

VASILY RUSANOV

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NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

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Placement Director: David Cesarini david.cesarini@nyu.edu 646-413-8576
Graduate Administrator: Ian Johnson ian.johnson@nyu.edu 212-998-8901

Education

PhD in Economics, New York University, 2016–2022 (expected)
Thesis Title: *The Rise of American Education and Science*
MPhil in Economics, New York University, 2020
MA in Economics, New Economic School, Moscow, Russia, 2013–2015
BA in Economics, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia, 2009–2013

References

Professor Petra Moser
44 West Fourth St., 7th Floor
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Professor Martin Rotemberg
19 West Fourth St., 6th Floor
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Professor Elena Manresa
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Teaching and Research Fields

Applied Microeconomics, Labor, Economic History

Teaching Experience

Fall 2020, Fall 2018	Economics of Innovation, TA for Petra Moser
Spring 2020	Statistics, TA for Timothy Roper
Fall 2019	Introduction to Macroeconomics, TA for Marc Lieberman
Summer 2019	Money and Banking, Instructor (co-designed the class)
Spring 2018	Introduction to Econometrics, TA for Andrew Paizis

Research Experience and Other Employment

2017–2018	Research Assistant for Petra Moser
2015–2016	Research Intern, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia
2012–2014	Harvard Business Review–Russia, occasional writing

Research Grants

2021	NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research in Economics #2049699, \$20,000
2020	Economic History Association Exploratory Travel & Data, \$2,500
2019	CV Starr Center for Applied Economics Data Purchase, \$3,000

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships

2016	MacCracken Fellowship, New York University
2015	Best Master Thesis of Class 2015, New Economic School
2013	Never Ending Support Scholarship: Alumni for Students

Research Papers

Internal Migration and the Diffusion of Schooling in the United States ([Job Market Paper](#), [draft](#))

This paper investigates the influence of internal migration on education, and specifically, the uneven rise of school enrollments in the nineteenth-century United States. Despite having the highest average enrollment in the world, Eastern states varied greatly in terms of how many children went to school, with states in the South lagging behind those in the North. I track the locations of millions of white adults moving west using the Population Census in 1850–1880. Focusing on a sample of seven destination states, I estimate a discrete choice model to show that parents from more educated origins had a higher willingness to pay for education. I then compare the destination counties that received different mixes of migrants from the Eastern origins. Internal migrants created spillovers for local populations: parents born in the destination states were more likely to send children to school if their migrant neighbors originated from states with higher school enrollments. Detailed county-level data on school finances, which I assemble by digitizing the Census of Social Statistics, show that counties with migrants increased public spending on schools. Taking the estimated choice model and the spillover effects together, I find that tripling the distance costs of migration would have reduced the enrollment rates of natives by 1.5 percentage points. These findings suggest that internal migration mattered beyond the reallocation of labor and preference sorting.

Work in Progress

Population Diversity and Local Property Taxes

I study whether ethnic and origin diversity in the population promotes or hinders public finances. On the one hand, higher homogeneity allows increased public spending due to easier coordination and trust. On the other hand, increased trust simplifies tax evasion when facing higher-level authority (for example, the state government). I use a newly-digitized county-level dataset from the United States in 1850–1870, where both the assessed tax property valuations and the true market value of wealth are recorded. Nearly 90% of counties did not pay the taxes on full valuation, and instead negotiated lower valuations with the tax assessors. Using the changing state-level tax rates, I investigate to what extent diverse counties were able to negotiate lower property valuations, which not only lowered the contribution to the state tax revenue but also reduced the local provision of public goods.

Inequality in Science (with Anna Airoidi and Petra Moser)

Children of the Argonauts: Life Outcomes of the Sons of Gold Rush Migrants

Professional Activities

Conference/seminar presentations

2021	Economic History Association (Annual Meeting) Washington University in St. Louis (16 th EGSC Conference) Urban Economics Association (North American Annual Meeting) IPUMS Data-Intensive Research Conference NBER SI Development of American Economy (poster session) The Rise of Education Across European Regions in the Last Two Centuries (online seminar) Internal Seminars at NYU (Development, Student Applied Micro Lunch)
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2020 Economic History Association (Annual Meeting, poster)
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Service

2020 Virtual Economic History Seminar, Student Session (co-organizer)
2015 Summer Economic School for high schoolers, Russia (volunteer)

Reading Groups at NYU

Student Econometrics Reading Group
Industrial Organization Reading Group (co-organizer)

Other Information

Programming skills R, Python, Stata, SQL, \LaTeX , Git, Unix,
High-Performance Computing (slurm)

Languages Russian (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), German (basic)