

# Tom Raster

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## DOCTORAL STUDIES

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### Paris School of Economics

*PhD Economics*

2019 – 2024 (*exp*)

- Committee: Thomas Piketty (advisor, PSE), Sheilagh Ogilvie (Oxford), and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya (PSE)

### Harvard University

*Teaching fellow & Visiting scholar, Department of Economics*

2021 – 2023

- Sponsor: Edward Glaeser

### Princeton University

*Visiting scholar*

Feb 2023

- Sponsor: Leah Boustan

## PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES

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### Paris School of Economics

*MRes Economics (summa cum laude)*

2017 – 2019

- Eiffel Excellence scholarship, student representative

### University of British Columbia

*MA Economics*

2016 – 2017

### University of Groningen

*BSc Hons. Economics (cum laude)*

2013 – 2016

### Kyoto University

*Exchange*

2015 – 2016

## RESEARCH FIELDS

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**primary:** international economics

**secondary:** economic history, labor economics, migration, political economy

## REFERENCES:

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Prof. Thomas Piketty  
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Prof. Sheilagh Ogilvie  
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**Breaking the ice: The persistent effects of pioneers on trade relationships**

**Contagious coercion: The effect of plagues on serfdom in the Baltics**

**The effects of bourgeois virtues on US innovation**

*w/* Lars Harhoff Andersen (U Copenhagen)

**Serfs and the market: Second Serfdom and the East-West goods exchange**

**Cabotage, costs, and climate**

*w/* Tilman Graff (Harvard)

We estimate a structural model to quantify how the EU's cabotage rules affect costs and CO2 emissions, mainly by forcing trucks to run empty between destinations. EU cabotage rules require truckers to return periodically to their country of origin. Given the large share of truckers in one region, Eastern Europe, this requirement can create inefficiencies. We collaborate with large trucking companies to obtain the first trip-level data on trucking. Preliminary findings indicate that EU cabotage laws lead to substantially more empty running, higher costs, and excess CO2 emissions. For identification, we exploit changes in cabotage rules and traffic-related delays that we observe in driver tracking data and that exogenously bring truckers closer to their cabotage window. Our findings demonstrate the trade-offs between protecting Western European truckers and excess costs and emissions.

**Wealth and serfdom: The Baltics, 1200-1939**

I study the evolution of wealth inequality in Estonia and Latvia before and after the abolition of serfdom and throughout wars and plagues. I combine detailed data on the land holdings of noble German individuals and families from 1207 to 1939 with post-abolition land purchases of former serfs. The results demonstrate large and persistent wealth disparities, similar to those of the post-emancipation US South.

**The Hanseatic League: Breakdown of a cartel**

The Hanseatic League was a large merchant guild that existed from the 12th century until its last meeting in 1669. The Sound Toll allows me to study the cheating of individual captains on Hanseatic statutes. Cheating occurs when (i) non-Hanse captains sail to Hanse towns and (ii) Hanse captains sail to non-Hanse trade routes. This analysis of each individual shipment provides unique evidence of the causes of the League's decline through the lens of cartel theory.

**The long-run political effects of refugees: Evidence from post-WWII Germany** *w/* Li Yang (ZEW)

We study the political consequences of German WWII refugees who were expelled from Eastern Europe. Using county-level data, we show that the (instrumented) presence of WWII refugees leads to significantly more far-right voting today. A new identifier in large survey data allows us to decompose this effect for refugees and their offspring and non-refugees and their children. We show that WWII refugees themselves vote less for the far right and view immigration more favorably. We find opposite effects for the children of refugees, non-refugees and non-refugee children. Our findings demonstrate that within-country displacement can lead to a persistent backlash.

**Liquidity Constraints and Willingness to Pay for Solar Lamps and Water Filters in Jakarta**

*with* Robert Lensink (U Groningen) & Angelique Timmer, The European Journal of Development Research (2018), 30, 577-587

## EXPERIENCE

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### OECD

*Intern, Center for Tax Policy*

Paris, France

2018

### German Development Cooperation (GIZ)

*Intern*

Kigali, Rwanda

2014

*Weltwärts volunteer (≈ German Peace Corps) at HIV/AIDS clinic for 12 months*

Ha Senekane, Lesotho

2012 – 2013

## TEACHING

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Harvard: International Political Economy (evaluation: 4.89/5.00)

UBC: Microeconomics (evaluation: 4.5/5.00), Understanding Globalization (evaluations: 4.6/5.00)

U. Groningen: Asset Pricing & Capital Budgeting, International Economics, Mathematics I, Mathematics II, Statistics (TAs are not evaluated)

## CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

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2023 Grad. Labor (Princeton), Grad. Trade (Princeton), Applied Lunch (PSE), ASREC (Harvard), International Economics Lunch (Harvard), Economic History Workshop (Harvard), Institut Convergences Migrations (× 2), ENS, Eurasia Economic History Workshop (University of Chicago), CEPII, Economic History Association, AMSE (× 2)\* (\* marks scheduled)

2022 International Economics Lunch (Harvard), Applied Lunch (PSE), PE workshop (Harvard), Economic History Workshop (Harvard), XIX World Economic History Congress

2021 Atelier Simiand (PSE), Pol Econ Tea (×2, Harvard), Economic History Workshop (Harvard)

2020 Applied Lunch (PSE), GSIE (PSE/Université Paris 1)

2019 Baltic Connections (U. Helsinki)

2018 Economics-Econometrics-Finance seminar (U Groningen), Economic History Association

## AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS:

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- Templeton foundation	9,000€
- Globalization Chair	1,000€
- Aix-Marseille School of Economics - 5th year funding	23,000€
- Harvard University teaching fellowship	7,000€
- Institut Convergences Migrations - 4th year funding	27,000€
- Center for Economic and Social History François Simiand funding (PSE, ×3)	10,000€
- Mobility grant (PSE)	5,500€
- EUR-PSGE research grant (PSE, ×2)	5,000€
- Full doctoral fellowship (French Government)	69,000€
- Fonds Sarah Andrieux	2,000€
- Eiffel excellence scholarship (French Government)	14,000€
- Marco Polo mobility grain (U Groningen)	5,000€
- <i>weltwärts</i> scholarship (≈ Peace Corps, German Government)	12,000€

## FELLOWSHIPS:

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- Aix-Marseille School of Economics 2023 -
- Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences (Harvard) 2022 -
- Institut Convergences Migrations (CNRS) 2022 -
- World Inequality Lab (PSE) 2019 -

## EVENT SUPPORT:

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XIX World Economic History Congress, European Economic History reading group (Harvard), Applied Lunch Seminar (PSE), Economic History Seminar (PSE), Summer school Experiments in Dev. Countries (×2, U Groningen)

## LANGUAGES:

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- German (native), English (fluent), Dutch (fluent), French (intermediate), Sesotho (basic), Danish (reading), Norwegian (reading), Russian (reading)
- R, QGIS, ArcGIS, Python, Stata, Latex

## OTHER:

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- access to full-count US censuses

*Last updated:* November 26, 2023