

Nikita Melnikov
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Appointments

Nova School of Business and Economics

Assistant Professor in Economics 2022—present

CEPR Research Affiliate 2025—present

CESifo Research Affiliate 2026—present

Education

Princeton University

Ph.D. in Economics 2022

M.A. in Economics 2018

Higher School of Economics & New Economic School

B.A. in Economics 2016

Summa Cum Laude, Best Thesis Award

Publications

Gangs, Labor Mobility, and Development (with Carlos Schmidt-Padilla and María Micaela Sviatschi)

Econometrica, November 2025, 93(6): 2083–2121.

Media coverage: The Economist, Probable Causation, VoxDev, NBER Digest

3G Internet and Confidence in Government (with Sergei Guriev and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya)

Quarterly Journal of Economics, November 2021, 136(4): 2533–2613.

Media coverage: The Economist, VoxEU, EBRD Transition Report 2019–2020 (p. 30–31),
World Economic Forum, The Moscow Times

Happiness Convergence in Transition Countries (with Sergei Guriev)

Journal of Comparative Economics, September 2018, 46(3): 683–707.

War, Inflation, and Social Capital (with Sergei Guriev)

American Economic Review: Papers and Proceedings, May 2016, 106(5): 230–235.

Media coverage: The Moscow Times, RBC (in Russian)

Book Chapters & Policy Pieces

Mobile Broadband: Accountability, Populism, and Misinformation (with Sergei Guriev, Joana Cristina

Escórcio Silva, and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya)

EconPol Forum, 2025, 26(4): 21–25. CESifo.

Political Implications of the Rise of Mobile Broadband Internet [Chapter 5] (with Sergei Guriev and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya)

In *The Political Economy of Social Media*, Eds. Filipe R. Campante, Ruben Durante, and Andrea Tesei. CEPR Press.

Working Papers

Mobile Internet and Political Polarization

Reject & resubmit, *Review of Economic Studies*

Media coverage: The Boston Globe, Marginal Revolution

Mobile Broadband and the Decline of Incumbency Advantage (with Sergei Guriev, Joana Cristina Escórcio Silva, and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya)

Gang Crackdowns (with Carlos Schmidt-Padilla and María Micaela Sviatschi)

Work in Progress (selected)

Generation 3G (with Alexey Makarin)

Politics of U.S. Southern Border Migration (with Tiago Filipe Santos Leitão)

Job Matching for Crime-Affected Populations in El Salvador (with Carlos Schmidt-Padilla and María Micaela Sviatschi)

Organized Crime and Public Goods Provision During a Pandemic (with María Micaela Sviatschi)

Censorship, Propaganda, and Polarization

Professional Activities

Seminar and conference presentations (recent years):

University of Warwick (2026, scheduled), EGAP (2026, scheduled), Charles University (2026, scheduled), NOVAfrica Conference on Economic Development (2026), Bocconi University (2026), American Political Institutions in a Changing Media Environment (2026), Singapore Management University (2026), Academia Sinica, Taipei (2026), ifo Institute (2026), Transatlantic Political Economy Conference (2025), 5th Arne Ryde Workshop on Culture, Institutions, and Development (2025), WZB Berlin Social Science Center (2025), Berlin Applied Micro Seminar (2025), CESifo Workshop on Digital Platforms: Policy and Politics (2025), XXI RIDGE Forum (2025), 8th Economics of Media Bias Workshop (2025), University of Warwick (2025), Toulouse School of Economics (2024), CEPR Political Economy of Populism Conference (2023), Navarra Center for International Development (2023), SSRN Workshop on the Economics of Social Media (2023),

IEB Workshop on Political Economy (2023), Pompeu Fabra University (2023), Institut d’Economia de Barcelona (2023), Paris Dauphine (2023), University of Pavia (2023).

Event organizer:

- CEPR Political Economy Symposium 2026
- Nova SBE Economics seminar (2023–2026)
- NOVAfrica Conference on Economic Development Scientific Committee (2024, 2026)
- Princeton Graduate Political Economy seminar (2018–2021)

Referee: *American Economic Review, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review: Insights, American Journal of Political Science, Economic Journal, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, Journal of Public Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, World Bank Economic Review*

Honors and Awards (selected)

European Research Council (ERC) Starting Grant (€1,500,000)	2026
Displaced Livelihoods Initiative Grant, IPA & J-PAL (\$101,200)	2024
Prize Fellowship in the Social Sciences, Princeton University	2019–2022
Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies	2019
Dean’s Fund for Scholarly Travel, Princeton University	2018
US Ph.D. Scholarship, UniCredit Foundation	2016–2018
Princeton University Honorific Fellowship	2016–2018
Best Thesis Award, New Economic School	2016
Scholarship for Outstanding Academic Achievements, Higher School of Economics	2014–2016
Russia’s National Award in Support of Talented Young Students	2012
Absolute Winner of the Russian National Olympiad in Economics (Ranked 1st among more than 300,000 participants)	2012

Teaching Experience

Microeconomics I [6120, PhD], Nova SBE	2026
Research Methods I [6308, PhD], Nova SBE	2026
Research Methods II [6309, PhD], Nova SBE	2026

Policy Evaluation [2181], Nova SBE	2023–2026
Microeconomic Analysis [2188], Nova SBE	2023–2025
Markets, Incentives, and Behavior [2741], Nova SBE	2022
Microeconomic Theory [ECO 300], Princeton University	2018
International Development [WWS 302/ECO 359], Princeton University	2018
Industrial Organization, Higher School of Economics & New Economic School	2016
Microeconomics II, Higher School of Economics & New Economic School	2015
Microeconomics I, Higher School of Economics & New Economic School	2015
