

Lasha Chochua

Bielefeld Graduate School
of Economics and Management
Bielefeld University
V8-110, Universitätsstraße 25
33615 Bielefeld

Lasha.chochua@uni-bielefeld.de
http://www.bigsem.de/members/Job_Market_Candidates/
Cell-phone: +49 163 88 55 603
Citizenship: Georgian
Updated: November 11, 2017

EDUCATION:

- Ph.D.** in Economics, Bielefeld University, Germany 2013 to present
Expected Completion Date: Summer 2018
Thesis Title: “Topics in International Trade Policy, Trade Agreements,
and Social Decision Making under Ambiguity”
Advisor: Prof. Gerald Willmann
Co-advisor: Prof. Hale Utar
- M.A.** in Economic Analysis, University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain 2010
- M.A.** in Economics, International School of Economics (ISET), Georgia 2008
- M.A.** and **B.A.** in International Economic Relations, Ivane Javakhishvili
Tbilisi State University, Georgia 2005

RESEARCH INTEREST:

Primary: International Trade, Political Economy
Secondary: Game Theory, Decision Theory under Ambiguity

REFERENCES:

Prof. Gerald Willmann

Bielefeld University, Department of Economics
Universitätsstr. 25, 33615 Bielefeld, Germany
phone: +49 521 106-6350, fax: 106-67120
Email: gwillmann@wiwi.uni-bielefeld.de

Prof. Herbert Dawid

Bielefeld University, Department of Economics
Universitätsstr. 25, 33615 Bielefeld, Germany
Phone: +49 521 106-4843, fax: 106-89005
Email: hdawid@wiwi.uni-bielefeld.de

Prof. Hale Utar

Bielefeld University, Department of Economics
Universitätsstr. 25, 33615 Bielefeld, Germany
Phone: +49 521 106-4842, fax: 106-67120
Email: hale.utar@uni-bielefeld.de

Prof. Shlomo Weber

Southern Methodist University, Department of
Economics and New Economic School, Russia.
Phone: +7 495 956-9508, ext. 108
Email: sweber@smu.edu, sweber@nes.ru

JOB MARKET PAPER:

Title: *“The Farsighted Stability of Global Trade Policy Arrangements”*
with Stefan Berens (PH.D. Candidate, Bielefeld University)

Abstract:

In this paper, we study and compare the stability of trade policy arrangements in two different regulatory scenarios, one with and one without Preferential Trade Agreements (PTAs), i.e. current vs. modified WTO rules. Unlike the existing literature, our paper considers an extensive choice set of trade constellations, containing both available PTAs, Customs Unions (CUs) and Free Trade Agreements (FTAs), as well as Multilateral Trade Agreements (MTAs), while assuming unlimited farsightedness of the negotiating parties. With symmetric countries and under both the current and the modified WTO rules, the Global Free Trade (GFT) regime emerges as the unique stable outcome. In the case of asymmetry, the results are driven by the relative size of the countries. If the world is in the vicinity of symmetry and two out of three countries are close to identical while relatively smaller than the other one, the area where the GFT regime is stable increases when prohibiting PTAs. However, when two similar countries are relatively larger, the availability of PTAs is conducive to the stability of the GFT regime. Finally, if the world is further away from symmetry, full trade liberalization is not attainable at all and an area where the Most-Favoured-Nation (MFN) regime is stable appears in the scenario without PTAs. Thus, the direction of the effect of PTAs on trade liberalization depends on the degree of asymmetry among countries.

RESEARCH PAPERS:

Title: *“The Impartial Observer under Uncertainty”*
with Stefan Berens (PH.D. Candidate, Bielefeld University)
Center for Mathematical Economics Working Papers. Vol. 576, 2017
Available at: <https://pub.uni-bielefeld.de/publication/2913226>

Abstract:

This paper extends Harsanyi’s Impartial Observer Theorem by introducing Knightian Uncertainty in the form of individual belief systems. It features an axiomatic framework of societal decision-making in the presence of individual uncertainty. The model allows the analysis of scenarios where individuals agree on the ranking but not on the likelihood of social outcomes. The preferences of the impartial observer are represented by a weighted sum of utilities - each representing individual preferences with different belief systems. In order to incorporate common criticism of the framework of Harsanyi (1953), our approach is based on the generalized version by Grant et al. (2010). The belief systems are introduced as second-order beliefs following Seo (2009).

Title: *“Endogenous Trade Policy in the Presence of Lobbying and Heterogeneously Ignorant Voters”*
with George Papava

Abstract:

Based on the Protection for Sale approach of Grossman and Helpman (1994) we develop a theoretical model in which organized groups provide political contributions to influence trade policy. The incumbent government cares about contributions, yet at the same time takes into account the reactions of voters. We formally consider voting decisions of citizens, assuming they have heterogeneous ignorance thresholds, and explicitly derive the objective function of the policy maker. We find that the resulting equilibrium structure of protection differs from the standard case. Free trade obtains only if no group lobbies and ignorance levels are uniform. In general, higher ignorance levels lead to lower (if any) protection from the government and, in addition, in equilibrium groups represented by lobbies are not always supported by the incumbent government.

WORK IN PROGRESS:

“Ignorance and Trade Policy: An Empirical Investigation”
with George Papava

“Individual Apathy towards International Trade Policy”

POLICY RELATED RESEARCH:

- Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) on Establishment of Employment Mechanism in Georgia. PMCG, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) 2017
Team Leader
- Policy Paper: Non-tariff Barriers on Georgian Export of Waters (Containing Added Sugar or Flavored) to Turkey. United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Governing for Growth (G4G) in Georgia 2017
Author
- Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) on Estonian CIT Model Implementation in Georgia. Association of Young Economists of Georgia, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Governing for Growth (G4G) in Georgia 2016
Leading Expert
- Joint Feasibility Study on Georgia-China Possible Free Trade Agreement. PMC Research Center, China’s University of International Business and Economics, Georgian Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development 2015
Leading Expert for Georgia
- Economic Analysis of the Proposed Amendments to the Labor Code of Georgia. PMC Research Center, United States Agency for International Development (USAID) 2013
Leading Expert

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

- Advance International Trade (Graduate), Bielefeld University 2015-2016
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Gerald Willmann
- Economics of European Integration (Graduate), Bielefeld University 2014-2017
Teaching Assistant for Prof. Gerald Willmann
- Law and Economics (Undergraduate), Free University of Tbilisi 2011-2016
Invited Lecture
- Advanced Statistical Methods(Undergraduate), Caucasus Business School 2011
Invited Lecturer
- Industrial Economics, University Carlos III of Madrid 2010
Teaching Assistant
- Advanced Macroeconomics (Graduate), ISET 2008
Teaching Assistant of Prof. Mack Ott

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE:

ifo World Economic Survey, Germany Member of Expert Group	2016 to present
PMC Research Center, Georgia Member of Scientific Advisory Board	2015 to present
Free University Research Center, Georgia Leading Researcher	2010-2013
European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, UK Intern in Chief Economist's Office	Summer, 2007

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS:

Fifth International Ph.D. Meeting in Economics, University of Macedonia, Greece	2017
Aarhus-Kiel Workshop, Denmark; Doctoral Workshop, Amsterdam School of Economic, The Netherlands	2016
Doctoral Workshop, Economics School of Louvain, Belgium; Fifteenth Doctoral Meeting in International Trade and International Finance, France; International School of Economics, Georgia	2015

HONORS AND SCHOLARSHIPS:

Graduate School Scholarship Programme, German Academic Exchange Service	2013-2017
Graduate Student Scholarship, University Carlos III of Madrid	2008-2010
Certificate for Intellectual Leadership, International School of Economics	2008
Graduate Student Scholarship, International School of Economics	2006-2008

COMPUTER SKILLS:

Mathematica, Stata, E-views

LANGUAGES:

Georgian (native), English (fluent), Russian (good)