# Arseniy Braslavskiy

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## EDUCATION

**University of Maryland (UMD)**

*Ph.D. in Economics* expected 2026

*M.A. in Economics (GPA: 3.95/4)* 2022

**New Economic School & Higher School of Economics (NES & HSE)**

*Semester Abroad:* **University of Groningen**

*B.A. in Economics (GPA: 8.5/10)* 2020

## WORKING PAPERS

**Beyond the Flypaper Effect: Crowding-In from Federal Investment in Public Transit**
*Job Market Paper*

I study how targeted federal grants affect state and local transit spending. My analysis uses comprehensive U.S. expenditure data from 2000–2019 and a plausibly exogenous shock from the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). ARRA funds were apportioned to Urbanized Areas using pre-existing formula programs, with amounts independent of potential changes in transit investment. Using ARRA apportionments as an instrument, I find that each additional \$1 of federal grants generates a \$0.21 annual increase in capital transit spending from all sources. This average reflects two distinct phases of the dynamics between 2009 and 2019: an initial rise in federally funded expenditures with no displacement of state or local spending (the flypaper effect), followed by substantial crowding-in of state investments. I find that the additional funds were directed mainly toward upgrading existing buses rather than expanding systems. Consistent with this pattern, Urbanized Areas receiving more federal grants did not experience an increase in transit provision, while ridership rose only marginally. I propose a novel mechanism for the crowding-in of state investment: federal grants empowered local transit agencies, strengthening their ability to negotiate additional state funding. This interpretation is consistent with the crowding-in being confined to state sources and present in spending without economies of scale. Variation in crowding-in strength across states with different institutional characteristics provides further support for this mechanism

**In the Weeds of Traffic Fatalities: Revisiting the Effect of Medical Marijuana Laws**
*Reject and Resubmit at the Journal of Law and Economics*

This study re-examines the finding by Anderson, Hansen, and Rees (2013) that medical marijuana laws *decrease* traffic fatality rates by 10.4%. I demonstrate that legalizing states were already experiencing declining fatalities prior to legalization, even after controlling for state-specific linear trends in a Two-Way Fixed Effects model. To address these pre-trends, I apply the Imputation Procedure (IP) by Borusyak, Jaravel, and Spiess (2024), which estimates state-specific trends using only not-yet-treated observations. Depending on the inclusion of potentially confounding covariates, my IP estimates suggest either a 12% *increase* or a zero effect on fatalities. I also show

that the average state effect differs substantially from the average individual effect, indicating large heterogeneity across states. Much of the original negative result is driven by California, which accounts for over half of the population-weighted estimate. This state consistently exhibits one of the largest estimated negative effects and one of the steepest negative pre-trends.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

**Where the Road Leads: Can Infrastructure Investment Drive Technology Adoption?**
*With R. Benjamin Rodriguez*

**Feudalism and Democracy: Evidence from Weimar Germany**
*With Kartikeya Batra, Ethan Kaplan & Weizheng Lai*

## TEACHING

Instructor:

ECON325 Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis, UMD — Summer 2022

Teaching Assistant:

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| ECON456 Law and Economics, UMD | Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025 |
| ECON326 Intermediate Microeconomic Analysis, UMD | Fall 2024 |
| ECON325 Intermediate Macroeconomic Analysis, UMD | Spring 2022, Spring 2023 |
| Discrete Mathematics and Statistics, HSE | Fall 2017, Spring 2018 |

Middle School Elective Teacher:

Economics, Mathematics, and Computer Science — 2016 - 2017

## GRANTS & AWARDS

Fellowships:

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| Interdisciplinary Transportation Fellowship, Sloan Foundation ($36,000) | 2025-2026 |
| Faculty-Student Research Award, UMD ($10,000)<br>*With Kartikeya Batra, Ethan Kaplan & Weizheng Lai* | 2023 |
| Summer Research Fellowship, UMD ($5,000) | 2023 |
| First-Year Summer Research Fellowship, UMD ($2,000) | 2021 |

Prizes:

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| Graduate Research Competition Winner, Pennsylvania Economic Association | 2025 |
| Three Minute Thesis: College-Level Winner, UMD | 2025 |
| Visiting Day Poster Competition: First Prize, UMD | 2025 |

Travel Grants:

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| Dean's Research Initiative Travel Grant, UMD | 2025 |
| Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant, UMD | 2024 |
| International Conference Student Support Award, UMD | 2024 |

## CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2025: SEA Annual Meeting, Tampa, FL (scheduled); APPAM Fall Research Conference, Seattle, WA (scheduled); Markets & Society Conference, Falls Church, VA (scheduled); UEA North American Meeting, Université du Québec à Montréal (scheduled); PEA Annual Conference, Penn State Berks; Urban Economics Day, GWU; SGE Annual Conference, AU; Climate Change: Impacts & Responses, Online; AEA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA (poster, video interview).

2024: Warsaw International Economic Meeting, University of Warsaw.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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| Graduate Student Senator, University Senate, UMD *(elected)* | 2025-2026 |
| Poster Evaluator, McNair Scholars Research Conference, UMD | 2025 |
| Representative, Provost's Graduate Student Advisory Council, UMD | 2024-2025 |
| "Externalities" Soccer Team Captain, Department of Economics, UMD | 2024 |
| Member, Economics Graduate Student Association, Department of Economics, UMD | 2021-2022 |

## OTHER EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

Research Assistantships:

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| Prof. Allan Drazen, UMD | Fall 2022 |
| Prof. Luminita Stevens, UMD | Summer 2021 |
| Prof. Chenyu Yang, UMD | Summer 2021 |
| Prof. Cemal Eren Arbatli, HSE | 2019-2020 |
| Prof. Victoria Dobrynskaya, HSE | 2019 |

Other Positions:

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| Graduate Computing Assistant, UMD | Fall 2021, Spring 2021 |
| Intern, McKinsey & Company, Moscow | 2019 |

Computer Skills: Python, Stata, ArcGIS & QGIS, MATLAB, R

Languages: Russian – Native; English – Fluent; German, Czech – Beginner

## REFERENCES

**Prof. Melissa Kearney**
University of Notre Dame
mkearne9@nd.edu
574-631-6393

**Prof. Maureen Cropper**
University of Maryland
mcropper@umd.edu
301-405-3483

**Prof. Ethan Kaplan**
University of Maryland
edkaplan@umd.edu
301-405-3501