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**CENTRAL EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY**

Placement Director: Andrea Weber

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**Office Contact Information**

Department of Economics

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Budapest 1051, Hungary

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**Pre-doctoral studies:**

MA in Economics, Central European University, 2012

Diploma in Political Science (5 year training, BA+MA equivalent) Eötvös Loránd University, 2011

Diploma in Economics (5 year training, BA+MA equivalent), Corvinus University of Budapest, 2010

**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

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Professor Miklós Koren

Department of Economics and Business

Central European University

korenm@ceu.edu

Professor Andrea Weber

Department of Economics and Business

Central European University

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**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)

[\[link to newest version\]](#)

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. I use a voting model to examine this idea, and show the existence of such a mechanism using Indonesian data. About half of the district governments in Indonesia have been experimenting with Sharia-based religious policies since 2000. In line with the main prediction of the model, I identify the negative impact of policies on government expenditure and services using difference-in-differences and instrumental variables methodologies. The first IV exploits village-level variation in the number of religious schools using a leave-out mean design, the second IV exploits regional variation in religious schools interacted with the country-wide increase in religiosity using a shift-share design. The conservative estimate of the impact is a 10 percent decrease in both spending and in the value of a standardized government services index. Regions which adopt Sharia-based regulations also experience an increase in poverty and in the frequency of violent incidents. The calibration of the model suggests that the total utility of the secular voters can decrease by as much as four times as the decrease in observed outcomes would justify. The evidence is consistent with the notion that politicians use divisive policies to strategically redistribute utility across voters while reducing the supply of material wellbeing.

“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 affected by economic incentives. We proxy the decision to assimilate by the decision to change a foreign surname (mostly German or Slavic) to a Hungarian one. 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 sector) we study alternative economic mechanisms of selection into name changing, and the impact of the decision on wages.

“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 name frequency based 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 the deep parameters show that social status is very persistent over this extended time period.

**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
  - WEast Meeting, Budapest (as organizer; paper presented by coauthor Rita Pető)
- 2014 Herzl seminar for Doctoral students, Telc (CZ)

**Language Skills:**

Hungarian (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent, but not practiced recently), Indonesian (basic)

**I am available for interviews at the 2018 EEA meetings in Naples.**