Timur Abbiasov

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Placement Assistant: Amy Devine

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Research Interests

Urban economics, Human mobility

Education

Ph.D. in Economics

Columbia University

New York

2015-2021
(expected)

B.A. in Economics 2011-2015

New Economic School and Higher School of Economics Moscow, Russia

Job Market Paper

Do Urban Parks Promote Racial Diversity in Social Interactions? Evidence from New York City

2020

Abstract: While policymakers and urban planners often praise public space for promoting racial diversity, empirically it remains unclear whether these places play a role in creating diverse social environments for the city's residents. Focusing on parks in New York City as the exemplar of modern public space, I estimate the causal relationship between access to parks and individually experienced diversity. To do so, I introduce a measure of racial diversity that captures one's level of exposure to diverse others in places visited on a daily basis, utilizing a novel dataset featuring individual GPS tracking data for more than 60 thousand Twitter users in the New York metro area. My empirical strategy relies on obtaining a time-varying measure of access to parks that incorporates information about ongoing construction and repair works across the city. The results show that additional 10 acres of parkland within the 5km radius from home increase one's experienced diversity by about 1 p.p. (or 5% of the standard deviation). I also provide evidence to suggest that park accessibility affects the diversity of white and black residents differently: the effect appears to be more pronounced for whites than blacks, suggesting that parks in majority-white neighborhoods are able to attract a broader range of visitors compared to the local parks in black neighborhoods.

Last updated: October 1, 2020 https://tabbiasov.me/cv/

Other Working Papers

Do Local Businesses Benefit from Stadiums? The Case of Major Professional Sports Leagues Arenas (with *Dmitry Sedov*) 2020

Abstract: Stadiums cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build and are often subsidized by public sources. Subsidies are partly allocated in expectation that stadiums can improve the local economy by generating spending at local businesses. How large are such local spillover effects? We provide empirical evidence using data on the stadiums of major US sports leagues' teams. The dataset consists of stadium names and game dates from sports-reference.com matched with locations and daily foot-traffic of stadiums and nearby businesses from Safegraph. We estimate fixed effects and IV specifications that capture the spillover effects of stadium visit counts on visit counts to local businesses. Spillovers are heterogeneous across sports and business sectors. While baseball and football stadiums generate substantial traffic to Food & Accommodation and Retail Trade businesses, the null hypothesis of no spillovers cannot be rejected for basketball&hockey stadiums. We use the estimated effects to compare allocated subsidies with the benefits stadiums generated for the local economy.

Work and Teaching Experience

Research Assistant

For Prof. Christian Moser, Columbia University

2017-2018

My task was to perform data cleaning and geocoding for about 8 million raw address lines using Python and ArcGIS API. I was also responsible for providing summary reports and creating custom maps to visualize the data.

Teaching Fellow

Econometrics I (graduate) Fall, 2017-2019

Instructors: Seyhan Erden; Mehmet Caner; Jushan Bai and Steven Olley

Econometrics II (graduate) Fall, 2018-2020

Instructor: Ronald Miller

Economics of Information Spring 2017

Instructor: Pierre-Andre Chiappori

Intermediate Microeconomics Fall 2016

Instructor: Caterina Musatti

Research Grants and Academic Awards

Research Grants and Fellowships

Data Grant 2020

Program for Economic Research, Columbia University. \$5,000

Dissertation Fellowship 2020-2021

Department of Economics. Columbia University

Dean's Fellow (Ph.D. in Economics) 2015-2020

Columbia University

Research Grant Russian Science Foundation, Grant No15-18-30081 'Optimal design of information markets', under the supervision of prof. Sergei Izmalkov	2015
Grant for Participants of Academic Mobility Programs Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia	2013
Honors and Awards	
Diploma cum Laude New Economic School, Moscow, Russia	2015
Laureate of the Presidential Award for the Support of Talented Youth Moscow, Russia	2010
Winner of the XV All-Russian Olympiad in Economics (among school students)	2010

Personal Information

Moscow, Russia

Citizenship: Russian Federation Born in 1993

Coding Skills

Computation and Statistics

Python, R, Stata, Mathematica, MATLAB

SQL, MongoDB

Mapping and GIS

QGIS, ArcGIS, Mapbox, deck.gl, geopandas, GDAL

Full-stack, Web

JavasSript, Node.js, React, D3.js

Languages

English (fluent), Russian (native)

References

Donald R. Davis

Professor of Economics, Columbia University President, Urban Economics Association 212.854.4037 drdavis@columbia.edu

David Weinstein

Carl S. Shoup Professor of Japanese Economy 212.854.6880 dew35@columbia.edu

Reka Juhasz

Assistant Professor, Columbia University

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