in Economics , Department of Economics	2001-2002

Franklin and Marshall College:

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society	2000
The Minnie Zeid Memorial Economics Prize	2000
Charles A. Dana Scholarship	1997-1998

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Language Proficiency: Ukrainian–native, Russian and English–fluent, French and Serbo-Croatian–intermediate reading and communication skills

Programming and computer skills: Matlab, Stata, E-views, PC Give, Excel

Citizenship: Ukraine, **Visa status:** F-1

RESEARCH PAPERS/WORK IN PROGRESS

“Political Regime Changes and the Turning Points of Economic Growth.” (Job Market Paper)

In this paper I investigate whether the quality of political institutions can help predict the turning points in a country’s growth history. I show that controlling for various economic factors, both democratic and autocratic political regime changes help induce economic “takeoffs”. The effect, however, is non-linear, as I find evidence that countries with low income per capita benefit less from democratization. This threshold level of income is estimated using Hansen’s threshold regression methodology. I also find similar non-linearity in the coefficients for trade openness and the quality of political institutions. In particular, the increase in the initial level of the country’s democratization matters for growth, but only for countries with already high democracy scores. In addition, I analyze the model’s “forecast skill” and show, that the model developed in the paper predicts growth takeoffs significantly better than the baseline constant probability model.

“The International Spillover Effects of Political Transitions.”

Recent empirical literature on the democracy-growth nexus finds that democratization overall improves economic growth, but there is evidence of significant heterogeneity in the outcomes for different countries. In this paper I focus on quantifying one of the possible causes of such heterogeneity. The paper addresses the possibility of cross-country political spillover effects that impact economic growth. The preliminary results of the panel data estimation support the hypothesis that countries surrounded by relatively more autocratic neighbors will also experience a more difficult economic adjustment following democratization. In particular, this paper presents evidence that for countries which have experienced democratization, moving away from their neighborhoods on the political spectrum implies a slower income per capita growth in the long-run.

“Political Neighborhoods and Economic Growth: Investigation into the Determinants of Growth Outcomes in the Aftermath of Political Transitions.”

In this paper I analyze the sources of growth slowdown for countries that move politically away from their neighborhoods. In particular, I investigate whether political spillover effects in growth can be attributed to the decline in investment and bilateral trade patterns between the neighboring countries. Preliminary analysis suggests that countries which move politically away from their neighborhoods following democratization, experience a decline in investment as a share of GDP as well as the decline in the bilateral trade volumes with their major trading partners.

REFERENCES

Graciela L. Kaminsky Department of Economics George Washington University Washington, DC 20052 graciela@gwu.edu (202) 994-6686	Marco Cipriani Department of Economics George Washington University Washington, DC 20052 mciprian@gwu.edu (202) 994-2218	Ana Fostel Department of Economics George Washington University Washington, DC 20052 afostel@gwu.edu (202) 994-6581
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