

Curriculum Vitae – Fall 2024

Family name: **Anton**
Given name: **Boltachka**
Gender: male
Citizenship: Belarus
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Qualifications

Università Bocconi, Milan, Italy
PhD in Economics and Finance 2024 – present
(Curriculum Economics)

American University, Washington, D.C., U.S.
M.A. in Economics (Fulbright Scholarship Program) 2019 – 2021
Capstone Project: “Using Machine Learning to Forecast Macroeconomic Indicators”
GPA 3.96/4.00 (awarded with the Prize in Memory of Jose Epstein for academic excellence)

Belarusian State University Minsk, Belarus
Research Degree (PhD equivalent without defense), International Economics 2013 – 2018
Thesis: “Adaptive Strategies for the Socio-Economic Transformation in Post-Soviet Countries”

Belarusian State University Minsk, Belarus
M.A. in Economics and Management 2012 – 2013
GPA 9.0/10.0 or 4.00/4.00

Belarusian National Technical University Minsk, Belarus
B.A. in International Management and Economics (with Honors) 2007 – 2012
Majors: Macroeconomics, International Management
GPA 9.0/10.0 or 3.90/4.00 (awarded with the Certificate of the President special fund for talented youth)

Awards and Scholarships

- Università Bocconi PhD Fellowship (2024-2028)
- Prize in Memory of Jose Epstein for Academic Excellence (2021)
- Edmund S. Muskie Professional Fellowship (2020)
- Fulbright Fully-Funded MA Scholarship (2019-2021)
- Chevening Fully-Funded MA Scholarship (Declined in favor of Fulbright, 2019-2020)
- Civil Society Leadership Award (CSLA) (Declined in favor of Fulbright, 2019-2020)
- President's Special Fund Scholarship (2009)

Research Interests

- Development Economics: The causes and consequences of economic development under different political regimes.
- Political Economy: The impact of digital technologies and media on societal dynamics, political systems, and market institutions.
- Computational Social Science: Unstructured data and causal inference methods to analyze complex social phenomena.

Publications

"Media Bias and Climate Change Skepticism", joint with Elliott Ash, Sergio Galletta, and Matteo Pinna, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*(**revise and resubmit**)

This study examines the impact on climate change attitudes of exposure to Fox News Channel (FNC), the top-rated U.S. cable television channel known for its conservative bias. Our findings indicate a statistically significant shift towards climate change skepticism and a decline in support for climate change mitigation policies. The findings remain robust across multiple empirical methodologies, including addressing the endogeneity of viewership through an instrumental variable (IV) approach, and are consistent across a variety of survey datasets. Our research adds significant value to the existing literature on media's influence on beliefs, highlighting the role media plays in guiding societal discourse and comprehension.

Working papers

"Race-related Research in Economics: Volume, Content and Publication Incentives", joint with Arun Advani, Elliott Ash, David Cai, and Imran Rasul

Issues of racial justice and persistent economic inequalities across racial and ethnic groups have risen to the top of public debate. The ability of academic economists to contribute to these debates in part depends on the production of race-related research in the profession. We study the issue combining information on a corpus of 250,000 publications in economics from 1960 to 2020 on which we use an algorithmic approach to classify race-related publications, constructing paths to publication for 22,000 NBER working papers between 1974 and 2015, and constructing the career profile of publications of 2,800 economics faculty in US economics departments active in 2020/1. We present four new stylized facts on race-related research in economics.

Work in Progress

"Immigration and Social Distance: Evidence from Newspapers during the Age of Mass Migration", joint with Elliott Ash, Anton Boltachka, Gloria Gennaro, Dominik Hangartner, Alessandra Stampi-Bombelli

"Persuasive Effects of Language Used in Political Advertising", joint with Elliott Ash, Amir Feder, Lena Song.

"Listening to the Dictators: How Do Narratives of Authoritarian Leaders Shape Policy?"

Work Experience

ETH Zurich, Center for Law & Economics

Zurich, Switzerland

Scientific Assistant

2022 – 2024

- Prepared extensive datasets using web scraping techniques, managed complex data structures in PostgreSQL databases, and handled datasets comprising up to 500 million observations.
- Performed data analysis using econometric methods, causal inference tools, machine learning and NLP techniques, to interpret complex data sets and extract information.

Minsk Dialogue Council on International Relations

Minsk, Belarus

Analyst

2021 – 2022

- Conducted full lifecycle of research projects, including managing the data collection, analyzing patterns and trends, and preparing final reports.
- Developed and implemented the methods of data analyses based on machine learning algorithms to classify countries based on economic and political characteristics, re-evaluating the concept of the post-Soviet space, with a focus on institutional change and persistence.
- Presented results of the research to the different groups of diplomats and policymakers.

World Bank Group

Washington, D.C., U.S.

Short Term Consultant

May – September 2021

- Administered surveys to local experts, data collection and analysis.
- Assisted in preparation of comparative analysis related to the set of indicators on a country by country and regional basis.
- Wrote case studies and blogs that serve as background materials for the DB report.

National Bank of the Republic of Belarus

Minsk, Belarus

Leading Specialist of the Research Department

2018 – 2019

- Carried out three main research projects: Impact of Structural Reforms on Monetary Policy; Transformation of the Labour Market in Belarus; Strategies for Building Trust in National Currency.
- Developed and compiled quarterly consensus forecasts by conducting surveys among experts and gathering country-specific macroeconomic data.
- Prepared analytical reports, policy papers, and backgrounders with case studies and comparative analysis for the Board.
- Successfully managed the evaluation project of the National Bank with the Global Development Network (GDN).

Minsk Dialogue Council on International Relations

Minsk, Belarus

Associate Fellow

2016 – 2018

- Wrote non-papers and backgrounders for the Minsk Dialogue website. The main spheres of expertise: International economic relations of Belarus with EaP countries and Belarus-Russia economic relations.
- Participated in the organization of the Minsk Forum-2018 “Eastern Europe: In Search of Security for All” for more than 500 experts and diplomats from 59 countries, including the OSCE Secretary-General and high-level representatives of NATO, and the Council of Europe.

Institute of Entrepreneurial Activity (IEA)

Minsk, Belarus

Adviser to the Rector & Senior Lecturer

2016– 2018

- Coordinated research programs of the Department of Science and Information Technology with Ministry of Economy of Belarus
- Lectured two main courses: Economic Theory (Fall 2016) and Management (Spring 2017)

Advising

Agora Strategy Group AG <i>Consultant</i>	Minsk, Belarus 2021 – 2022
Expert Group of the Advisory Board, The National Bank of the Republic of Belarus <i>Economic Policy Expert</i>	Minsk, Belarus 2016 – 2020
German Economic Team Belarus <i>Economic Policy Expert</i>	Minsk, Belarus June-August 2017

Language Skills

Belarusian (native), Russian (native), English (C2), Ukrainian (B1)

IT Skills

Statistics and Methods: Inferential Statistics, Time series analysis, Panel data analysis, Machine learning, Spatial data analysis.

Coding and Software: Python (including data analysis, ML, and NLP libraries), Stata SE/ME, R, EViews, Matlab (IRIS toolbox), ArcGIS, LaTeX.