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CURRENT POSITION

Jan 2019 - Present Postdoctoral Fellow, EU Horizon 2020 RESPECT Project
Central European University

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary International Trade, Trade policy, Political Economics

Secondary Applied Microeconometrics, International Finance, Macroeconomics

EDUCATION

December 2018 **Ph.D. in Economics**, Central European University
Thesis Title: [Three Essays in International Trade](#)
Supervisor: Professor Miklós Koren

September 2013 **MSc. Economics (Specialization: Econometrics)**, Université Catholique de Louvain

June 2013 **MSc. Applied Mathematics to Economics and Finance**, Université Paris I, Pantheon-Sorbonne

December 2008 **BTech Mathematics and Computer Science**, Federal University of Technology Owerri

REFERENCES

Miklós Koren Gabor Békés
Department of Economics & Business,
Central European University
Email: korenm@ceu.edu, [website](#) Department of Economics & Business,
Central European University
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Hungarian Academy of Sciences
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Central European University
Email: dorschm@spp.ceu.edu, [website](#)

PREVIOUS RESEARCH POSITIONS

Jun 2018 – Dec 2018 Visiting Junior Researcher, EU Horizon 2020 RESPECT Project
Department of Economics and Business, Central European University

Apr 2017 – Sept 2017

Research Assistant to Professor Istvan Konya
Project: *Interest Premium and Net Balances*

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Working Papers

- ‘Exports and Intellectual Property Rights Policies: Does Time-to-Imitation Matter?’ 2019 (**Job Market Paper**) [available here](#)

Abstract:

I build a model to analyse the sensitivity of US exports to changes in intellectual property rights (IPR) in destination countries. In the model, a profit maximising firm in the North with an innovative product decides which countries to export. Countries are heterogeneous in their level of IPR protection, imitation risk and per capita income, and products have different product time-to-imitation and lifecycle length. The firm faces a trade-off between market expansion and market power. By exporting to all countries, the firm increases its sales and profit but faces the risk of imitation on its output which robs it of its market power. The model predicts that strengthening IPR laws in countries in the South leads to increased exports from the North especially in sectors with relatively shorter time-to-imitation. By using yearly panel datasets (1989-2006) consisting of US product-destination data, country-level IPR index and cross-sectional product time-to-imitation and lifecycle length data, I find our empirical results are consistent with the model's predictions. These results point to the importance of IPR policies in determining sectoral patterns of trade flows between countries.

- ‘Interest Premium and External Position: A State-Dependent Approach’ 2018 – joint with Istvan Konya (Revise and Resubmit at the Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions, and Money, [available here](#))

Abstract:

The paper re-examines the empirical relationship between external indebtedness and the interest premium on government bonds. We use a broad sample of countries between 1980-2017 that includes advanced, emerging and less-developed economies. We show that the relationship is strongly state-dependent, and it varies both with the international financial climate and with the level of development. Moreover, while we find some evidence for non-linearity, this is mostly driven by turbulent periods. We carry out a number of robustness exercises, which highlight issues related to sample composition, the choice of the debt measure, and the definition of crisis events.

- ‘Import Competition and Quality-Adjusted Productivity: Evidence from Hungary's Pre-accession Import Tariffs’ 2019 (Under review, [available here](#))

Abstract:

I propose an empirical model to estimate physical productivity from sales data. The model addresses the concerns associated with unobserved prices and demand conditions in revenue productivity. Unlike De Loecker (2011), our model builds on recent evidence on the effect of exporting on firm-level prices by distinguishing between the export and domestic demand markets and integrating both to the supply function. I apply this framework to study the effects of a reduction in tariffs on EU imports on the efficiency of manufacturing firms in Hungary during the period 1996-2003. I find that a 10-percentage point reduction in import tariffs on similar products manufactured by a firm raises the firm's physical productivity by 0.97%. This is in contrast to 2.1% when revenue productivity is used. Additionally, I offer a general framework that can be applied in recovering physical productivity from revenue data when firms sell in both domestic and export markets.

- 'Increasing Marginal Cost and Welfare Implications' 2019 ([available here](#))

Abstract:

When firms within a country increase their exports as a result of a surge in demand from abroad, how does this affect their domestic sales? and what is the effect on aggregate welfare in the domestic economy? I use a matched firm-product-destination dataset for manufacturing firms in Hungary and exploit the exogenous variations in the foreign demand addressed to a firm to study the relationship between a firm's domestic and foreign sales while controlling for the firm's supply determinants. I find that a 10 percent exogenous increase in exports led to approximately 1.6 percent decrease in domestic sales. This pattern persists over time and suggests the presence of an increasing marginal cost of production, contrary to the assumption of constant marginal costs in most trade models. To shed some lights on the implications of this finding for aggregate welfare, I introduce an increasing marginal cost technology into a traditional trade model and show that liberalizing trade results to a new channel of reduction in potential welfare gains not accounted for in previous studies. Our findings provide support for concurrent policies that reduce trade barriers and eases capacity constraints to ensure the full realization of gains from trade.

Work-in-Progress

- A Model of GDP and GNI Trade-Off in an Economy with Financial Frictions (2016) (Preliminary Draft Available Upon Request)
- How To Establish the Rule of Law: An Econometric Study. with Bruszt L., & Campos N.
- Terrorist Attacks and National Integration: Evidence from Boko Haram Attacks.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2017 - 2018	TA in Economic Analysis for Public Policy I & II, for MPA Program School of Public Policy (SPP), Central European University (CEU).
2015 - 2017	Instructor in Introductory macroeconomics, microeconomics and econometrics, at Roma Graduate Preparation Program (RGPP) CEU.
2016 - 2017	Instructor in Introductory economics at Open Learning Initiative, CEU.
2015 - 2016	Instructor in Introduction to economics, and introductory mathematics for economics at Milestone Institute
2014 - 2016	TA in Macroeconomics, Microeconomics, and Mathematics Pre-session for MA Economics Program at CEU
2009	IT Trainer, Raybam Institute Lagos. Delivered lectures in Oracle SQL, and Oracle Database 10G

OTHER PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

2019	Academic Track Co-coordinator, Open Learning Initiative, CEU
2015 - 2017	Mentor, Milestone Educational Consultancy, Budapest
2011	Executive Assistant Operations at Zenith Bank PLC, Lagos
2010 - 2011	Market Specialist at BrandClinic, Lagos
2009 - 2010	Market Analyst (intern) at EMTS (Etisalat Nigeria), Lagos

HONORS, AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIP

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- Write-up Grant (2018), Central European University
 - Doctoral Research Support Grant to UCLA (2017), CEU Foundation
 - Summer School Grant (2016), CEU Foundation

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- Full doctoral Fellowship (2013 - 2016)
 - French-Belgian Government Fellowship to UC Louvain (2012)

SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS/RESEARCH VISITS

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|------|---|
| 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- UCLA Anderson Finance PhD Seminar (November)- Visiting Graduate Scholar, University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) - <i>invited by Professor Nico Voigtlander</i>- CEU Economics Department, Brownbag Seminar (September) |
| 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- CEU Economics Ph.D. Jamboree (September) |

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

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|-----------------|---|
| Computer Skills | STATA (advanced), MATLAB (advanced), R (advanced), Python (Beginner), Mathematica (Beginner), LATEX (advanced), Microsoft Office Suite, Shiny, GoogleVis, Leaflet, Plotly |
| Language Skills | English (Fluent), French (Intermediate), Igbo (Native) |

FURTHER TRAINING

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| 2019 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Data Science Specialization in R</i> - offered by Department of Biostatistics, John Hopkins University Baltimore, Maryland via Coursera- <i>Statistical Learning</i> - offered by Department of Statistics, Stanford University |
| 2018 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Machine Learning</i> - offered by Stanford University via Coursera |
| 2017 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Summer School in Economic Networks</i> - offered by University of Oxford |
| 2016 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- <i>Summer School in Trade Policy with the Structural Gravity Model</i> - taught by Yoto Yotov at Kiel Institute of World Economy, Kiel Germany. |

REFEREEING ACTIVITIES

- Acta Oeconomica, Review of Economics and Statistics