

Sergey Lychagin

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Curriculum Vitae

Professional Experience	Senior Economist. WIFO Institute, 2024 –. Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Economics and Business, Central European University, 2018 – 2023. Assistant Professor, Department of Economics and Business, Central European University, 2011 – 2018. Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics, Harvard University, Sep–Dec 2017.
Research interests	Applied Microeconomics, Industrial Organization, Economics of Education. My research interests span a broad range of topics in structural microeconomics. Most recently, I have been working on college admission mechanisms and spatial location of firms.
Education	Ph.D., Economics, The Pennsylvania State University, 2011 Dissertation title: “Essays in Applied Microeconomics” M.A., Economics, New Economic School, Russia, 2005 M.Sc., Mathematics, Moscow State University, Russia, 2003
Working Papers	Akyol, Pelin, Krishna, Kala, and Sergey Lychagin. 2022. “Deconstructing the Placement Gender Gap: Performance versus Preferences.” (Link to current draft). Krishna, Kala, Lychagin, Sergey, Olszewski, Wojciech, Siegel, Ron, and Chloe Tergiman. 2022. “Pareto Improvements in the Contest for College Admissions.” NBER Working Paper 30220 , 2nd round of R&R Review of Economic Studies.
Academic Publications	Frisancho, Veronica, Krishna, Kala, and Sergey Lychagin. 2018. “Retaking in High Stakes Exams: Is Less More?” <i>International Economic Review</i> , 52(2): 449–477. Lychagin, Sergey. 2016. “Spillovers, Absorptive Capacity and Agglomeration.” <i>Journal of Urban Economics</i> , 96: 17–35. Frisancho, Veronica, Krishna, Kala, Lychagin, Sergey, and Cemile Yavas. 2016. “Better Luck Next Time: Learning Through Retaking,” <i>Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization</i> , 125: 120–135. Lychagin, Sergey, Pinkse, Joris, Slade, Margaret, and John VanReenen. 2016. “Spillovers in Space: Does Geography Matter?” <i>Journal of Industrial Economics</i> , 64(2): 295–335. Das, Sanghamitra, Krishna, Kala, Lychagin, Sergey and Rohini Somanathan. 2013. “Back on the Rails: Competition and Productivity in State-Owned Industry,” <i>American Economic Journal: Applied Economics</i> , 5(1): 136–162.
Projects in Progress	“Managing at a Distance” with Miklós Koren.

“Geographic Frictions in Public Procurement” with Miklós Koren and Adam Szeidl.

“What Lies Behind the Gender Gap in Performance?” with Pelin Akyol and Kala Krishna.

Policy Articles Tergiman, Chloe, Siegel, Ron, Lychagin, Sergey, Olszewski, Wojciech and Kala Krishna. “Reducing college admissions stress,” VoxEU.org, 31 August 2022.
Das, Sanghamitra, Krishna, Kala, Lychagin, Sergey and Rohini Somanathan. “Inefficient Public-Sector Undertakings: Is Competition a Remedy?” VoxEU.org, 30 May 2011.
Lychagin, Sergey, Pinkse, Joris, Slade, Margaret, and John VanReenen. “You Can Raise Productivity Through R&D, But Geography Matters a Lot,” VoxEU.org, 25 October 2010.

Teaching Experience Principles of Microeconomics (BA), 2020–2023
Empirical Research Seminar (PhD), 2020–2021
Intermediate Econometrics (BA), 2022–2023
Designing Markets That Work (MA), 2021
Econometrics (MA), 2012–2023
Industrial Organization (MA & PhD), 2011–2023
Economic Geography (MA & PhD), 2012
PhD Research Seminar, 2013–2017

Awards Bates White Fellowship, 2008 – 2009
Graduate Scholar Award, Pennsylvania State University, 2005

Seminar and Conference Talks 2022: Higher School of Economics, Workshop on Gender and Education (Collegio Carlo Alberto).
2021: Pennsylvania State University.
2016: Economics in Education Conference (Penn State), IAAE Annual Conference, EEA-ESEM Geneva.
2015: Lisbon Workshop on Economics, Statistics and Econometrics of Education, University of Alicante, SOLE/EALE meeting in Montreal
2014: University of Cardiff, University of Exeter, Pompeu Fabra University
2013: University of St. Gallen
2012: Workshop on the Economics of ICTs, Royal Economic Society Conference, Delhi School of Economics, Annual GDN Conference, New Economic School 20th Anniversary Conference
2011: Ifo Institute EGIT Meeting, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Central European University, McMaster University, Ryerson University, Penn State University

Referee Activity Review of Economic Studies, AEJ Applied Economics, Journal of Political Economy, International Economic Review, Journal of European Economic Association, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Regional Studies, Canadian Journal of Economics, European Economic Review, Hungarian Statistical Review, Information Economics and Policy, Annals of Regional Science, Journal of Asian

and African Studies, Journal of Regional Science, Review of International Economics, Technovation.

**Other
Professional
Activity**

Organizer of the Student Conference in Economics (2022-2023)
Program Director of MA in Economics (2022-2023)
Program Director of Data Science and Society undergraduate program (2023)

PhD Students

Main advisor: Vukan Vujic (defended in 2018)
Committee member: András Kiss, Balázs Vonnak, Jenő Pál, Kinga Marczell, Lajos Szabó, Márta Bisztray, Paweł Bukowski, Péter Zsohár, Rita Pető, Ágnes Szabó-Morvai, Viola Monostoriné Grolmusz, Calin-Vlad Demian, Enikő Gábor.

MA Students

Academic placements in parentheses:

Peonare Caka, Anastasia Rozovskaya (PoliSci PhD Yale), Emil Bondarev, Ákos Aczél (PhD CEU), Attila Gyetvai (PhD Duke), Kirill Kazantcev (PoliSci PhD Rochester), Aian Kadyrova, Aron Bodisz, Tram Thi Bich Pham (PhD Uppsala), Vardan Simonyan, Zsolt Hegyesi, Argun Aman (PhD Mannheim), Aly Abdou, Daniel Molnar (PhD CEU), Malika Korganbekova (PhD in Marketing, Kellogg School of Management), Yerkanat Moldabekov, Victoria Paige Mosby, Tasnim Murad Mamun, Caroline Hamberger, Ramzi Chariag (PhD CEU).

Current papers: **Krishna, Lychagin, Olszewski, Siegel, Tergiman. 2023. “Pareto Improvements in the Contest for College Admissions.” ([NBER WP link](#))**

Abstract:

We consider modifying college admissions based on a centrally administered tests by pooling intervals of performance rankings, and investigate how such policies can improve students' welfare in a Pareto sense. Pooling affects both the equilibrium allocation of students to colleges and the effort students exert. We characterize the Pareto frontier of Pareto improving policies, and also identify improvements that are robust to the distribution of college seats.

Akyol, Krishna, Lychagin. 2022. “Deconstructing the Placement Gender Gap: Performance versus Preferences.” ([Link](#))

Abstract:

When primary and secondary education is free and of good quality, as well as heavily subsidized at the university level, and admissions are transparent and performance based, one might expect there to be little gender bias in placement at the university level. Yet, the college major choice decisions of students vary considerably by gender. Using Turkish data, we examine what lies behind these differences. Two channels seem to dominate: performance differences and differences in preferences across majors by gender. We estimate a state of the art model of preferences and run counter-factual simulations to evaluate the role of these two channels on the placement gender gap. Finally, we show that policy measures, such as giving women preference in STEM subjects, will not work as well as expected and show that more directed policies are needed.

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