

# Timur Abbiasov

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## Research Interests

Urban economics, Human mobility

## Education

<b>Ph.D. in Economics</b> <i>Columbia University</i> New York	2015-2021 (expected)
<b>B.A. in Economics</b> <i>New Economic School and Higher School of Economics</i> Moscow, Russia	2011-2015

## Job Market Paper

Do Urban Parks Promote Racial Diversity?  
Evidence from New York City 2020

**Abstract:** While some prominent scholars and policymakers have argued that public space promotes racial diversity, empirically it remains unclear whether these places play a role in creating diverse social environments for the city's residents. Focusing on parks in New York City as the exemplar of modern public space, I estimate the causal relationship between access to parks and individually experienced diversity. To do so, I introduce a measure of racial diversity that captures one's level of exposure to diverse others in places visited on a daily basis, utilizing a novel dataset featuring individual GPS tracking data for more than 60 thousand Twitter users in the New York metro area. My empirical strategy relies on obtaining a time-varying measure of access to parks that incorporates information about ongoing construction and repair works across the city. The results show that additional 10 acres of parkland within the 5 km radius from home increase individual chances of encounters with other racial/ethnic groups by 1 p.p. The effect is sizable: for reference, transitioning from the current state to the random mixing scenario would require a 9 p.p increase in diversity for an average Black or African American individual and a 3.5 p.p increase for an average White. I also provide evidence to suggest that park accessibility affects the diversity of White and Black residents differently: for parks located closer to home, the effect appears to be more pronounced for Whites than Blacks, indicating that parks in the majority-white neighborhoods are able to attract a broader range of visitors compared to the local parks in majority-black neighborhoods.

## Other Working Papers

Do Local Businesses Benefit from Stadiums? (with *Dmitry Sedov*)  
The Case of Major Professional Sports Leagues Arenas 2020

**Abstract:** Stadiums cost hundreds of millions of dollars to build and are often subsidized by public sources. In many cases, subsidies are allocated on the premise that sports events benefit the local economy by bringing new customers to nearby businesses. We use daily foot traffic records covering major sports league facilities and their surrounding commercial establishments to pin down the size and spatial distribution of such spillovers. By employing fixed effects and IV estimation strategies, we show that benefits are heterogeneous across sports and business sectors. We find that baseball and football stadiums generate substantial traffic to businesses in the food & accommodation and retail trade categories. However, the corresponding spillover effects of basketball and hockey stadiums are not significant across the studied business sectors. Moreover, using the data on subsidies allocated to the facilities in our sample, we show that only the top quartile of the most attended baseball stadiums generate enough spillover benefits to offset the public funds they receive.

## Work and Teaching Experience

### Research Assistant

For Prof. Christian Moser, Columbia University 2017-2018

My task was to perform data cleaning and geocoding for about 8 million raw address lines using Python and ArcGIS API. I was also responsible for providing summary reports and creating custom maps to visualize the data.

### Teaching Fellow

Econometrics I (graduate) Fall, 2017-2019  
Instructors: Seyhan Erden; Mehmet Caner; Jushan Bai and Steven Olley

Econometrics II (graduate) Fall, 2018-2020  
Instructor: Ronald Miller

Economics of Information Spring 2017  
Instructor: Pierre-Andre Chiappori

Intermediate Microeconomics Fall 2016  
Instructor: Caterina Musatti

## Research Grants and Academic Awards

### Research Grants and Fellowships

Data Grant 2020  
Program for Economic Research, Columbia University. \$5,000

Dissertation Fellowship 2020-2021  
Department of Economics. Columbia University

Dean's Fellow (Ph.D. in Economics) 2015-2020  
Columbia University

Research Grant Russian Science Foundation, Grant No15-18-30081 'Optimal design of information markets', under the supervision of prof. Sergei Izmalkov	2015
Grant for Participants of Academic Mobility Programs Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia	2013

## Honors and Awards

Diploma cum Laude New Economic School, Moscow, Russia	2015
Laureate of the Presidential Award for the Support of Talented Youth Moscow, Russia	2010
Winner of the XV All-Russian Olympiad in Economics (among high school students) Moscow, Russia	2010

## Personal Information

Citizenship: Russian Federation	Born in 1993
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## Coding Skills

Computation and Statistics	Python, R, Stata, Mathematica, MATLAB
Databases	SQL, MongoDB
Mapping and GIS	QGIS, ArcGIS, Mapbox, deck.gl, geopandas, GDAL
Full-stack, Web	JavaScript, Node.js, React, D3.js

## Languages

English (fluent), Russian (native)

## References

### Donald R. Davis

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*President, Urban Economics Association*  
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### Reka Juhasz

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### David Weinstein

*Carl S. Shoup Professor of Japanese Economy*  
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