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BROWN UNIVERSITY

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Personal Information

Citizenship: French

Undergraduate Studies

B.A. Economics, History, and Sociology, École normale supérieure Paris-Saclay, 2012
M.A. Analysis and Policy in Economics, École des hautes études en sciences sociales, 2015

Graduate Studies

Brown University, 2016 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: “Essays on the cultural and institutional origins of development”
Expected Completion Date: May 2022

References:

Professor **Oded Galor**
Herbert Goldberger Professor of Economics
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Teaching and Research Fields

Primary fields: Economic Growth and Development, Political Economy, Applied Microeconomics
Secondary fields: Economic History, Cultural Economics

Seminars and Conference Presentations (*scheduled, +by co-author)

2022 Job Market Session at North American Winter Meetings of Econometric Society*
2021 Oxford, UCLA, Paris School of Economics, Max Planck Institute for Demographic
Research, LEAP Stellenbosch, Cultural Evolution Society+, PAA, Big Data in
Economic History at Toulouse School of Economics, ASREC, Brown, NEUDC,
European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society*

2020	Brown, Clark University, Northwestern, UC Louvain, College de France, Paris School of Economics, Ludwig Maximilian University, ASREC, EHA, UC Davis, Chicago Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference, ENS Paris-Saclay
2019	London School of Economics ⁺ , Deep Rooted Factors of Comparative Development Conference at Brown ⁺ , Brown, IRES Workshop, EHA
2018	UCLA-Berkeley ⁺ , Brown, Stanford ⁺ , UC Davis ⁺ , UC Louvain ⁺

Honors and Fellowships

2021	Larry Neal Prize for best article in Explorations in Economic History
2021	Cambridge University Press Dissertation Fellowship, EHA
2020	Merit Dissertation Fellowship, Brown University, Economics
2019-2020	Adam Smith Fellowship, Mercatus Center
2019-2020	International Fellowship, Brown University, PSTC
2019	Abramson Prize for best third year paper, Brown University, Economics
2017-2019	Doris I. Eccleston 1925 Endowed Fellowship, Brown University
2016-2017	First Year Fellowship, Brown University, Economics

Research Awards

2021	Research Grant, Brown University, Orlando Bravo Center for Economic Research
2021	Hayek Fund Research Award, Institute for Humane Studies
2020	Workshop Grant, Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture
2019	Workshop Grant, Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society
2017	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Research Grant, Brown University

Professional Activities

Referee: Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Demographic Economics
Co-organizer of Growth Breakfast, Brown University, Economics

Teaching Experience

Spring 2022	Theory of Economic Growth, Oded Galor
Fall 2021	Game Theory, Geoffroy De Clippel
Spring 2021	Theory of Economic Growth, Oded Galor
Spring 2019	Race and Inequality in the United States, Glenn Loury
Fall 2018	Theory of Economic Growth, Oded Galor
Spring 2018	Intermediate Macroeconomics, Pascal Michaillat and Neil Mehrotra

Publications

“Change and Persistence in the Age of Modernization: Saint-Germain-d'Anxure, 1730-1895”
(with Romain Wacziarg), *Explorations in Economic History*, Vol 78, October 2020

Awarded the Larry Neal Prize 2021 for best article in Explorations in Economic History

Research Papers

“Schools, Language, and Nations: Evidence From a Natural Experiment in France” (with Masahiro Kubo) ([Job Market Paper 1](#))

This paper studies nation-building. We explore the role of state-sponsored education in the adoption of a standard language and the formation of a national identity during the emergence of a modern nation-state. In France, at the time of the French Revolution, only ten percent of the population spoke French, the common language today. We digitize a novel historical dataset on spoken languages at the municipality level and document the process of homogenization in nineteenth-century France. Using a regression discontinuity design, we demonstrate that state-

sponsored education brought about the homogenization of language. Then, we study the geographical origins of the French language and the heterogeneous effects of schools. We find that elites were an important driver of homogenization. Finally, we document a persistent impact of nation-building on social interactions, national identity, and preferences for political centralization, with increased participation in the Resistance during World War II and votes against the 1969 referendum on regionalization.

“The Cultural Origins of the Demographic Transition in France” (Job Market Paper 2)

Awarded the Abramson Prize for best third year paper in Brown University's Department of Economics

This research shows that secularization accounts for the early decline in fertility in eighteenth-century France. The demographic transition, a turning point in history and an essential condition for development, took hold in France first, before the French Revolution and more than a century earlier than in any other country. Why it happened so early is, according to Robert Darnton, one of the 'big questions of history' because it challenges historical and economic interpretations and because of data limitations at the time. I comprehensively document the decline in fertility and its timing using a novel crowdsourced genealogical dataset. Then, I document an important process of secularization at the time. Using census data available in the nineteenth century, I show a strong association between secularization and the timing of the transition. Finally, I leverage the genealogies to account for unobserved pre-existing, geographic, and institutional differences by studying individuals before and after the onset of the transition and exploiting the choices of second-generation migrants.

“Demographic Change and Development from Crowdsourced Genealogies in Early Modern Europe”

This paper draws on a novel historical dataset crowdsourced from publicly available genealogies to study demographic change and development at the individual level in the distant past. I reconstruct fertility series, identify migration in and out of urban centers, and provide novel measures and stylized facts in a period without census and with millions of ordinary individuals observed in thirty countries. For each country, I carefully show that selection is limited in the data. Then, I document patterns of human mobility, fertility, and adult mortality in Early Modern Europe. Finally, I present several novel findings at a disaggregated level suggesting that substantial and rapid changes in preferences took hold with the Age of Enlightenment and played an important role in the transition from stagnation to growth. I estimate the onset of the decline in fertility in France in the 1760s, a hundred years before the rest of Europe and earlier than previously thought, and I document a weaker intergenerational persistence of fertility in Europe as early as in the late eighteenth century.