

**ATTILA GÁSPÁR**

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**CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY**

Placement Director: Andrea Weber  
Graduate Administrator: Veronika Orosz

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**Office Contact Information**

Department of Economics  
Nádor utca 13  
Budapest 1051, Hungary  
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**Pre-doctoral studies:**

MA in Economics, Central European University, 2012  
MA in Political Science, Eotvos Lorand University, 2011

**Doctoral Studies:**

Central European University, 2012 to present  
Duke University 2017 (Visiting Ph.D. Student)  
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Expected Completion Date: June 2019

**References:**

Professor Ádám Szeidl  
Department of Economics and Business  
Central European University  
szeidla@ceu.edu

Professor Miklós Koren  
Department of Economics and Business  
Central European University  
korenm@ceu.edu

**Research Fields:**

Primary fields: Political Economy, Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics

**Teaching Experience:**

**Primary Instructor**

Fall 2016 Econometrics, Mathematical methods for economists, UMY (Indonesia)  
Spring 2015 Introduction to Economics, ELTE

**Teaching Assistant**

2014-2016 Data Analysis, Mathematical methods for economists, CEU  
2013 Microeconomics, Econometrics, ELTE

**Research Experience and Other Employment:**

Fall 2013- Research Assistant, CEU Department of Economics and Business  
For professors Miklós Koren and Adam Szeidl (CEU MicroData)  
2008-2010 Junior Consultant (PC Policy Research and Consulting Institute, Budapest)

### **Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships, Grants:**

2017	Doctoral Research Support Grant (Central European University)
2016	Review of Economics Studies Student Fellowship
2016	CEU Global Teaching Fellowship
2016	CERGE-EI GDN Regional Research Competition 2016 Grant
2015	INET The History Project Research Grant
2015	CERGE-EI Teaching Fellowship
2013	CERGE-EI Teaching Fellowship
2012	Erős Gyula Award for Best MA Thesis

### **Research:**

“The public morals - public services tradeoff: theory and evidence from Sharia-regulations in Indonesia”  
(job market paper)

Campaigning on value-based and highly divisive issues can serve as a cheaper alternative to provision of goods and services, so politicians have an economic incentive to cater to hardliners. A voting model is used to examine this idea, and its predictions are tested using Indonesian data. About half of the district governments in Indonesia have been experimenting with Sharia-based religious policies since 2000. Their negative impact on government expenditure and services, which is the main prediction of the model, is identified using difference-in-differences and instrumental variables methodologies. The conservative estimate is a 10% loss in both measures. A model-based calculation using ex-post electoral performance of incumbents suggests that the secular voters lose as much as four times the welfare through the direct effect of the policies as they lose through the public morals - public services substitution.

“The economics of identity changes - name changers in Hungary”  
With Rita Pető (CEU)

We study how the decision to assimilate affected labor market outcomes in Hungary in the late 19th - early 20th century. We show, that identity, which often provides the grounds for labor market discrimination, is in itself endogenous to economic incentives. Using two unique datasets we built from administrative yearbooks and archival data and an exogenous policy shock (a one-year informal campaign within the public administration to put pressure on public sector employees to “Hungarianize” their names) we study alternative economic mechanisms of selection into name changing, and the impact of the decision.

“Movement at the crossroads of Europe: Social mobility in Hungary 1840-2016”  
With Pawel Bukowski (LSE), Gregory Clark (UC-Davis), and Rita Pető (CEU)

Using the methodology of Clark (2014) we study social mobility in Hungary between 1840-2016 using a variety of original datasets. Hungary in these years witnessed many political and social upheavals. There were earlier struggles over language and culture within the Austrian Empire, with a population fragmented by language and religion. Later political struggles saw the ascendancy of the extreme right 1920-1945, of the extreme left, 1945-1990, and liberal democracy 1990-2010. In spite of the turbulent history, and that two regimes actively sought to generate social mobility, name frequency based estimates of deep parameters of social mobility are very similar to those found elsewhere (similarly low).

**Research in early stage:**

“Land ownership, technological progress and hatred”

With Győző Gyöngyösi (IFW-Kiel)

We build a novel dataset on land ownership and physical capital in agriculture of the 19th century Austro-Hungarian Monarchy by digitalizing administrative land registry records. We use this data to study whether the identity of the owner and the capital intensiveness help explain the evolution of extremist political attitudes over the very long run

**Seminars, Conference and Workshop Participation:**

2018 HAS Centre for Economic and Regional Studies (Seminar)

11<sup>th</sup> RGS Doctoral Conference, Essen

Bard College (Seminar)

2017 Graduate student Workshop of the Hungarian Society of Economics

UC Davis (Seminar)

Duke University (Seminar)

Hungarian Society of Economics Annual Conference

2016 8<sup>th</sup> IOS/APB/EACES Summer Academy, Tutzing

Annual Conference of the Swiss Society for Economics and Statistics

2015 Graduate Student Workshop of the Hungarian Society of Economics

1<sup>st</sup> German Economic History Conference, Münster

8<sup>th</sup> RGS Doctoral Conference, Essen

2014 Herzl seminar for Doctoral students, Telc (CZ)

**Language Skills:**

Hungarian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), Indonesian (basic)