

VIACHESLAV SAVITSKIY
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BROWN UNIVERSITY

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics Brown University
Providence, RI 02912
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PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES

MA, Economics, Brown University	2015 – 2016
MA, Economics, New Economic School	2013 – 2015
BA, Economics, Higher School of Economics	2009 – 2013

DOCTORAL STUDIES

Brown University	2015 – present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics	

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary Fields: Macroeconomic, Economic Growth, Evolutionary Economics

Secondary Fields: Development Economics, Economic History, International Trade

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Professor Oded Galor, Brown University	Summer 2016, 2017
Research Assistant to Professor Douglas Campbell, New Economic School	2014 – 2015
Research Assistant at Dorodnicyn Computing Centre of Russian Academy of Sciences	2013

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Theory of Economic Growth, Brown University	2019
International Trade, Brown University	2018 – 2019
Macroeconomics for Graduate Students, Brown University	2016 – 2018

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

Growth Lab Breakfast, Brown University	2020
Economics Department Seminar, Haifa University	2019
Economics Department Seminar, Ben-Gurion University	2019
Growth Lab Breakfast, Brown University (x3)	2019
The NBER Political Economy Program Meeting	2019
Deep Determinants of Growth Conference at Brown University	2018
Macro Lunch Seminar, Brown University	2018
Growth Lab Seminar, Brown University	2017

HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Merit Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Economics, Brown University	2019
Third Year Paper Award, Department of Economics, Brown University (\$ 1,000)	2018
Field Examination passed with distinction, Department of Economics, Brown University	2017
Cum Laude diploma, New Economic School	2015
Cum Laude diploma, Higher School of Economics	2013

RESEARCH PAPERS

“Environmental Change and Individual Learning” *Job Market Paper* (2020)

This research explores the determinants of predisposition towards individual learning and the variation in its prevalence across regions and linguistic groups. It advances the hypothesis and establishes empirically that the evolution of individual learning in the course of human history can be traced to the adaptation of humans to the changes in the environment that generated a need for adaptation via the process of cultural evolution. Exploiting variations in the environmental changes that occurred in the course of historic migrations or were caused by the introduction of new crops during the Columbian Exchange, the research suggests that consistent with the predictions of the theory, individuals whose ancestors were subjected to a greater accumulated environmental changes are characterised by a higher propensity towards individual learning.

“Climatic Roots of Loss Aversion” with Oded Galor, Brown University (2020)

R&R at The American Economic Review

This research explores the origins of loss aversion and the variation in its prevalence across regions, nations and ethnic group. It advances the hypothesis and establishes empirically that the evolution of loss aversion in the course of human history can be traced to the adaptation of humans to the asymmetric effects of climatic shocks on reproductive success during the epoch in which subsistence consumption was a binding constraint. Exploiting regional variations in the vulnerability to climatic shocks and their exogenous changes in the course of the Columbian Exchange, the research establishes that consistent with the predictions of the theory, individuals and ethnic groups that are originated in regions marked by greater climatic volatility have higher predisposition towards loss-neutrality, while descendants of regions in which climatic conditions tended to be spatially correlated, and thus shocks were aggregate in nature, are characterized by greater intensity of loss aversion.

“Environmental Roots of Labor-Leisure Preference” with Oded Galor, Brown University (2019)

This research explores the origins of labour-leisure preference and the variation in its prevalence across regions and nations. It advances the hypothesis and establishes empirically that the evolution of predisposition towards labour and leisure in the course of human history can be traced to the adaptation of humans to the modes of production, characterized by the different return to effort in the long-run. Exploiting regional variations in the potential suitability for hunting and agriculture and their exogenous changes in the course of the Columbian Exchange, the research establishes that consistent with the predictions of the theory, individuals that are originated in regions marked by greater suitability for hunting have higher predisposition towards leisure, while descendants of regions in which agriculture was more productive are characterized by greater predisposition towards labour.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“Evolution of Culture: Selection and Drift” with Alexander Yarkin, Brown University

“Soil Erosivity and Pre-Industrial Development” with Sergey Egiev and Stelios Michalopoulos, Brown University