

Božidar Plavšić

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EDUCATION

Columbia University, Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, GPA 3.76/4 **(Expected) Dec 2023**

- Fields: Industrial Organization and Finance
- Acceptance rate ~3.5%; Dean's Fellow GSAS (\$400K); Dissertation Fellowship (\$36K)

Institute for Advanced Studies, TU Wien (Austria), MSc, Economics, GPA: 95/100 **Jul 2016**

- Coursework: Game Theory, Quantitative Finance, Econometrics, Statistics, Mathematics
- Accepted as one of 8 students in the cohort; Scholarship (\$21K); Scholarship of the Serbian Ministry (\$12K)

Faculty of Economics, University of Belgrade (Serbia), BSc, Economics, GPA: 9.83/10 **Jul 2014**

- Coursework: Microeconomics, Quantitative Finance, Probability Theory, Statistics, Mathematics
- Best student of the academic year 2013/14 at Faculty of Economics (out of ~1,250 students)

RESEARCH

Interventions in Credit Markets and Effects on Economics Activity: Evidence from Brazil

Looking at Brazilian bank branch-level data, I examine effects of the government policy from March 2012, intended to increase credit supply through public banks, on competition in the banking sector and economic activity. I find that the policy was successful in increasing overall credit supply as increased lending of public banks did not crowd-out private lending. On the other hand, there is no evidence of significant client-switching between private and public banks. However, the effects of the policy on economic activity were very limited and even negligible. I conducted a series of robustness checks to further examine this puzzling result. I find evidence that increased lending led to significant increases in deposits, suggesting that loans were taken at the moment of high availability of funds and saved for future use.

Television Introduction and Agricultural Production

I assess the effects that improved information has on agricultural activity in the U.S. I use the introduction of television as proxy for improved information and argue that this happens through the channel of clearer communication of weather information. Using the difference-in-difference method, I estimate a significant positive effect of television introduction on crop yields.

KEY PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Student Researcher, Columbia University, Department of Economics **Sep 2016 - present**

- Developing and executing 5 individual and 2 joint research projects
- Interviewed industry professionals (managing directors, head of marketing) gaining insight into industry dynamics
- Performed extensive statistical and econometric analysis using R, MATLAB, and STATA (econometrics: cross-sectional and panel data analysis, quasi-experimental methods for estimating treatment effects, structural estimation)
- Collaborated with 15 peers completing 20+ joint class projects, each with top grades
- Presented work at ~10 seminars to groups of 15+ professors and peers

Consultant, DT mapping **Dec 2021 – Jun 2023**

- Advising CEO of a geodetic data processing startup on a voluntary basis
- Devised and helped implement financial planning that is securing business investment capital of ~\$15K/year leading to growth from 5 people in 2021 to 20 people at the beginning of 2023
- Prepared critical facts, figures, and presentations for ~10 meetings with 3 clients leading to a ~25% average increase in hourly rates charged to clients

Instructor & Teaching Assistant, Columbia University **Sep 2017 – Jun 2023**

- Taught 5 courses in economics to ~100 students total, creating 70+ presentations, exams, 20+ problem sets
- Assigned tasks to 5 teaching assistants and supervised their work
- Assisted in teaching one graduate course (36 students), and 8 undergraduate courses (~250 students)

KEY LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Founder and Coordinator, Volunteer Tutor Program “We are with you” (Serbia) Mar 2020 – Jun 2020

- Founded a nation-wide tutoring program with ~250 college students helping ~200 elementary and high school students transition to online learning
- Selected and managed a multidisciplinary team of 4 people to ensure continuous running of the program
- Built partnerships with ~20 colleges across Serbia and communicated with ~10 media outlets and ~15 professional organizations, establishing support, credibility, and recognition for the program

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Participated in **2023 Penn Healthcare Case Competition** as a part of a multidisciplinary team **Oct 2023**
- **Referee** at Young Economist Symposium (reviewed 9 papers; participated in selecting top paper to be presented at the conference) **Jun 2018 – Jul 2020**
- **Tutor** for 7 graduate and ~15 undergraduate students in economics, finance, math, stats **Sep 2018 – present**
- **Grader** for 10 graduate level courses (~45 students on average) **Sep 2018 – May 2023**

INTERESTS

- Running (Belgrade half-marathon); Playing board games; Moviemaking (director of the Ph.D. skit video, led and coordinated ~30 people); Winemaking and wine-tasting