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**Omiros Kouvavas** 

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## Personal

Born on June 15, 1984. Greek Citizen.

# **EDUCATION**

2013-2019 (expected)	University of Warwick	PhD Economics
2013-2016	University of Warwick	MRes Economics (with Distinction)
2010-2013	University of Groningen	Honours Bachelor
2010-2013	University of Groningen	Bsc Economics (Summa Cum Laude & Valedictorian)

# **TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS**

Applied Economics, Public/Labor Economics and Applied Macroeconomics.

# Work/Teaching Experience and Research Assistantships

2016	PhD Traineeship at the European Central Bank, Frankfurt Am Main
2016	Research Assistant to Professor Rocco Macchiavello, University of Warwick
2015-2016	Research Assistant to Dr. Lucie Gadenne, University of Warwick
2014-2016	Research Assistant to Professor Ben Lockwood, University of Warwick
2016	International Trade (undergraduate level), Teaching Assistant, University of Warwick
2015-2016	Macroeconomics I (undergraduate level), Teaching Assistant, University of Warwick
2015-2016	Introduction to Quantitative Economics (undergraduate level), Teaching Assistant, University of Warwick
2015	Mathematical Techniques A (undergraduate level), Teaching Assistant, University of Warwick
2015	Economics for Business (undergraduate level), Teaching Assistant, University of Warwick
2013	Finance I (undergraduate level), Teaching Assistant, University of Groningen
2011-2013	Macroeconomics I (undergraduate level), Teaching Assistant, University of Groningen
2011-2012	Int. Business I (undergraduate level), Teaching Assistant, University of Groningen

### **CONFERENCE** PRESENTATIONS

- April 2014 European Public Choice Conference, University of Cambridge, United Kingdom
- April 2013 European Public Choice Conference, ETH Zurich, Switzerland

#### Awards, Grants and Scholarships

2016	Economic and Social Research Council PhD Scholarship
2014	Royal Economic Society, Conference Grant Scheme
2013-2015	University of Warwick, Departmental Scholarship (tuition & stipend)
2010	University of Groningen, Freshman of the year Award

### WORKING PAPERS

"Evaluating the Marital Contract Effect", December 2015

#### Abstract

In this paper we suggest the use a natural experiment to estimate the marriage contract effect and its value for family outcomes. The purpose of this paper is to assess if the act of marriage per se has any effect on individuals predetermined choices, such as the age at which you produce an offspring. As marriage is clearly an endogenous choice, we use an exogenous shock to the value of marriage. Interestingly, during WWII being drafted in the army could be avoided by getting married. Additionally, there were differential predetermined drafting quotas per state. This allows to estimate the true treatment effect and use it to evaluate other family outcomes.

*JEL Classification:* J12; J13; J18; N32;

Keywords: Marital Contract, Fertility, Matching

"Political Budget Cycles Revisited: The Case for Social Capital", September 2013

#### Abstract

Recent literature on Political Budget Cycles has provided appealing evidence that their existence is conditional to country specific characteristics. In this paper we hypothesize that the level of social capital prevailing in a country might be an underlying fundamental reason that might be driving these results. We provide strong evidence that political budget cycles are only present in low social capital countries by utilizing a large panel data set for 63 democratic countries. We also show that the political budget cycles occur both in developing and developed countries under low social capital. Simultaneously, our results are robust under most other conditional effects considered by the literature. Finally, we also propose a theoretical model of conditional capital budget cycles by adapting a moral hazard model to account for different distributions of social capital.

JEL Classification:E02; E32; E62; D72; H60;Keywords:Political Budget Cycles; Political Processes; Trust; Social Capital;

"Trust, Social Capital and the Success of Economic Reforms for Growth Accelerations, Conditional on Political Regimes", November 2012 (with Jacob de Haan and Fabian Ten Kate)

#### Abstract

Social capital, commonly defined as generalized trust, is proven to be one of the factors driving economic growth along with traditional forms of capital. In the long-run, the formulation of social capital depends on formal institutions. In the short-run however, it is a fairly static variable that we hypothesize might affect the effectiveness of economic reforms. Thus we argue that in high social capital environments, economic reforms might have an increased probability of triggering growth accelerations vis-Ãă-vis low social capital environments. Furthermore, due to its influence on the efficiency of governance in democratic regimes, we hypothesize that there will be clear difference in the success of economic reforms in terms of growth accelerations. Hence, economic reforms undertaken by a democratic regime, will underperform in comparison to reforms by an autocratic regime in a low social capital environment, and outperform in high social capital environment. Focusing our attention on the determinants of growth acceleration episodes, a newly established line of research that takes into account the short-run volatility of growth rates, we find that social capital per se, contrary to our priors, turns out to have a negative effect on the outcomes of reforms. However, when the interaction with political regimes is introduced, we find a robust positive influence of social capital in democratic regimes, and a negative effect for autocratic regimes.

JEL Classification:O10; O43; O44; P41;Keywords:Trust; Social Capital; Economic Freedom; Growth; Political Regimes

### Other Information

Software: Matlab, Stata, Mathematica, R, Eviews, LATEX, C++, Java, Oracle SQL Languages: English (*Fluent*), Greek (*Native*), Dutch (*Basic*)