DÁVID KRISZTIÁN NAGY

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Contact Information

Centre de Recerca en Economia Internacional
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Employment

Senior Researcher, CREI, 2024 to present
Adjunct Professor, Universitat Pompeu Fabra and Affiliated Professor, BSE, 2016 to present
Co-Editor, Regional Science and Urban Economics, 2020 to present

Past Positions

Junior Researcher, CREI, 2016 to 2023
Peter B. Kenen Fellow, Princeton University, 2022 to 2023
Visiting Professor, Columbia University, Spring 2019
Visiting Scholar, Minneapolis Fed Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute, September and October 2017

Education

Princeton University, 2010 to 2016
Ph.D. in Economics – thesis: "Essays in Economic Geography"

Central European University, Budapest, Hungary, 2008 to 2010
M.A. in Economics (with distinction)

University of Pannonia (Pannon Egyetem), Veszprém, Hungary, 2003 to 2008
MSc. in Economics (with distinction)

Fields of Research

International Trade, Economic Geography, Economic Growth

Publications

"All aboard: The effects of port development." *Journal of International Economics* 151, 2024.
"Hinterlands, city formation and growth: Evidence from the U.S. westward expansion." *Review of Economic Studies* 90(6), 3238–3281, 2023.

"Trade and urbanization: Evidence from Hungary." *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics* 14(3), 733–790, 2022.

"Quantitative economic geography meets history: Questions, answers and challenges." *Regional Science and Urban Economics* 94, Special Issue on Urban Economics and History, 2022.

"Local sectoral specialization in a warming world" (with Bruno Conte, Klaus Desmet and Esteban Rossi-Hansberg). *Journal of Economic Geography* 21(4), 493–530, Special Issue on the Economic Geography of Climate Change, 2021.

"Evaluating the economic cost of coastal flooding" (with Klaus Desmet, Robert E. Kopp, Scott A. Kulp, Michael Oppenheimer, Esteban Rossi-Hansberg and Benjamin H. Strauss). *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics* 13(2), 444–486, 2021.

"The geography of development" (with Klaus Desmet and Esteban Rossi-Hansberg). *Journal of Political Economy* 126(3), 903–983, 2018.

"Asia's geographic development" (with Klaus Desmet and Esteban Rossi-Hansberg). *Asian Development Review* 34(2), 1–24, 2017.

Working Papers

"The death and life of Great British cities" (with Stephan Heblich, Alex Trew and Yanos Zylberberg)

This paper studies how cities' industrial structure shapes their life and death. Our analysis exploits the large heterogeneity in the early composition of English and Welsh cities. We extract built-up clusters from early historical maps, identify settlements at the onset of the nineteenth century, and isolate exogenous variation in the nature of their rise during the transformation of the economy by the end of the nineteenth century. We then estimate the causal impact of cities' population and industrial specialization on their later dynamics. We find that cities specializing in a small number of industries decline in the long run. We develop a dynamic spatial model of cities to isolate the forces which govern their life and death. Intratemporally, the model captures the role of amenities, land, local productivity and trade in explaining the distribution of economic activity across industries and cities. Intertemporally, the model can disentangle the role of aggregate industry dynamics from city-specific externalities. We find that the long-run dynamics of English and Welsh cities is explained to a large extent by such dynamic externalities à la Jacobs.

"Bridges" (with Roc Armenter and Miklós Koren)

We build a continuous-space theory of trade in which people in a region agglomerate to exploit trading opportunities with another region. The regions are separated by a river, which can be crossed anywhere, but more cheaply at bridges. In the model, most trade takes place via bridges, leading to a key prediction that population density declines with distance to the bridge. We derive additional predictions about the spatial distribution of population and test them on current high-resolution population density data around twelve major American rivers. The data are mostly consistent with our model. In a historical event study of 19th-century bridges on these rivers, we find that the neighborhood of bridges developed faster after the bridge was built. Also, the two sides of the bridge converged in development, highlighting the connecting role of the bridge. More generally, our results suggest that economies of density arising from transport infrastructure can help explain why and where people agglomerate.

Work in Progress

"Cheap services and crowded cities" (with Shoumitro Chatterjee)

"Human capital accumulation across space" (with Klaus Desmet and Esteban Rossi-Hansberg)

"The economic geography of asymmetric trade costs" (with Woan-Foong Wong)

"The geography of joblessness and regional policy" (with Edward Glaeser and Giacomo Ponzetto)

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2026   University of St. Andrews, University of Bonn (all scheduled)

2025   University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, Monash University, University of Melbourne, SPACE Workshop (Shanghai), International Conference on Transition and Economic Development (Shanghai), University of Glasgow, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, SED, SAET, North Carolina State (scheduled), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (scheduled), University of Alicante (scheduled)

2024   University of Geneva, 11th International Workshop on Regional, Urban, and Spatial Economics in China (Nanjing – keynote speaker), GEA, ArmEA, ESEM (Rotterdam), NYU Abu Dhabi, Bank of Italy, LMU, Mannheim, ETH Zürich

2023   CRED Workshop on Regional and Urban Economics, USC, University of Virginia, Georgetown, Penn State, Tufts, University of Oregon, UCLA, University of Washington, World Bank, SED, NBER International Trade and Investment, Southern Methodist University, Paris Trade Seminar, University of Toronto, UEA (Toronto), Helsinki GSE, Globalization, Shipping and Trade Conference (Paris), Regional Disparities and Economic Policy group (Dortmund), INSEAD, CERGE-EI

2022   NYU Abu Dhabi, Université de Pau et des pays de l'Adour, Richmond Fed, University of Bologna, Postgraduate Conference in International Trade (Nottingham – keynote speaker), Erasmus University Rotterdam, SED, Princeton, EIIT (San Diego), Boston University, Philadelphia Fed, ANET Lab, Chicago Fed, McGill

2021   Philadelphia Workshop on Macroeonomics and Economic Policy, ArmEA, SED, KTI Nyári Műhely, Online Spatial and Urban Seminar, George Washington University, University of Oslo, CURE (Madrid)

2020   Institute of Economics – Hungarian Academy of Sciences (MTA KTI), Applied Economics Webinar (HKUST, NUS, Taiwan National and U Tokyo – keynote speaker), Virtual UEA

2019   Columbia, Penn State, University of Manchester, University of Murcia, CESifo Global Area Conference, Paris Trade Seminar, NES Moscow, NBER Urban Economics, Yale, Firm Location and Economic Geography Workshop (Paris), CURE (London), EIIT (Boulder, CO), Singapore Management University Conference in Urban and Regional Economics

2018   Universitat de Barcelona, Tel Aviv University, Hong Kong University, Singapore Management University, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, SED, Cities and the Environment Workshop (Potsdam), ETH Zürich, UEA (New York), University of Padua, LSE

2017   Transpyrenean Macro Workshop, NBER International Trade and Investment, 1st Conference of the Catalan Economic Society, Barcelona Summer Forum, SED, SAET, NBER Urban Economics, KTI Nyári Műhely, Columbia, Minneapolis Fed, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

2016   Philadelphia Fed, Barcelona Summer Forum, SED, North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association (Minneapolis), University of St. Andrews, UC Berkeley, RIDGE Uruguay

2015   Colloque sur la croissance économique et le développement (Montréal), Minneapolis Fed Junior Scholar Conference, European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society, MKE Conference

Teaching Experience

Winter/Spring 2024	Topics in Trade, Geography and Growth, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Spring 2017/18, Winter 2019/20/21/22	Topics in Economic Geography, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Fall 2018/19/20/21/23	Advanced Macro I (Trade and Growth), Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Fall 2021	Economic Growth and Development, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
Spring 2019	Topics in Trade and Growth, Columbia University

Professional Activities

Research Fellow, CEPR *Climate Change and The Environment*, *International Trade and Regional Economics* and *Macroeconomics and Growth*

Research Network Affiliate, CESifo

Fellow of the Hungarian Society of Economics (Applied Economics, Macroeconomics)

Referee for: AEJ Applied Economics, AEJ Macroeconomics, American Economic Review, AER Insights, Canadian Journal of Economics, Dynamic Games and Applications, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Econometrica, Economic Theory, International Economic Review, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Economic Theory, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Geographical Systems, Journal of International Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Urban Economics, National Tax Journal, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Dynamics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of International Economics.

Research Grants

Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation Grant PID2019-111691RA-I00.

Spanish State Research Agency and the European Social Fund (RYC2019-027620-I / AEI / 10.13039/501100011033).

Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, Juan de la Cierva – Grant (FJCI-2017-3428), 2019–2020.

Generalitat de Catalunya, AGAUR Grant (2017SGR1393), 2017–2020.

Barcelona GSE SEED Grant for the project "Growth and trade in a world of cities," 2016–2017.

Generalitat de Catalunya, AGAUR Grant (2014SGR830), 2014–2016.

Honors and Fellowships

2022 to 2023	Peter B. Kenen Fellowship, Princeton University
2019	Robert E. Lucas Jr. Prize, Journal of Political Economy
2019	Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Prize, CESifo Global Area Conference