

Sergey Lychagin

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Curriculum Vitae

- Research interests** Applied Microeconomics, Industrial Organization, Economics of Education.
My research interests span a broad range of topics in structural microeconomics. Most recently, I have been working on college admission mechanisms and spatial location of firms.
- Education** Ph.D., Economics, The Pennsylvania State University, 2011
Dissertation title: “Essays in Applied Microeconomics”
Committee: Kala Krishna (chair), John Moran, Joris Pinkse, Mark Roberts
M.A., Economics, New Economic School, Russia, 2005
M.Sc., Mathematics, Moscow State University, Russia, 2003
- Working Papers** Akyol, Pelin, Krishna, Kala, and Sergey Lychagin. 2022. “Deconstructing the Placement Gender Gap: Performance versus Preferences.” ([Link to current draft](#)).
Krishna, Kala, Lychagin, Sergey, Olszewski, Wojciech, Siegel, Ron, and Chloe Tergiman. 2022. “Pareto Improvements in the Contest for College Admissions.” [NBER Working Paper 30220](#), R&R Review of Economic Studies.
- Academic Publications** Frisancho, Veronica, Krishna, Kala, and Sergey Lychagin. 2018. “Retaking in High Stakes Exams: Is Less More?” *International Economic Review*, 52(2): 449–477.
Lychagin, Sergey. 2016. “Spillovers, Absorptive Capacity and Agglomeration.” *Journal of Urban Economics*, 96: 17–35.
Frisancho, Veronica, Krishna, Kala, Lychagin, Sergey, and Cemile Yavas. 2016. “Better Luck Next Time: Learning Through Retaking,” *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 125: 120–135.
Lychagin, Sergey, Pinkse, Joris, Slade, Margaret, and John VanReenen. 2016. “Spillovers in Space: Does Geography Matter?” *Journal of Industrial Economics*, 64(2): 295–335.
Das, Sanghamitra, Krishna, Kala, Lychagin, Sergey and Rohini Somanathan. 2013. “Back on the Rails: Competition and Productivity in State-Owned Industry,” *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 5(1): 136–162.
- Policy Articles** Tergiman, Chloe, Siegel, Ron, Lychagin, Sergey, Olszewski, Wojciech and Kala Krishna. “Reducing college admissions stress,” VoxEU.org, 31 August 2022.
Das, Sanghamitra, Krishna, Kala, Lychagin, Sergey and Rohini Somanathan. “Inefficient Public-Sector Undertakings: Is Competition a Remedy?” VoxEU.org, 30 May 2011.
Lychagin, Sergey, Pinkse, Joris, Slade, Margaret, and John VanReenen. “You Can Raise Productivity Through R&D, But Geography Matters a Lot,” VoxEU.org, 25 October 2010.

Teaching Experience	Principles of Microeconomics (BA), 2020–2022 Empirical Research Seminar (PhD), 2020–2021 Intermediate Econometrics (BA), 2022 Designing Markets That Work (MA), 2021 Econometrics (MA), 2012–2023 Industrial Organization (MA & PhD), 2011–2023 Economic Geography (MA & PhD), 2012 PhD Research Seminar, 2013–2017
Awards	Bates White Fellowship, 2008 – 2009 Graduate Scholar Award, Pennsylvania State University, 2005
Seminar and Conference Talks	2022: Higher School of Economics, Workshop on Gender and Education (Collegio Carlo Alberto). 2021: Pennsylvania State University. 2016: Economics in Education Conference (Penn State), IAAE Annual Conference, EEA-ESEM Geneva. 2015: Lisbon Workshop on Economics, Statistics and Econometrics of Education, University of Alicante, SOLE/EALE meeting in Montreal 2014: University of Cardiff, University of Exeter, Pompeu Fabra University 2013: University of St. Gallen 2012: Workshop on the Economics of ICTs, Royal Economic Society Conference, Delhi School of Economics, Annual GDN Conference, New Economic School 20th Anniversary Conference 2011: Ifo Institute EGIT Meeting, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, McMaster University, Ryerson University, Penn State University
Referee Activity	AEJ Applied Economics, Annals of Regional Science, Canadian Journal of Economics, European Economic Review, Hungarian Statistical Review, Information Economics and Policy, International Economic Review, Journal of Asian and African Studies, Journal of European Economic Association, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Regional Science, Journal of Urban Economics, Regional Science and Urban Economics, Regional Studies, Review of Economic Studies, Review of International Economics, Technovation.
Other Professional Activity	Organizer of the Student Conference in Economics (2022-2023) Program Director of MA in Economics (2022-2023) Program Director of Data Science and Society undergraduate program (2023)
PhD Students	Main advisor: Vukan Vujic (defended in 2018) Dissertation examiner: András Kiss, Balázs Vonnak, Jenő Pál, Kinga Marczell, Lajos Szabó, Márta Bisztray, Paweł Bukowski, Péter Zsohár, Rita Pető, Ágnes Szabó-Morvai, Viola Monostoriné Grolmusz, Calin-Vlad Demian.
MA Students	Academic placements in parentheses: Peonare Caka, Anastasia Rozovskaya (PoliSci PhD Yale), Emil Bondarev, Ákos Aczél, Attila Gyetvai (PhD Duke), Kirill Kazantcev (PoliSci PhD Rochester),

Aian Kadyrova, Aron Bodisz, Tram Thi Bich Pham (PhD Uppsala), Vardan Simonyan, Zsolt Hegyesi, Argun Aman (PhD Mannheim), Aly Abdou, Daniel Molnar, Malika Korganbekova (PhD in Marketing, Kellogg School of Management), Yerkanat Moldabekov, Victoria Paige Mosby, Tasnim Murad Mamun, Caroline Hamberger, Ramzi Chariag.

Current papers: **Krishna, Lychagin, Olszewski, Siegel, Tergiman. 2023. “Pareto Improvements in the Contest for College Admissions.”** ([NBER WP link](#))

Abstract:

We consider modifying college admissions based on a centrally administered tests by pooling intervals of performance rankings, and investigate how such policies can improve students’ welfare in a Pareto sense. Pooling affects both the equilibrium allocation of students to colleges and the effort students exert. We characterize the Pareto frontier of Pareto improving policies, and also identify improvements that are robust to the distribution of college seats.

Akyol, Krishna, Lychagin. 2022. “Deconstructing the Placement Gender Gap: Performance versus Preferences.” ([Link](#))

Abstract:

When primary and secondary education is free and of good quality, as well as heavily subsidized at the university level, and admissions are transparent and performance based, one might expect there to be little gender bias in placement at the university level. Yet, the college major choice decisions of students vary considerably by gender. Using Turkish data, we examine what lies behind these differences. Two channels seem to dominate: performance differences and differences in preferences across majors by gender. We estimate a state of the art model of preferences and run counter-factual simulations to evaluate the role of these two channels on the placement gender gap. Finally, we show that policy measures, such as giving women preference in STEM subjects, will not work as well as expected and show that more directed policies are needed.