

Natalya Naumenko

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Field

Economic History

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, 2018 (Anticipated)
Dissertation: An Economic History of the 1933 Soviet Famine.
Committee: Joel Mokyr (Chair), Nancy Qian, Joseph Ferrie, Andrei Markevich, Yohanan Petrovsky-Shtern
M.A., Economics, New Economic School, Russia, 2012
B.S., Mathematics, Novosibirsk State University, Russia, 2006

Fellowships & Awards

Economic History Association Sokoloff Dissertation Fellowship, 2017
Northwestern University Dissertation Year Fellowship, 2017
Northwestern University Conference Travel Grant, 2016
Northwestern University Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, 2015
New Economic School: graduated with cum laude, 2012
New Economic School: full educational grant due to excellent academic performance, 2010 – 2012
Novosibirsk State University: graduated with cum laude, 2006

Teaching Experience

Lecturer, Northwestern University, 2016
Math camp for incoming PhD students
Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2016
European economic history
Graduate microeconomics
Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2014 – 2015
Graduate microeconomics
Teaching Assistant, New Economic School, 2011 – 2012
Game theory
Math

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Professor Nancy Qian, Yale University, 2015
Research Assistant, Professor Maria Petrova, New Economic School, 2011 – 2012

Conferences

The Greatest Economic Experiment Ever: The Economic Consequences of the October Revolution.
Center for Economic History, Northwestern University, 2017
World Cliometrics Conference 2017
Economic History Society Annual Conference 2017, New Researcher sessions
BEROC conference on Economic Development and Political Economy, Minks, 2016
NES & HSE research seminar, Moscow, 2016

Workshop on Command Economies and State Intervention in Economic History, London School of Economics, 2016

Graduate workshop in Economic History, Oxford, 2016

11th Sound Economic History Workshop, Helsinki, 2016

Job Market Paper

“The Political Economy of Famine: the Ukrainian Famine of 1933” Natalya Naumenko

The famine of 1932–1933 in Ukraine killed as many as 2.6 million people out of a population of approximately 30 million. Three main explanations have been offered: negative weather shock, poor economic policies, and genocide. This paper uses variation in exposure to poor government policies and in ethnic composition within Ukraine to study the impact of policies on mortality, and the relationship between ethnic composition and mortality. It documents that (1) the data do not support the negative weather shock explanation: 1931 and 1932 weather predicts harvest roughly equal to the 1925 – 1929 average; (2) bad government policies (collectivization and the lack of favored industries) significantly increased mortality; (3) collectivization increased mortality due to drop in production on collective farms and not due to overextraction from collectives (although the evidence is indirect); (4) back-of-the-envelope calculations show that collectivization explains at least 31% of excess deaths; (5) ethnic Ukrainians seem more likely to die, even after controlling for exposure to poor Soviet economic policies; (6) Ukrainians were more exposed to policies that later led to mortality (collectivization and the lack of favored industries); (7) enforcement of government policies did not vary with ethnic composition (e.g., there is no evidence that collectivization was enforced more harshly on Ukrainians). These results provide several important takeaways. Most importantly, the evidence is consistent with both sides of the debate (economic policies vs genocide). (1) backs those arguing that the famine was man-made. (2) – (4) support those who argue that mortality was due to bad policy. (5) is consistent with those who argue that ethnic Ukrainians were targeted. For (6) and (7) to support genocide, it has to be the case that Stalin had the foresight that his policies would fail and lead to famine mortality years after they were introduced (and therefore disproportionately exposed Ukrainians to them).

Work in progress

“Consequences of WW2 in the Soviet Union” Natalya Naumenko

According to contemporary estimates, Soviet Union lost as many as 30 million people due to World War II. This work investigates the consequences of this demographic shock. Using archival data I construct disaggregated province- and city-level estimates of population losses: I project 1939 population to 1946–1949 and use the difference between projected and observed population as a measure of demographic shock due to the war. I then study the impact of this shock on subsequent population and urbanization patterns. Preliminary estimates show that there is no persistent effect on rural population: despite severe negative population shock, by 1959 (by the first postwar census) provinces that lost relatively higher share of a population do not differ from provinces that lost relatively fewer people. Urban population exhibits a more interesting pattern. In the territories occupied by the Nazis there seem to be no persistent effect on the urban population. However, in the territories never occupied by the Nazis negative population shock had a negative effect that persisted even after the collapse of the Soviet Union. This is consistent with the classic Krugman (1991a) work that demonstrated that multiple urbanization equilibria are possible. More work is needed to understand the mechanism of the recovery of urban population on occupied territories and the persistent impact on the unoccupied territories.

“Grain procurement and 1933 famine” Andrei Markevich, Natalya Naumenko, Nancy Qian, Ekaterina Zhuravskaya

This work investigates grain procurement in the Soviet Union and its impact on the 1933 famine mortality. Using archival data we construct a province-level panel spanning 1900–2015 and containing data on population, mortality, and grain production. Preliminary results show that, similar to the findings of Meng, Qian, and Yared (2015), there is a positive relationship between grain production and rural mortality in 1933 and that this positive relationship is unique to the famine year. More work is needed to understand the mechanism driving this result.

Languages

English (fluent), Russian (native)

References

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