

MARIA PTASHKINA

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RESEARCH FIELDS

International Economics, International Trade, Trade Policy

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), Barcelona 2018-2023 (expected)

Professor **Jaume Ventura**
(Main Advisor)
CREi, UPF and BSE
Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27
08005 Barcelona
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

Professor **Fernando Broner**
(Reference letter writer)
CREi, UPF and BSE
Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27
08005 Barcelona
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

Master of Research in Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF), 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

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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 Universitat Pompeu Fabra

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

WORK IN PROGRESS

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

Grants

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

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

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

Review of International Economics, Contemporary Economic Policy

LANGUAGES

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

PROGRAMMING AND IT

R, Stata, MATLAB, L^AT_EX, Kali Linux

POLICY

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