

# MARIA PTASHKINA

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## RESEARCH FIELDS

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International Economics, International Trade, Trade Policy

## EDUCATION

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**PhD in Economics**, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona 2018-2023 (expected)

Professor **Jaume Ventura**  
(Main Advisor)  
CREi, UPF and BSE  
Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27  
08005 Barcelona  
[jventura@crei.cat](mailto:jventura@crei.cat)

Professor **Manuel García Santana**  
(Second Advisor)  
World Bank, UPF, CREi and BSE  
1818 H Street  
NW Washington, DC 20433  
[mgarciasantana@worldbank.org](mailto:mgarciasantana@worldbank.org)

Professor **Fernando Broner**  
(Reference letter writer)  
CREi, UPF and BSE  
Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27  
08005 Barcelona  
[fbroner@crei.cat](mailto:fbroner@crei.cat)

Professor **Dávid Krisztián Nagy**  
(Reference letter writer)  
Princeton University, CREi, UPF and BSE  
291 Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building  
Princeton, NJ 08544  
[dnagy@crei.cat](mailto:dnagy@crei.cat)

**Master of Research in Economics**, University Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona 2016-2018

**Master Degree in Specialized Economic Analysis (ITFD)**, Barcelona School of Economics 2015-2016

**Specialist Degree**, International Relations (summa cum laude), Higher School of Economics, Moscow 2006-2012

## RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE

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<b>Research Assistant</b> , CREi (Centre de Recerca en Economia Internacional)	Currently
<b>Research Assistant</b> , Institute for Political Economy and Governance (IPEG), UPF	2016
<b>Research Assistant</b> , International Laboratory on Foreign Trade Research under the supervision of Dr. Anne Osborn Krueger, Johns Hopkins University	2013-2015
<b>Researcher</b> , Trade Policy Department, Russian APEC Study Center, Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration	2012-2015
<b>Researcher</b> , Center for Fundamental Research, Russian Foreign Trade Academy	2012-2015
<b>Academic assistant</b> , Department of International Economic Organizations and European Integration, National Research University – Higher School of Economics	2009-2012

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Teaching Assistant at Barcelona School of Economics

Master Thesis Teaching Assistant (Prof. Fernando Broner)	Spring 2020, 2021, 2022
Political Economy, Master's Degree (Prof. Ruben Enikolopov and Prof. Maria Petrova)	Winter 2022
Advanced Microeconomics II, PhD Advanced Track (Prof. Antonio Penta)	Winter 2018
Economic Growth and Development, Master's Degree (Prof. Antonio Ciccone)	Fall 2018, 2019

### Self-Designed Programming Courses at Barcelona School of Economics

Introduction to R Programming, Master's Degree	Fall 2021, 2022
Introduction to MATLAB, Master's Degree	Fall 2020

### Teaching Assistant at University Pompeu Fabra

Introduction to Macroeconomics, Undergraduate	Winter 2018, 2019
Macroeconomics I, Undergraduate	Fall 2018

## WORK IN PROGRESS

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### Revisiting the Effects of Preferential Trade Agreements (Job Market Paper)

Self-selection is a key challenge in identifying the effects of Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs) on trade. I build a comprehensive dataset, and apply the tools of causal inference framework to overcome this challenge. I find that after accounting for selection, PTAs increase bilateral trade by 48% fifteen years after entry into force. The effects kick in gradually, with one third realizing five years prior to the agreement. Anticipation effects are only present for ‘non-natural’ trading partners – geographically distant countries that trade little, and have a low probability of signing an agreement. I show that the methods that do not account for selection may substantially overestimate the effects. Equipped with the empirical estimates, I build a model to analyze the general equilibrium effects of a recent important PTA.

### Measuring Heterogeneity Across Preferential Trade Agreements

Most studies of preferential trade agreements (PTAs) use gravity models with PTAs as binary variables. This approach leaves out substantial amount of metadata and semantic information embodied within the texts. Over the last several decades the PTA texts have evolved, creating a considerable variation in the content and structure across agreements. I construct a novel dataset with individual characteristics of PTAs and a document-term matrix. Using text-mining techniques and predetermined intended semantic meanings, I build a continuous index measuring heterogeneity in legal enforceability across PTAs.

### Anticipation Effects in Preferential Trade Agreements

Using data on Colombia’s firm-level exports from 2006 to 2020 I study whether firms react in anticipation to a Preferential Trade Agreement. I collect detailed information on the negotiation process (the announcement of the negotiations, the timing of the negotiation rounds, the treaty signature, etc.) Exploiting the variation across destinations for Colombian firms exports, I analyze trade patterns over the life cycles of trade agreements. The universe of transactions helps to disentangle the contributions of extensive and intensive margins of trade.

### Efficient Tariffs under Strategic Side Payments (joint with Malachy James Gavan)

## GRANTS, AWARDS, QUALIFICATIONS

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### Grants

Government of Spain Predoctoral Grant (FPI), June 2019 - September 2022

Teaching Assistant Grant, Pompeu Fabra University, September 2017 - May 2019

### Awards

Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Award, [CESifo Area Conference on Global Economy 2022](#)

Best student paper, [Forum for Research In Empirical International Trade \(FREIT\)](#)

Best paper presented by a young scholar, [The Spanish Association of International Economics and Finance](#)

Rin4’ 3rd Prize, [Research elevator pitch competition](#), UPF 2021

### Qualifications

Graduate Fellow, International Center for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD), 2017-2018

Certified NTM Data Collector, member of UNCTAD NTM Consultancy Roster, 2014

## CONFERENCES, SEMINARS, WORKSHOPS

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| <b>2022</b> | 21th Doctoral Meeting In International Trade and International Finance (RIEF 2022), Paris<br>CESifo Area Conference on Global Economy, online<br>Barcelona School of Economics PhD Jamboree, Barcelona<br>NOITS Annual Conference on International Economics, Stavanger<br>Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference, online<br>XXIII Conference on International Economics (AEEFI), Malaga<br>European Economic Association (EEA), Milan<br>Sardinian Empirical Trade Conference (FREIT SETC), Cagliari |
| <b>2021</b> | National Board of Trade of Sweden Seminar Series, online  |
| <b>2020</b> | Research Seminar at the University of Tartu, online<br>XXI Conference on International Economics (AEEFI), online  |

**2019** European Center for Advanced Research in Economics and Statistics, Brussels  
Barcelona School of Economics PhD Jamboree, Barcelona

## ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

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### Academic attendance:

CREi-UPF International Lunch Seminar Series  
Students' Seminar Series, UPF  
Empirical Macroeconomics Reading Group, UPF  
Empirical Trade Online Seminar Series  
Virtual International Trade & Macro Seminar Series

### Other Activities:

Visiting PhD, European Center for Advanced Research in Economics and Statistics, Brussels, 2019  
Data Science Winter School, Barcelona School of Economics, 2019  
International Trade Policy Analysis Courses, University of Sussex, Brighton, 2015  
World Trade Institute (WTI) Summer Academy, University of Bern, 2014  
International Economic Law and Policy Master Courses, University of Barcelona, Barcelona, 2013  
Research student (Japanese Government Scholarship), Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo, 2012-2013  
Scholarship student (Chinese Government Scholarship), Heilongjiang University, Harbin, 2009-2010

## REFeree ACTIVITY

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Review of International Economics, Contemporary Economic Policy

## LANGUAGES

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Russian (native), English (fluent), Chinese (advanced), Spanish (intermediate), Italian (intermediate)

## PROGRAMMING AND IT

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R, Stata, MATLAB, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Kali Linux

## POLICY

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For the list of policy publications and projects [visit my website section](#)