

KRISZTINA ORBÁN

korban@nber.org
www.krisztinaorban.com

Office Contact Information

National Bureau of Economic Research
1050 Massachusetts Ave, Cambridge, MA 02138
773-987-7108

Academic Appointments

National Bureau of Economic Research 2019 – 2021
Postdoctoral Fellow

Monash University, Department of Economics 2021 –
Assistant Professor

Research Fields

IO (Productivity), Growth, Development, Corporate Finance

Education

The University of Chicago 2013 – 2019
Ph.D. in Economics

Central European University 2010 – 2012
MA Economics with distinction

Corvinus University of Budapest, 2006 – 2010
BSc Economic Analysis (Economics & Mathematics)

References

Professor Michael Greenstone
The University of Chicago
773-702-8250
mgreenst@uchicago.edu

Professor Mikhail Golosov
The University of Chicago
773-702-6405
golosov@uchicago.edu

Professor Stéphane Bonhomme
The University of Chicago
773-834-6831
sbonhomme@uchicago.edu

Professor Amir Sufi
Booth School of Business
773-702-6148
amir.sufi@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Chad Syverson
Booth School of Business
773-702-7815
chad.syverson@chicagobooth.edu

Professional Activities

Presentations (* scheduled) :

NBER Productivity*, CEPR ESSIM* (discussant), SIOE*, SED* 2020

FRB of Atlanta, University of Virginia-Darden, University of Hong Kong,
University of Oslo, Norwegian School of Economics, Aalto University,
Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, Monash University, New Economic School,
CAED (Michigan Ross), US Census Bureau, CEPR Macroeconomics and
Growth Programme Meeting, 2nd European Midwest Micro/Macro Conference,
University of Warwick, EBRD, BEROC conference 2019

FRB of Chicago, U. of Chicago Applied Micro, IO, Capital Theory, Trade,
Corporate Finance Working Groups 2015–2018

Paris-Dauphine PhD Conference 2018

IEA Economic History Section (discussant), Crossing Boundaries Conference, U. of Chicago 2017

Referee: *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Law, Economics and Organization*

Honors, Grants, Scholarships and Fellowships

BFI Data Acquisition Grant, Becker Friedman Institute 2018

The Henry and Marcelle Morgenthau Fellowship, U. of Chicago 2018

Dissertation Fellow, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago 2018

Travel Grant, U. of Chicago 2018

Entrepreneurship Research Bootcamp, NBER 2017

Fama-Miller Research Grant (2×), Booth School of Business 2017, 2018

BFI IO Research Grant (2×), Becker Friedman Institute 2017, 2018

Stigler PhD Dissertation Award, Booth School of Business 2016 – 2018

Summer Research Grant (2×), U. of Chicago 2014, 2015

International House Fellowship, U. of Chicago 2013 – 2018

Social Sciences Fellowship, U. of Chicago 2013 – 2018

Outstanding Thesis Award, Central European U. 2012

Olga Radzyner Award, Central Bank of Austria 2012

Huygens Scholarship, Dutch State Scholarship (*renounced*) 2010

Full Scholarship, Central European U. 2010 – 2012

GE Scholar-Leader Award, Institute for International Education 2008 – 2011

The Scholarship of the Hungarian Republic, Hungary 2007

Teaching Experience

PhD

Theory of Financial Decisions III (2nd year PhD)
TA for Profs. Amir Sufi, Amit Seru and Luigi Zingales Spring 2016, 2017, 2018

Empirical Analysis III (1st year PhD)
TA for Prof. Stéphane Bonhomme Spring 2015, 2016

Topics in Econometrics (2nd year PhD)
TA for Prof. Stéphane Bonhomme Fall 2015

MBA

International Commercial Policy
TA for Prof. Ralph Ossa Fall 2016

Microeconomics (Executive MBA Chicago, London, Hong Kong)

TA for Profs. Michael Gibbs and Lars Stole

Summer 2016

Undergraduate

Introduction to Macroeconomics

TA for Allen Sanderson

Fall 2016

Research Experience and Other Employment

RA to Profs. Ralph Koijen & Tomas Philipson, U. of Chicago

Feb – Sep 2016

RA to Prof. Ali Hortaçsu, U. of Chicago

Aug – Sep 2015

RA to Profs. Miklós Koren & Ádám Szekely, CEU

Mar 2012– Jun 2013

RA to Prof. Enrico Perotti, U. of Amsterdam

Dec 2008 – Jun 2010

Research Intern

European Central Bank

Jul – Aug 2012

Dutch Central Bank

Feb – Jun 2010, Jul – Aug 2011

Intern

Central Bank of Hungary, Financial Stability

Jul – Aug 2010

Research

“The Inception of Capitalism through the Lens of Firms” (Job Market Paper) [[link to paper](#)]

Using firm-level data, I analyze one of the largest economic experiments of the twentieth century, the fall of communism. Post-communist economies experienced a sharp decline and slow recovery of output. This paper studies the output pattern of these countries using microdata from Hungary from both communist and market economy times (1986-1999). I propose a novel decomposition of output change which allows me to quantify the role of productivity, inputs and allocative efficiency in output change. I find that the majority of the output drop is accounted for by a reduction in labor input. In contrast, the recovery in the 1990s largely reflects gains from within-industry reallocation of inputs toward more productive firms. Next, I explore the mechanisms through which the fall in labor and the gains in allocative efficiency operated. I find that during communism a large share of firms employed an inefficiently high number of people given the wages firms paid. During the transition these firms saw their employment decrease 40% more relative to other firms. In particular, these firms shed more low-educated, blue-collar, older, and female workers. The evidence is consistent with the interpretation that the corporate sector in communism provided a social safety net in addition to producing output. With regard to the recovery, I provide evidence consistent with the bank privatization having improved allocative efficiency of capital by removing frictions caused by state banks.

“Local Elections and Municipal Debt Financing” (with Anya Nakamura)

We explore whether governors’ political party affiliations affect the cost of borrowing of municipalities in their state. We estimate the reaction of within-state-issued municipal bond yields to the outcome of close gubernatorial elections. Using both parametric and non-parametric identification strategies, we find that municipal bond yields significantly increase upon the unexpected election of a Democratic gubernatorial candidate, relative to the unexpected election of a Republican gubernatorial candidate. Our results are consistent with the party affiliation of the governor being an additional source of heterogeneity in default risk premia across U.S. states.

“Innovation and the Transition to a Market Economy”

Using patent data I characterize innovation in communist economies, and contrast it with innovation in market economies. Standard models predict that innovation in market economies is an important driver of growth, relative to non-market economies. I show that firms in communist economies produced a large amount of patents. Using name matching algorithms I combine microdata on firms and their patents, both before and after the fall of communism in Hungary. The goal of the project is to understand how innovative behavior was affected by the transition to a market economy, and how this change relates to the puzzling slow recovery of output in post-communist countries after the fall of communism.

“Firm Effects of Bank Privatization” (*funded by Fama-Miller Research Grant*)

Personal Information

Citizenship: Hungary

Languages: Hungarian (N), English (F), German (F), Dutch (F), Italian (F), Portuguese (B)