

# SASHA PETROV

alexpetrov@uchicago.edu – <https://sasha-petrov.com> – (312) 684-3846

<b>Placement Directors:</b>	Manasi Deshpande	mdeshpande@uchicago.edu	(773) 702-8260
	Evan Rose	ekrose@uchicago.edu	(773) 834-3116
<b>Graduate Administrator:</b>	Kathryn Falzareno	kfalzareno@uchicago.edu	(773) 702-3026

## Office Contact Information

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University of Chicago, Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics  
Saieh Hall for Economics  
5757 S University Ave  
Chicago, IL 60637

## 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)  
University of Chicago  
Harris School of Public Policy  
jamesrobinson@uchicago.edu  
(773) 702-6364

Professor Jonathan I. Dingel (Co-Chair)  
University of Chicago  
Booth School of Business  
jid2106columbia@uchicago.edu  
(773) 834-5458

Professor Stéphane Bonhomme  
University of Chicago  
Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics  
stephane@chicagobooth.edu  
(773) 834-6831

Professor Esteban Rossi-Hansberg  
University of Chicago  
Kenneth C. Griffin Department of Economics  
rossihansberg@uchicago.edu  
(650) 714-2093

## 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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### From Colonial Lines to Optimal Borders: Quantifying Welfare Gains in Africa

*Abstract: National borders govern trading opportunities and eligibility for public services. There is suggestive evidence that African long-term development has been harmed by post-colonial border design through these two channels. This paper offers a spatial model of borders that tracks their welfare consequences through trade and public goods provision. It features four key forces: benefits of economic and fiscal integration, and costs of preference heterogeneity and span of control. To evaluate inefficiencies of borders, I set up an Optimal Borders problem whose solution provides a benchmark and develop a strategy to make it tractable. I calibrate parameters of the spatial model and use the proposed method of solving the Optimal Borders problem on African data. Africa could gain at least 28% in welfare*

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

## Teaching Experience

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### University of Chicago

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

### New Economic School

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

## Research Experience and Other Employment

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

## Professional Experience

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Graduate student representative	2022–2024
Peer mentor	2022–2023

## 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)