

# Boris Gershman

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Economics American University 4400 Massachusetts Ave NW Washington, DC 20016, USA	Office phone: (202) 885-3688 E-mail: <a href="mailto:boris.gershman@american.edu">boris.gershman@american.edu</a> Web: <a href="http://www.borisgershman.com">www.borisgershman.com</a>
EMPLOYMENT	<b>American University</b> , Washington, District of Columbia, USA Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure), September 2018 – present Assistant Professor of Economics, August 2012 – August 2018	
VISITING POSITIONS	<b>University of Warwick</b> , Department of Economics, Coventry, UK Visiting Scholar, December 2014 – August 2015  <b>Max Planck Institute for Tax Policy and Public Finance</b> , Munich, Germany Visiting Scholar, March 2015	
EDUCATION	<b>Brown University</b> , Providence, Rhode Island, USA Ph.D., Economics, May 2012 <i>Thesis</i> : “Economic Development, Institutions, and Culture Through the Lens of Envy” M.A., Economics, May 2008  <b>New Economic School</b> , Moscow, Russia M.A., Economics, May 2007, <i>cum laude</i>  <b>Moscow State University</b> , Moscow, Russia B.Sc., Economics, May 2005, <i>summa cum laude</i>	
RESEARCH FIELDS	Economic Growth and Development Economics of Culture and Institutions	
JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS	<i>Structural Change, Elite Capitalism, and the Emergence of Labor Emancipation</i> (with Quamrul Ashraf, Francesco Cinnirella, Oded Galor, and Erik Hornung). <i>Review of Economic Studies</i> , forthcoming.  Headhunting and Warfare in Austronesia: A Phylogenetic Comparative Analysis (with Tinatin Mumladze). <i>Journal of Economic Behavior &amp; Organization</i> , April 2024, 220, pp. 768–791.  <i>Witchcraft Beliefs Around the World: An Exploratory Analysis</i> <i>PLoS ONE</i> , November 2022, 17 (11), e0276872.  Witchcraft Beliefs as a Cultural Legacy of the Atlantic Slave Trade: Evidence from Two Continents <i>European Economic Review</i> , February 2020, 122, 103362.	

Measuring Regional Ethnolinguistic Diversity in Sub-Saharan Africa:  
Surveys vs. GIS (with Diego Rivera).

*World Bank Economic Review*, February 2020, 34 (S1), pp. S40-S45.

Subnational Diversity in Sub-Saharan Africa:  
Insights from a New Dataset (with Diego Rivera).

*Journal of Development Economics*, July 2018, 133, pp. 231–263.

Banks, Market Organization, and Macroeconomic Performance:  
An Agent-Based Computational Analysis (with Quamrul Ashraf and Peter Howitt).

*Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, March 2017, 135, pp. 143–180.

Witchcraft Beliefs and the Erosion of Social Capital:  
Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa and Beyond.

*Journal of Development Economics*, May 2016, 120, pp. 182–208.

How Inflation Affects Macroeconomic Performance:  
An Agent-Based Computational Investigation (with Quamrul Ashraf and Peter Howitt).

*Macroeconomic Dynamics*, March 2016, 20 (2), pp. 558–581.

The Economic Origins of the Evil Eye Belief.

*Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, February 2015, 110, pp. 119–144.

The Two Sides of Envy.

*Journal of Economic Growth*, December 2014, 19(4), pp. 407–438.

Envy in the Process of Development: Implications for Social Relations and Conflict.

*Economics of Peace and Security Journal*, October 2013, 8(2), pp. 13–19.

Macroeconomics in a Self-Organizing Economy (with Quamrul Ashraf and Peter Howitt).

*Revue de l'OFCE / Debates and policies*, 2012, 124, pp. 43–65.

BOOK  
CHAPTERS

Witchcraft Beliefs, Social Relations, and Development.

In *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*. Edited by Klaus F. Zimmermann. Cham: Springer, 2022.

Long-Run Development and the New Cultural Economics.

In *Demographic Change and Long-Run Development*. Edited by M. Cervelatti and U. Sunde. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press, 2017, Chapter 9, pp. 221–261.

BOOK  
REVIEWS

Witch Hunts: Culture, Patriarchy, and Structural Transformation  
(by Govind Kelkar and Dev Nathan).

*Journal of Development Studies*, 2023, 59 (8), pp. 1313–1314.

WORKING  
PAPERS

Witchcraft Beliefs and Subjective Well-Being

RESEARCH IN  
PROGRESS

*Species Diversity and the Adoption of Agriculture*  
(with Katsuki Morihara)

*Local Diversity and Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa*  
(with Ameesh Upadhyay)

*Ethnicity, Religion, and Conflict: Evidence from African Regions*  
(with Diego Rivera)

PUBLICATIONS IN RUSSIAN	Income Inequality and Economic Growth: An Empirical Survey. <i>Ekonomicheskaya Nauka Sovremennoi Rossii</i> , July 2009, 2, pp. 91–104.
	Income Inequality and Economic Growth: A Theoretical Survey. <i>Ekonomika i Matematicheskie Metody</i> , April 2009, 45(2), pp. 19–30.
RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS	In 2023: ASREC annual conference, Harvard University (March); Manhattan College, O’Malley School of Business (October).
	In 2022: ASREC annual conference, Chapman University (April); 41st EBES conference, Berlin (October); Southern Economic Association annual meetings, Fort Lauderdale FL (November).
	In 2020: University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Agricultural & Applied Economics (December).
	In 2018: Wake Forest University, Department of Economics (November); Williams College, Department of Economics (November); RASA IX annual conference, George Washington University (November).
	In 2017: NES 25th anniversary conference, Moscow (December); EMSCH 50th anniversary conference, Moscow State University (December); Economic History and Development Workshop, George Mason University (August); Wageningen University, RHI seminar (June); Workshop on culture, diversity and economic development, Groningen (June); CSAE annual conference, University of Oxford (March); American University, School of International Service (March); ASREC 16th annual conference, Boston MA (February).
	In 2016: Florida International University, Department of Economics (October); Ethnicity and diversity conference, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid (June); Development economics and policy conference, Heidelberg University (June); ASREC 15th annual conference, Chapman University (March).
	In 2015: University of Sussex, Department of Economics (April); Queen’s University Belfast, Management School (March).
	In 2014: CESifo Venice summer institute, Venice International University (July); Summer workshop in economic growth, University of Warwick (July); Conference on deep-rooted factors in economic development, Brown University (May); American University, Department of Economics (April); ASREC 13th annual conference, Chapman University (March); Middle East Technical University, Department of Economics (January).
	In 2013: Bilkent University, Department of Economics (December); EEA-ESEM congress, University of Gothenburg (August); University of Namur, CRED workshop (June); ASREC 12th annual conference, Arlington VA (April); Workshop on growth and development, University of Southern Denmark (March); University of Copenhagen, Department of Economics (March); George Mason University, Center for Study of Public Choice (January).
	In 2012: University of Oxford, Department of Economics (February); Gettysburg College, Department of Economics (February); University of South Carolina, Moore School of Business (January); American University, Department of Economics (January).

In 2011: New Economic School, Moscow (December); Higher School of Economics, Moscow (December); NEUDC conference, Yale University (November); Midwest Economic Theory Meetings, Vanderbilt University (November); Brown University, Department of Economics (October); Williams College, Department of Economics (September).

In 2010 and earlier: Moscow State University, Department of Economics (December 2010); Southern Economic Association annual meetings, Atlanta GA (November 2010); New Economic School, NES/CEFIR seminar (July 2010); Brown University, Macro Lunch seminar (Novembers of 2007, 2009, 2010).

TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE

American University

GIS Applications in Empirical Economics (graduate). Instructor, since Spring 2020  
Macroeconomic Analysis-II (doctoral). Instructor, since Spring 2013  
Intermediate Macroeconomics (undergraduate). Instructor, since Fall 2012  
(including a version of the course with calculus)

Brown University

Econometrics-II (advanced undergraduate). TA for Koen Jochmans, Fall 2010  
Introduction to Econometrics (undergraduate). TA for Stefan Hoderlein, Spring 2010  
Macroeconomics-II (doctoral). TA for Peter Howitt, Spring 2009  
Macroeconomics-I (doctoral). TA for David Weil, Fall 2008

HONORS,  
AWARDS, AND  
FELLOWSHIPS

American University

Mellon Faculty Award, Spring 2021, Spring 2014  
International Travel Award, Spring 2016, Spring 2013  
Faculty Data Purchase Award, Spring 2015

5th Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting on Economic Sciences, August 2014  
Invited young scientist

Brown University

Merit Dissertation Fellowship, Fall 2011 – Spring 2012  
Summer Research Fellowship, 2011  
Abramson Prize for the third-year research paper, 2010  
Teaching Certificate I, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, 2009  
Stephen R. Ehrlich Fellowship, 2007–2008

SELECTED  
MEDIA  
COVERAGE

“Political Analysis Needs More Witchcraft.

*The Atlantic*, October 31, 2023. Correspondent: Brian Klaas.

“Tro på onda häxkonster fortfarande stark – Sverige sticker ut” (in Swedish).

*Dagens Nyheter*, April 8, 2023. Correspondent: Johan Nilsson.

“Ifølge nyt studie tror 40 procent på hekse. Har krisen næret overtroen?” (in Danish).

*Kristeligt Dagblad*, January 9, 2023. Correspondent: Alexander Dahl.

“Selon une vaste étude, un milliard de personnes croient en la sorcellerie!” (in French).

*Science & Vie*, December 30, 2022.

“Wie der moderne Hexenglaube unseren Wohlstand gefährdet” (in German).

*National Geographic*, December 2, 2022. Correspondent: Katarina Fischer.

“Aberglaube ist omnipräsent: Warum wir alle gerne Harry Potter wären” (in German).  
*Kurier*, November 27, 2022. Correspondent: Susanne Mauthner-Weber.

“Mas que as há, há: quase metade dos portugueses acredita em bruxaria” (in Portuguese).  
*Público*, November 25, 2022. Correspondent: Tiago Ramalho.

“Wer an Gott glaubt, glaubt häufig auch an Hexerei” (in German).  
*NZZ magazin*, November 25, 2022. Correspondent: Patrick Imhasly.

“No Brasil 51 percent acreditam em bruxas” (in Portuguese).  
*O Globo*, November 24, 2022. Correspondent: Rafael Garcia.

“Geloof in hekserij is nog altijd springlevend, zo blijkt uit nieuw onderzoek” (in Dutch).  
*Scientias*, November 24, 2022. Correspondent: Caroline Kraaijvanger.

“Злое колдунство: как сглаз и порча вредят экономикам” (in Russian).  
*N+1*, November 24, 2022. Correspondent: Ilya Ferapontov.

“Viele Menschen glauben weiterhin an die Existenz von Hexen” (in German).  
*Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, November 24, 2022. Correspondent: Alice Lanzke.

“4 in 10 people worldwide believe in witches.”  
*Live Science*, November 23, 2022. Correspondent: Tia Ghose.

“Tremate, le streghe sono ancora tra noi” (in Italian).  
*la Repubblica*, November 23, 2022. Correspondent: Elena Dusi.

“Russia has got a problem with witches.”  
*Newsweek*, November 23, 2022. Correspondent: Robyn White.

“The evil eye isn’t just a trend. Here’s what it means to me.”  
*The Washington Post*, July 10, 2022. Correspondent: Eda Uzunlar.

“Comment l’esclavage a contribué à l’essor de la sorcellerie” (in French).  
*National Geographic*, March 12, 2020. Correspondent: Taïna Cluzeau.

“Witches exist and they come in numbers.”  
*ZAM Magazine*, September 17, 2019. Correspondents: Alberique Houndjo et al.

“When magical beliefs shape reality.”  
*I, Science*, June 24, 2019. Correspondent: Juanita Bawagan.

“Labeling women witches remains a powerful tool for social stigmatization.”  
*Seeker*, January 8, 2018. Correspondent: Jen Viegas.

“Hexenjagd im 21. Jahrhundert” (in German).  
*Bild*, December 26, 2017. Correspondent: Christian Müller.

“Бес стагнации” (in Russian).  
*Kommersant Dengi*, July 11, 2016. Correspondent: Vladimir Ruvinsky.

“O que bruxaria tem a ver com economia?” (in Portuguese).  
*Exame*, June 29, 2016. Correspondent: João Pedro Caleiro.

“¿Es la creencia en la brujería un factor para el desarrollo económico?”  
*RCN Radio*, June 21, 2016. Correspondents: Alejandro Villegas, Laura Bernal.

“Falsos intermediarios” (in Spanish).  
*Pulso San Luis*, June 5, 2016. Correspondent: Alfonso Lastras Martínez.

“How witchcraft harms economies.”  
*Seeker*, June 2, 2016. Correspondent: Ben Radford.

“Why belief in witchcraft can do harm.”  
*Live Science*, May 12, 2016. Correspondent: Stephanie Pappas.

“Believing in witchcraft can slow economic progress, researcher discovers.”  
*The Independent*, May 10, 2016. Correspondent: Doug Bolton.

“Witchcraft belief creates antisocial cultures that are bad for business.”  
*International Business Times*, May 10, 2016. Correspondent: Léa Surugue.

“As origens econômicas do olho gordo” (in Portuguese).  
*Exame*, September 13, 2015. Correspondent: João Pedro Caleiro.

“The hidden economic lessons of the evil eye.”  
*Quartz*, September 3, 2015. Correspondent: Matt Phillips.

“E assim nasceu o mau-olhado” (in Portuguese).  
*Correio Braziliense*, June 14, 2015. Correspondent: Isabela de Oliveira.

“The case for the evil eye.”  
*The Boston Globe*, January 4, 2015. Correspondent: Kevin Lewis.

“What to do when the invisible hand stops working.”  
*Bloomberg*, June 5, 2013. Correspondent: Mark Buchanan.

SELECTED  
UNIVERSITY  
SERVICE

American University  
 Placement director, Department of Economics, 2022–2024  
 Dean’s advisory committee, College of Arts and Sciences, 2017–2019  
 Recruitment committee, School of International Service, 2016–2017  
 Recruitment committee, Department of Economics, 2014–2016, 2019–2022  
 Organizer of the Research Seminar Series, Department of Economics, 2012–2014

OTHER  
PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE

Reviewer for *Demography*, *Economic Journal*, *Economics & Politics*, *European Economic Review*, *European Journal of Law and Economics*, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Journal of Cross-Cultural Gerontology*, *Journal of Cultural Economics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Journal of Economics, Management and Religion*, *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, *Journal of Population Economics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, National Science Foundation (NSF), *Nature Human Behaviour*, *Public Choice*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Religion, Brain & Behavior*, Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO), *Review of Economic Studies*, *Review of Economics and Institutions*, *Southern Economic Journal*, Springer – Major Reference Works, *World Development*

Fellow of the *Global Labor Organization*

Fellow of *Spatial Structures in the Social Sciences* (S4), Brown University

Translator for *Quantile*, international econometric journal in Russian language, 2007–2010

LANGUAGES      Russian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate, DELE Básico certificate, 2001),  
German (intermediate, DSH certificate, 2004)

*March 23, 2024*