

## **KONSTANTIN SONIN**

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## **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

### *Primary Affiliation*

Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago, John Dewey Distinguished Service Professor, 2016 – present

### *Secondary Affiliations*

Department of Economics, HSE University, Professor of Economics and Head of Research, 2015 – present

Department of Economics, University of Chicago, associated faculty, 2018 - present

Stockholm Institute for Transition Economics (SITE), SSE, Affiliated Researcher, 2015 - present

### *Previous*

Irving B. Harris School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago, Professor, 2015 – 2016

Higher School of Economics (HSE), Professor of Economics, 2013 - 2015

New Economic School (NES), Professor of Economics, 2009 – 2013

Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, Visiting Professor of Managerial Economics and Decision Sciences, 2009 – 2010

Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, USA, Member, 2004-05

New Economic School and CEFIR, Assistant Professor, 2001-09

Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University, Post-doctoral Fellow, 2000–01

Russian-European Center for Economic Policy, Economist, 1998-2000

### *Short-term*

Becker-Friedman Institute, University of Chicago, Visiting Scholar, May 2014

Cowles Foundation, Yale University, Visiting Scholar, November 2009

## **EDUCATION**

Moscow State University, Department of Mathematics and Mechanics, Ph.D. (kandidat) in Mathematics, 1998, M.Sc. (diploma) in Mathematics, 1995

New Economic School, Moscow, MA in Economics, 1998

## PUBLICATIONS<sup>1</sup>

Media Freedom in the Shadow of a Coup (with Raphael Boleslavsky and Mehdi Shadmehr), *Journal of European Economic Association*, forthcoming.

Elections in Non-Democracies (with Georgy Egorov), *Economic Journal*, 131 (636), 1682–1716, May 2021.

Institutional Change and Institutional Persistence (with Daron Acemoglu and Georgy Egorov), *Handbook of Historical Economics* (Bisin and Giovanni, eds.), 365-389, Academic Press, 2021.

Poverty and Economic Dislocation Reduce Compliance with COVID-19 Shelter-in-Place Protocols (with Austin Wright, Jesse Driscoll, and Jarnicka Wilson), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 180, 544-554, December 2020.

Social Mobility and Stability of Democracy: Re-evaluating De Tocqueville: (with Daron Acemoglu and Georgy Egorov), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 133: 2, 1041–1105, May 2018.

Social Media and Corruption (with Ruben Enikolopov and Maria Petrova), *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 10(1), 1-27, January 2018.

Winning by Losing: Incentive Incompatibility in Multiple Qualifiers (with Dmitry Dagaev), *Journal of Sports Economics*, 19(8), 1122-1146, 2018.

Political Economy of Redistribution (with Daniel Diermeier and Georgy Egorov), *Econometrica*, 85(3), 851–870, May 2017.

Formal Models of Non-Democratic Politics (with Scott Gehlbach and Milan Svobik), *Annual Review of Political Science*, 19, 565-584, June 2016.

Political Economy in a Changing World (with Daron Acemoglu and Georgy Egorov), *Journal of Political Economy*, 123 (5), 1038-1086, October 2015.

The Killing Game: A Theory of Non-Democratic Succession (with Georgy Egorov), *Research in Economics* (special issue on Political Economy), 69 (3), 398-411, September 2015.

Government Control of the Media (with Scott Gehlbach), *Journal of Public Economics*, 118: 163-171, October 2014.

A Political Theory of Populism (with Daron Acemoglu and Georgy Egorov), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 128 (2): 771-805, June 2013.

Field Experiment Estimate of Electoral Fraud in Russian Parliamentary Elections (with Ruben Enikolopov, Vasily Korovkin, Maria Petrova, and Alexei Zakharov), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 110 (2), 448-452, January 2013.

Dynamics and Stability of Constitutions, Coalitions, and Clubs (with Daron Acemoglu and Georgy Egorov), *American Economic Review*, 102(4): 1446–76, 2012.

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<sup>1</sup> See the list of Russian-language academic publications at <https://voices.uchicago.edu/ksonin/academic-articles-russian/>.

Efficient Actions in a Dynamic Auction Environment (with Michael Schwarz and Brendan Daley), *Games and Economic Behavior*, 75 (1), 104-119, 2012.

Political Model of Social Evolution (with Daron Acemoglu and Georgy Egorov), *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 108, Supp. 4, 21292-21296, December 2011.

Dictators and Their Viziers: Endogenizing the Loyalty-Competence Trade-off (with Georgy Egorov), *Journal of European Economic Association*, 9 (5), 903-930, October 2011.

Determinants of Nationalization in the Oil Sector: A Theory and Evidence from Panel Data (with Sergei Guriev and Anton Kolotilin) *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 27 (2), 301-323, August 2011.

Rational Dictators and the Killing of Innocents: Data from Stalin's Archives (with Paul Gregory and Philipp Shroeder), *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 39(1), 34-42, March 2011.

Political Selection and the Persistence of Bad Government (with Daron Acemoglu and Georgy Egorov), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 125(4), 1511-1575, November 2010.

Businessman Candidates (with Scott Gehlbach and Ekatherina Zhuravskaya), *American Journal of Political Science*, 54 (3), 718-736, July 2010.

Provincial Protectionism, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 38(2), 111-122, June 2010.

Why Resource-Poor Dictators Allow Freer Media: A Theory and Evidence from Panel Data (with Georgy Egorov and Sergei Guriev), *American Political Science Review*, 103 (4), 645-668, November 2009.

Do Juntas Lead to Personal Rule? (with Daron Acemoglu and Georgy Egorov), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 99(2), 298-303, May 2009.

Dictators and Oligarchs: A Dynamic Theory of Contested Property Rights (with Sergei Guriev), *Journal of Public Economics*, 93(1-2), 1-13, February 2009.

Coalition Formation in Non-Democracies (with Daron Acemoglu and Georgy Egorov), *Review of Economic Studies*, 75(4), 987-1009, December 2008.

A Theory of Brinkmanship, Conflicts, and Commitment (with Michael Schwarz), *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, 24(1) 163-183, May 2008.

Are Russian Commercial Courts Biased? Evidence from a Bankruptcy Law Transplant (with Ariane Lambert-Mogiliansky and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya), *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 35-2, 253-442. June 2007.

Corruption and Collusive Market-Sharing in Procurement (with Ariane Lambert-Mogiliansky), *Journal of Economics and Management Strategy*, 15, 4, 883-908, Winter 2006.

Passive Creditors (with Koen Schoors), *International Finance*, 8 (1), 57-86, March 2005.

Information Revelation and Efficiency in Auctions (with Anna Mikoucheva), *Economics Letters*, 83, 277-284, 2004.

Why the Rich May Favor Poor Protection of Property Rights, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 31 (4), 715-731, 2003, symposium issue on Appropriate Institutions for Growth. (Reprinted in M.Henrekson and R. Douhan, eds., *The Political Economy of Entrepreneurship*, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2007.)

Krull Dimension of Malcev-Neumann Rings, *Communications in Algebra*, 26 (9), 2915-31, 1998.

Semiprimitive and Semiperfect Laurent Series Rings, *Mathematical Notes*, 60 (2), 300-03, 1996.

## NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

The Historical Perspective on the Trump Puzzle: A Review of Barry Eichengreen's "The Populist Temptation: Economic Grievance and Political Reaction in the Modern Era", *Journal of Economic Literature*, forthcoming.

The End of Economic Transition, *Economics of Transition*, 21 (1), 1-10, 2013

Authoritarian Politics 101: Examples and Exercises (with Georgy Egorov), *American Political Science Association Newsletter* 2012

Development Based on Commodity Revenues (with Sergei Guriev and Alexander Plekhanov), background paper for Chapter 4 of the 2009 *EBRD Transition Report*

Is Russia a Typical Oil Exporter? The Political Economy of the Resource Curse in *On Russia*, Engelsberg Seminar proceedings, 2012.

State Capture in Transition, *New Palgrave Dictionary of Economics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition

Bankruptcy in Russia: Away from Creditors Protection and Restructuring (with Ekatherina Zhuravskaya), *Russian Economic Trends*, v.1, 2001

Review of Gaddy and Ickes, Russia's Virtual Economy, *Journal of Economic Literature*, 2005

*Economics Lessons*, a popular book on modern economics (in Russian), Moscow, 2011

America Through Russian Eyes: Two Images in an Old Mirror, *LeBanquet* (in French), 2004

## TEACHING

### Graduate

*Microeconomics and Public Policy, Game Theory*, University of Chicago  
*Microeconomics, Game Theory, Political Economics, Auctions*, NES  
*Research Workshop*, HSE University

### Undergraduate

*Introduction to Economics*, HSE/NES  
*Theory of Money and Financial Markets*, HSE University

### Executive

*Strategic Management in the Non-market Environment*, Kellogg School of Management (MBA)  
*Topics in Macroeconomics*, Stockholm School of Economics (EMBA)  
Lectures on Russia to students of Georgia Tech EMIL-SCS and INSEAD MBA students

### High School

*Economics*, School #57

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

AEA Award for the Best Paper in *AEJ: Applied Economics*, 2021

Yegor Gaidar Memorial Award, 2020

Ronald Coase Institute Alumni Award, 2017

(Russian) National Award in Applied Economics, honorable mention, 2014

(Russian) Prime-Minister Award for Excellence in Teaching and Research, 2012  
Achievement of the Year Award, NES Alumni Association, 2011  
Best Professor Award, NES Alumni Association, 2008  
Boris Ovsievich Prize in Mathematical Economics, 2008  
Research Medal of the Global Development Network, 2004 (1<sup>st</sup>), 2006, 2009 (2<sup>nd</sup>)  
Award for the Best Economist of the Russian Academy of Science, 2002-03  
Research Grant of the Economic Education and Research Consortium, 1998, 2000  
Zvi Griliches Award of the Economic Education and Research Consortium, 1999  
Best Student Paper, New Economic School, 1998  
Research Grant of the IRIS Center, University of Maryland, USA, 1997  
Research Grants of the Russian Foundation for Basic Research, 1996-97, 1999

## **RECENT ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS**

Invited seminar presentations: U. Wisconsin/Madison, Rochester, Berkeley, NYU, Columbia, Princeton, Middlebury, Washington U., Penn State, Harvard/MIT, U. Chicago Econ, Harvard, GSB Stanford, Northwestern, LSE, Royal Holloway, East Anglia, SSE, U. Zurich, U. Piraeus, Chicago Harris

Conferences: IEA Congress 2014 (invited session), AEA, 2008-09, 2018, EEA/ESEM, 2001, 2003-06, 2008, 2011-13, 2017-19, International Society for New Institutional Economics, 2001, 2003-07, NASM Econometric Society, 2001, 2003-06, 2009, 2011, MPSA, 2005-06, GDN Annual Conference, 2004, 2006, World Congress of the Econometric Society, 2000, 2005, 2010; ACES/ASSA Meetings, 2004-05, 2008-09, CEPR conferences (Public Economics Program), 2008, 2009, Princeton Conference on Dictatorships, 2008

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICE**

University of Chicago

- Council of the University Senate, member, 2018-2021
- Committee on Honorary Degrees, member, 2017-2019
- Individual Conflict of Interest Committee, member, 2019 -

National Research University Higher School of Economics, Vice-Rector (Vice-President), 2013 - 2015

- oversight of international academic recruitment university-wide (15+ departments)
- co-chair at Scientific Fund Council, the main internal grant-making program
- member of various councils and committees

New Economic School, Vice-Rector, 2011-2013

- launching undergraduate program
- supervision of teaching departments (English & Communications, Math, Humanities)

## **RECENT PRESENTATIONS FOR PRACTITIONERS**

Alcoa Board of Directors, Volvo AG Board of Directors, TNK-BP Shareholder Team, Alfa-Capital Board, Thales Group Board, PepsiCo Board, Sweden Russia Business Forum, 2010 Silicon Valley trade mission to Russia, Annual seminar of Israel Foreign Ministry, Swedish Russia Chamber of Commerce, International Risk Management Conference, Almaty, The Euromoney Russia & CIS Investment Forum, St.Petersburg International Economic Forum, EBRD Annual Meeting and Business Forum, Bank of Finland/Bank of Austria Conference on European Integration, Canada Eurasia Russia Business Association Annual Meeting

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Journal of the European Economic Association, Associate Editor, 2011 – 2017  
Journal of Comparative Economics, member of the Editorial Board, 2009 – 2019  
European Journal of the Political Economy, member of the Editorial Board, 2011 –  
Baltic Journal of Economics, member of the Editorial Board, 2014 –

Center for Economic Policy Research, London, UK, Research Fellow  
Bank of Finland Institute for Economies in Transition, member of the Scientific Advisory Board, 2013-2018  
Kiev School of Economics, member of the International Academic Board, 2011 -  
Program on New Approaches to Research on Security in Eurasia (PONARS), member

Science Council, Ministry of Education of Russia, member, 2013 – 2017  
Gaidar Award for Best Young Russian Economist, Chairman of the Jury, 2013 - 2014

Program Committee member, 10<sup>th</sup> World Congress of the Econometric Society, 2010  
Program Committee member, EEA Congress, 2013, 2014, 2015  
IIASA Conference on 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Transition, 2012, program chair

Global Agenda Council on Russia, World Economic Forum, 2012

Skolkovo Tender Committee, 2012-2015

UEFA Club Financial Control Body, member, 2011 –

## **MEDIA**

Fortnightly column in *VTimes* (in Russian), 2004 - present. In *The Moscow Times / St.Petersburg Times*, 2004 – 2015. Columns are frequently aggregated/referred to by *Agence France Presse*, *BBC Monitoring Former Soviet Union*, *RealClearWorld*, and *Johnson's Russia List*.

Occasional contributions to most of major Russian-language print outlets, including *Forbes Russia* and *Forbes Ukraine*, *SmartMoney Russia*, *Kommersant*, etc. Blog at [ksonin.livejournal.com](http://ksonin.livejournal.com), since 2003. Contributions to *VoxEU.org*, *The Economist's Economics-by-Invitation*, *FREEPolicyBriefs*, *TheMonkeyCage*, *Project Syndicate*, *Washington Post*.

Research papers were covered/discussed in *The Economist* ("Oil Nationalizations", "Businessman Candidates"), *New York Times* ("Capture of Bankruptcy"), *Washington Post* ("Oil and Media Freedom",

“Unmasking Partisanship”), *Foreign Policy* (“Oil and Media Freedom”), World Bank’s *Beyond Transition* (“Oil and Media Freedom”), FT’s *Investment Adviser* (“Oil Price and Nationalizations”).

Comments, quotes, and interviews: *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *Washington Post*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Times*, *The Guardian*, *Le Monde*, *Der Spiegel*, *Time*, *The Economist*, *Bloomberg*, *Reuters*, *Associated Press*, *AFP*, *NBC News*, *CBC News*, *Helsingin Sanomat*, *Die Welt*, *Die Zeit*, *Sydney Morning Herald*, *Dagens Nyheter*, *SvD Nyheter*, *USA Today* and most major Russian print and electronic media.

TV/Radio: all major Russian TV and radio channels, *BBC*, *RFE/RL*, *American Public Media*, *Public Radio International*.