

Roman Zakharenko

Mailing address:

MIEF, Office Zh-709

Pokrovski bulvar 11

Moscow 109028 Russia

Email: r.zakharenko@gmail.com

Web: www.rzak.ru

phone: (7) 495-772-9590, ext. 2296

cell: (7) 910-471-9128



Personal Info

Born on December 28, 1979

Citizen of Russia

Languages: Russian (native), English (fluent)

Married

Employment

2008 – present: Assistant Professor, State University - Higher School of Economics, Russia

Education

- BA in Economics, Novosibirsk State University, Russia, 2000
- MA in Economics, New Economic School, Russia, 2002
- PhD in Economics, Pennsylvania State University, USA, 2008
- European School on New Institutional Economics (summer school), France, May 2009
- LdA Summer School on Outsourcing and Migration, Italy, August 2009

Working papers

- Children Versus Ideas: an “Influential” Theory of Demographic Transition, September 2009 (pdf)
- A Simple Model of Learning, Brain Drain, Institutional Change, and Return Migration, May 2009 (pdf)

Presented at:

- European School on New Institutional Economics, May 2009

- Return Migration: an Empirical Investigation, June 2008 (pdf)
Presented at:
 - Hong Kong Economic Association Biennial Conference, Chengdu, China, December 2008
 - State University - Higher School of Economics, Russia, September 2008

Work in progress

- Human capital formation: its domestic socially inefficient formation, and the corrective role of its international portability (with Oded Stark)

Previous work

- Paul Krugman: a Nobel Prize winner, a theorist of International Trade and Economic Geography, January 2009 (*in Russian*)
Published in *Economic Journal of State University - Higher School of Economics*
- Migration, Learning, and Development, November 2007
Presented at:
 - State University - Higher School of Economics, Russia, February 2008
 - New Economic School, Russia, January 2008
 - Pennsylvania State University, USA, December 2007
- Competitive Pressure and Innovation Incentives, September 2004
Presented at:
 - Pennsylvania State University, October 2004

Teaching

- Undergraduate (in English):
 - International Economics, Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, State University - Higher School of Economics
 - Development Economics, Fall 2008, Fall 2009, State University - Higher School of Economics
 - Intermediate Microeconomics, 2003 - 2006 (7 semesters total), Pennsylvania State University
- Graduate (in English):
 - Topics in Trade and Development, Spring 2009, State University - Higher School of Economics
- Other (in Russian):
 - The Effect of Free Trade on Growth: Empirical Evidence, June 2009, part of World Bank course “Trade Policy and WTO Accession for Development in Russia and the CIS”.

Scholarships

- David Grow Scholarship, Summer 2004, Pennsylvania State University - \$3000
- 2-year scholarship, New Economic School, 2000-2002
- 4-year state scholarship, Novosibirsk State University, 1996-2000

Computer skills

- Proficient in Matlab, LaTeX
- Familiar with Eviews, Stata

Brief bio

I grew up in Siberia, which is the best place on Earth, especially in January (seriously!). I got my BA in Economics from Novosibirsk State University, which is one of the most rigorous undergraduate economic programs in the world. For example, we were required to know by heart the proof of Arrow's impossibility theorem by the end of the second year. Then, I was taught some more world-class mathematics for Economists in a Master's program at New Economic School, Moscow. Then, I spent six years in a PhD program at Pennsylvania State University, where I was taught to learn independently. Currently, I have a permanent position at International College of Economics and Finance, which is part of State University - Higher School of Economics, and which offers English-language Bachelors and Masters programs in Economics.

Generally, my research interests lie in the field of Development Economics, with more specific topics outlined below. As the previous paragraph would suggest, I have a comparative advantage in theoretical research, but I am interested in empirical work too.

One of my major research interests is international migration, more specifically, high skilled migration, more specifically, its impact on developing countries. I believe that high skilled migrants are the main "vectors" of diffusion of knowledge and social norms across countries; understanding the mechanisms of diffusion at the theoretical level, and finding empirical evidence, are major challenges.

Another line of my research interests can be described as Evolutionary Economics or Bioeconomics. The underlying idea of this school of thought is that human behavior can be explained by studying the environment in which ancestors of modern humans lived, and in which their psychology has evolved. Although much work has been done in this vein to explain such things as the attitude towards risk, intertemporal time preferences, and altruism towards kin, there are not yet very many applications of this theory to Development Economics. Can we explain, by studying human evolutionary past, such phenomena as fertility decline, corruption, differences in social norms and institutions across countries? These are major research questions.

Although I do not conduct active research, I am also interested in the following fields: international trade, economic geography and spatial economics, some applications of mechanism design, and economic history.

Last update: September 23, 2009