

# SASHA PETROV

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## Office Contact Information

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## Education

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<b>University of Chicago</b> , Ph.D. Economics	2019–2025 ( <i>expected</i> )
<b>New Economic School</b> , M.A. in Economics	2017–2019
<b>Lomonosov Moscow State University</b> , Master’s degree in Economics	2015–2017
<b>Lomonosov Moscow State University</b> , Bachelor in Economics	2011–2015

## References

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Professor James Robinson (Co-Chair)  
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Professor Jonathan I. Dingel (Co-Chair)  
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Professor Esteban Rossi-Hansberg  
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## Research and Teaching Fields

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

## Job Market Paper

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### 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 African long-term development through these two channels. This paper offers a spatial model of borders that evaluates welfare consequences through trade and public goods provision. This model features four key forces: the benefits of economic and fiscal integration, 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 the problem. 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 current borders is their geographic position, not the number of countries.*

## Work in Progress

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**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)	<i>2024</i>
Urban Doctoral Fellow at Mansueto Institute of University of Chicago	<i>2023–2024</i>
University of Chicago Data Acquisition Grant (\$3,000)	<i>2023</i>
Financial group “Future” full tuition grant and scholarship	<i>2018–2019</i>
NES Alumni scholarship	<i>2018</i>

## Teaching Experience

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### University of Chicago

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

### New Economic School

Econometrics I (MA)	TA for Prof. Styrin	<i>Winter 2019</i>
Mathematics for Economics I (MA)	TA for Prof. Evren	<i>Fall 2018</i>

## Research Experience and Other Employment

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

## Professional Experience

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Graduate student representative	<i>2022–2024</i>
Peer mentor	<i>2022–2023</i>

## Additional Information

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<b>Citizenship</b>	Russia
<b>Programming Skills</b>	Julia, R, Python, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Stata, MATLAB, bash, git, AMPL, GAMS
<b>Languages</b>	Russian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), Italian (intermediate), German (basic), French (basic)