

LASHA CHOCHUA



CONTACT

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 @Lchochua
 Lasha Chochua

SKILLS

Programming

Python
R
Mathematica
Bash
Latex

Operating Systems

Linux
MacOS
Windows

Software & Tools

Visualisation
Matplotlib, Seaborn
Data handling/analysis
PostgreSQL, Numpy, Scipy,
Pandas
AWS, Docker
Office

Languages

English
Georgian
Russian
German

AWARDS

- The Best Doctoral Thesis Prize, Bielefeld University
- Graduate School Scholarship, German Academic Exchange Service
- Graduate Student Scholarship, University Carlos III of Madrid

CERTIFICATES

Data Science Bootcamp Certificate
SPICED ACADEMY

RESEARCH INTEREST

- International Trade, Trade Policy
- Applied Game Theory, Political Economy
- Applied Econometrics
- Applied Machine/Deep Learning

CURRENT POSITION

12/2023 - to present
 Kiel Institute for the World Economy
Germany
Postdoctoral Researcher

WORK HISTORY

04/2019 - 03/2023
 Bielefeld University
Germany
Postdoctoral Researcher

06/2015 - to present
 PMC Research Center
Georgia
Scientific Board Member

10/2011 - 12/2016
 Free University of Tbilisi
Georgia
University Lecturer

07/2007 - 08/2007
 European Bank for Reconstruction
and Development, United Kingdom
Intern in Chief Economist's Office

03/2005 - 08/2006
 Poti Sea Port LTD
Georgia
Investment Projects Specialist

EDUCATION

2013 - 2019
 Bielefeld University
Bielefeld, Germany
Doctor of Economics

2008 - 2010
 University Carlos III of Madrid
Madrid, Spain
M.A. in Economic Analysis

2006 - 2008
 International School of Economics
Tbilisi, Georgia
M.A. in Economics

1999 - 2005
 Iv. Javakishvili Tbilisi State University
Tbilisi, Georgia
B.A. in International Economics

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- International Trade (Bachelor & Graduate Courses)
- Economics of European Integration (Graduate Course)
- Law and Economics (Bachelor Course)
- Industrial Organization (Bachelor Course)
- Principles of Economics (Bachelor Course)

RESEARCH PAPERS

Can plurilateral agreements facilitate global trade liberalization? with James Lake and Gerald Willmann

The last successful global trade negotiations were the 1994 Uruguay Round, and there's uncertainty about the timing of the next successful round. While Preferential Trade Agreements have been reducing bilateral trade barriers, evidence suggests that "plurilateral agreements" can significantly lower MFN tariffs for most countries in specific sectors. In this paper, we expand existing models of endogenous trade agreements to analyze the network of trade agreements among three countries. We demonstrate how plurilateral agreements can promote global trade liberalization by overcoming exclusion incentives that dominant countries might have or addressing free-riding incentives that could deter dominant countries from participating in trade liberalization negotiations.

Unpacking Commitment and Trade Effects in Plurilateral Cooperation with Irene Iodice

The paper investigates issue-specific trade liberalization under plurilateral agreements, focusing on the Information Technology Agreement (ITA). It examines the commitment mechanism's importance in inclusive plurilateral agreements and addresses deviations from promised actions by countries. The study contributes to quantifying the impacts of non-discriminatory trade policy changes, analyzing the effects of reduced uncertainty in trade agreements, and offering novel insights into the ITA's effects. By considering commitment deviations within plurilateral agreements and focusing on a trade agreement without cross-issue linkages, we offer a cleaner setup for the understanding of trade liberalization outcomes.

The Farsighted Stability of Global Trade Policy Arrangements with Stefan Berens and Gerald Willmann

In this paper, we study the stability of trade policy arrangements under different regulatory scenarios. Unlike previous papers, we consider an extensive set of trade policy arrangements and unlimited farsightedness of negotiating parties. In the standard three-country setup, global free trade (GFT) is uniquely stable under symmetric endowments. When two countries are small (large), the availability of Preferential Trade Agreements decreases (increases) the stability of GFT. Furthermore, in equilibrium strategic complementarity between Customs Unions (CUs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) can ensure GFT stability. As asymmetry increases, GFT becomes unattainable, and the MFN regime is the only stable outcome without PTAs.

Endogenous Trade Policy in the Presence of Lobbying and Heterogeneously Ignorant Voters with Giorgi Papava

Based on the Protection for Sale approach of Grossman and Helpman (1994) we develop a theoretical model in which exogenously organised groups provide political contributions to influence trade policy. The incumbent government cares about contributions yet simultaneously takes into account the potential reactions of voters. We formally consider citizens' voting decisions, assuming they have heterogeneous ignorance thresholds, and explicitly derive the objective function of the policy-maker. We find that the resulting equilibrium structure of protection differs from the standard case. Free trade obtains only if no group lobbies and ignorance levels are the same. On average, more ignorant groups will have lower (if any) protection from the policy-maker and, also, groups represented by lobbies will not always be supported by the incumbent government.

The Impartial Observer under Uncertainty with Stefan Berens

This paper extends Harsanyi's Impartial Observer Theorem by introducing Knightian Uncertainty in the form of individual belief systems. It features an axiomatic framework of societal decision-making in the presence of individual uncertainty. The model allows the analysis of scenarios where individuals agree on the ranking but not on the likelihood of social outcomes. The preferences of the impartial observer are expressed by a weighted sum of utilities - each representing individual preferences with different belief systems. To incorporate common criticism of the framework of Harsanyi (1953), our approach is based on the generalized version by Grant et al. (2010). The belief systems are introduced as second-order beliefs following Seo (2009).

WORK IN PROGRESS

Sectoral Labor Mobility and Trade Policy with Ana Burduli and Giorgi Papava




Global Supply Chains under plurilateral cooperation with Irene Iodice and Daria Taglioni

Free trade agreements versus customs unions: welfare decomposition with Gerald Willmann




Why do we observe 'tariff peaks' after the preferential liberalization? with Gerald Willmann

POLICY RELATED RESEARCH



Quantifying the Impact of Foreign Investment Restrictions in Specific Sectors in Jordan

 USAID/Jordan, Economic Reform Activity  Senior Economist  Present




Corporate Income Tax System Evaluation

 USAID, GGI, ISET Policy Institute  Consultant  2023




Tax Expenditure Analysis for Georgia

 USAID, GGI, Georgian Ministry of Finance  Leading Expert  2021




RIA on Establishment of Employment Mechanism in Georgia

 PMCG, GIZ  Team Leader  2017

RIA on Estonian Corporate Income Tax Model Implementation in Georgia (in force since 01.01.2017)

 USAID, GFG, Association of Young Economists of Georgia  Leading Expert  2016

Joint Feasibility Study on Georgia-China Possible Free Trade Agreement (in force since 01.01.2018)

 PMC Research Center, University of International Business and Economics (China),
Georgian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development  Leading Expert from Georgia  2015