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**Contact Information**

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<https://rpober.github.io>  
 Citizenship: Israel

**Fields**

Corporate Finance, Industrial Organization, Energy Economics

**Education**

Ph.D., Finance, Northwestern University (anticipated) 2024  
 Committee: David Matsa (Chair), David Dranove, Gaston Illanes, Mitchell Petersen  
 M.A., Economics, Hebrew University (joint with Tel Aviv University) 2015  
 B.A., Economics and Business Administration, Hebrew University 2013

**Fellowships & Awards**

Ph.D. Fellowship, Kellogg School of Management 2018–2024  
 Honors Award, Israel Competition Authority 2018  
 World Bank and Wharton *Ideas for Action* finalist 2015  
 Research Distinction Scholarship, Bank of Israel 2014  
 Department of Economics Honors Award, Hebrew University 2011  
 Dean's List and Academic Merit Scholarship, Hebrew University 2010–2013  
 Alfred and Anna Grey Distinction Scholarship, Hebrew University 2010–2013

**Research Experience**

Research Assistant, Effi Benmelech, Northwestern University 2019–2020  
 Senior Economist, Research Division, Israel Competition Authority 2015–2018  
 Analyst Team Lead, Research Department, Bank of Israel 2012–2015  
 Research Assistant, Eugene Kandel, Hebrew University 2013–2015  
 Research Assistant, Yishay Yafeh, Hebrew University 2013–2015  
 Research Assistant, Avi Simhon, Hebrew University 2012–2013

**Teaching Experience**

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University 2019–2022  
 Capital Markets (MBA)  
 Finance II (MBA)  
 Instructor, Israel Competition Authority 2015–2018  
 Quantitative Analysis, Modeling, and Inference  
 Lecturer, Hebrew University 2014–2015  
 Introduction to Microeconomics (Undergraduate)  
 Teaching Assistant, Hebrew University 2012–2015  
 Applied Economics (Undergraduate)  
 The Chinese Economy (Undergraduate)  
 The Israeli Economy (Undergraduate)  
 Labor Economics (Graduate)  
 Urban Economics (Undergraduate)

**Job Market Paper**

**"Interlocking directorates, competition, and innovation"**

*Abstract:* Holding concurrent seats on boards of rival firms, 'horizontal directors' dampen competition and increase firm performance. In the cross-section of public US firms, losing

an interlock with a competitor decreases returns by 3 percentage points. I propose a mechanism of market segmentation where horizontal directors steer firms away from fierce direct competition. Using data on patenting, I show that horizontal interlocks help firms maintain distance in the competitive space and reduce redundancy, increasing innovation quantity and quality by 15 to 35 percent.

<b>Work in Progress</b>	<p>"Strategic interactions along the energy transition", with Guillaume Gex</p> <p>"How we did not learn to stop worrying and love the reactor", with Guillaume Gex</p> <p>"Bank lending relations and downstream competition"</p> <p>"One bank to rule them all"</p> <p>"The mark of Cain: long-term effects of foreclosure"</p>				
<b>Policy Work</b>	<p>"The effects of vendor allowances on retail prices", Israel Competition Authority, 2020 (Hebrew)</p> <p>"Spatial competition in retail diesel", Israel Competition Authority, 2017 (Hebrew)</p> <p>"Spatial competition in retail gasoline", Israel Competition Authority, 2017 (Hebrew)</p> <p>"Increasing competition in aggregate quarrying", Israel Competition Authority, 2017 (Hebrew)</p>				
<b>Other Papers</b>	<p>"The effect of mergers on equilibrium prices: evidence from Israeli provident funds", 2016</p> <p>"The quality of corporate credit rating: evidence from Israel, 2005-2013", 2015</p>				
<b>Languages</b>	English (fluent), Hebrew (fluent), Russian (fluent)				
<b>Programming</b>	R, Python, Stata, SQL, Visual Basic				
<b>References</b>	<table> <tr> <td data-bbox="370 1052 893 1281"> <p>Professor David Matsa Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.8337 <a href="mailto:dmatsa@kellogg.northwestern.edu">dmatsa@kellogg.northwestern.edu</a></p> </td><td data-bbox="925 1052 1503 1281"> <p>Professor David Dranove Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.8682 <a href="mailto:d-dranove@kellogg.northwestern.edu">d-dranove@kellogg.northwestern.edu</a></p> </td></tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="370 1302 893 1522"> <p>Professor Gaston Illanes Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.8227 <a href="mailto:gaston.illanes@northwestern.edu">gaston.illanes@northwestern.edu</a></p> </td><td data-bbox="925 1302 1503 1522"> <p>Professor Mitchell Petersen Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.467.1281 <a href="mailto:mpetersen@kellogg.northwestern.edu">mpetersen@kellogg.northwestern.edu</a></p> </td></tr> </table>	<p>Professor David Matsa Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.8337 <a href="mailto:dmatsa@kellogg.northwestern.edu">dmatsa@kellogg.northwestern.edu</a></p>	<p>Professor David Dranove Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.8682 <a href="mailto:d-dranove@kellogg.northwestern.edu">d-dranove@kellogg.northwestern.edu</a></p>	<p>Professor Gaston Illanes Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.8227 <a href="mailto:gaston.illanes@northwestern.edu">gaston.illanes@northwestern.edu</a></p>	<p>Professor Mitchell Petersen Kellogg School of Management Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.467.1281 <a href="mailto:mpetersen@kellogg.northwestern.edu">mpetersen@kellogg.northwestern.edu</a></p>
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