

VUK VUKOVIĆ, PhD

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EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD, Pembroke College, Oxford, UK **October 2016 – March 2019**

- **DPhil in Politics**, Department of Politics and International Relations
- Supervisor Prof Ben Ansell, finished the PhD in 2,5 years with highest honours
- Thesis: “When politicians collude with firms: the impact of elite networks on inequality”
- Teaching assistant at the **Oxford Q-Step Centre**; teaching Causal Inference and workshops in R

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE, London, UK **2010 - 2011**

- **Master of Science** in Political Science and Political Economy, with Merit
- Master’s Thesis: “Political Agency Model of Persistent Electoral Success with Endogenous Rents”, London, September 2011, awarded a Distinction grade for the thesis

HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Harvard Summer School, USA **June - August 2010**

- Courses: Global Financial Crisis and International Monetary Economics, grade A+

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, Berkeley Summer School, USA **July - August 2009**

- Courses: Intermediate Macroeconomics and Contemporary Theories of Political Economy, grade A+

UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB, Faculty of Economics and Business, Croatia **2006 - 2010**

- **Bachelor of Economics**, graduated *magna cum laude*, total GPA 4.78 / 5.0
 - Alpha group member (group of best students according to academic achievement)
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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

ORACLUM INTELLIGENCE SYSTEMS LTD, Cambridge, UK **April 2016 –**
CEO and co-founder, www.oraclum.co.uk

- Data science and polling company that uses the power of **social networks, big data and machine learning** to predict election outcomes, market movements, product demand, and consumer behaviour (successful predictions of the Brexit referendum, Trump in 2016, and Biden in 2020)
- A **disruption in the market research business**, innovative data science solutions, creating value added for clients across the EU, United Kingdom, Southeast Asia, United States
- Responsible for building the company from the ground-up: day-to-day business activities, direct sales with clients, finance, controlling

ZAGREB SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND MANAGEMENT, Zagreb, Croatia **Oct 2012 – Sep 2016**

Lecturer, Department of Economics

- Teaching undergraduate Political Economy, Principles of Economics, International Economics and Public Finance (an average of 60 hours per semester, for a total of 8 semesters)
- **Luxembourg Business School**: adjunct lecturer (30hrs), teaching Macroeconomics, Econometrics
- Voted in top 3 lecturers at the School by the students, three years in a row

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE, Cambridge, UK **July – September 2013**

Visiting Scholar, Clare College, Cambridge

- Research on economic voting in Croatia, with Dr Josip Glaurdić (5 papers published as a result)

BRITISH CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE, London, UK **March 2012 – September 2012**

Parliamentary Affairs and Research Associate

- Lobbying BCC policy issues in UK Parliament (Commons, Lords, government Ministers)
- Published a 30pg report on the UK regulatory system “[Red Tape Challenged?](#)”

ADAM SMITH INSTITUTE, Think tank, London, UK **October 2011 –**

Research Associate (October 2011 – December 2011) and Research Fellow (January 2012 –)

- Writing articles, blogs and research papers for the Institute on a variety of subjects
- Produced a [Report](#) on deregulation of small and medium sized businesses as an economic growth strategy for the UK (cited in the [Financial Times](#) and in [The Times](#))

PUBLICATIONS

Book

- *Elite Networks: The Political Economy of Inequality*, forthcoming
A book about political power and inequality, showing how the collusion between political and corporate interests affects the distribution of incomes in society.

Published papers in peer-reviewed journals

- "The politics of bailouts: Estimating the causal effect of political connections on corporate bailouts during the 2008-2009 US financial crisis", *Public Choice*, 189, 213-238. (February 2021) doi.org/10.1007/s11127-020-00871-w
 - Second DPhil paper, presented at the 2018 APSA Annual Meeting in Boston, September 2018
- "Corruption and re-election: How much can politicians steal before being punished?", *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 48(1): 124-143. (March 2020) doi.org/10.1016/j.jce.2019.09.002
 - first DPhil paper; presented at the 2017 APSA Meeting; and at Princeton University in April 2018; also presented main findings in front of Croatian Parliament in November 2017
- "Post-war voters as fiscal liberals: local elections, spending, and war trauma in contemporary Croatia" (with Josip Glaurdić), *East European Politics*, 34(2): 173-193. (April 2018) doi.org/10.1080/21599165.2018.1457957
- „Political economy of local government in Croatia: winning coalitions, corruption and taxes", *Public Sector Economics* 41(4): 387-420. (December 2017) doi.org/10.3326/pse.41.4.1
 - awarded the [prof. dr. Hanzekovic prize](#) for best paper in 2017
- „Granting votes: Exposing the political bias of intergovernmental grants using the within-between specification for panel data" (with Josip Glaurdić), *Public Choice*, 171(1): 223–241. (April 2017) [doi:10.1007/s11127-017-0435-y](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11127-017-0435-y)
- "To Invest or Not to Invest, That is the Question: Analysis of Firm Behavior Under Anticipated Shocks" (with Dejan Kovač, Nikola Kleut, and Boris Podobnik), *PLoS ONE* 11(8): e0158782. (August 2016) [doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0158782](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0158782)
- "Voting after war: Economic performance and legacy of conflict as determinants of electoral support in Croatia" (with Josip Glaurdić), *Electoral Studies*, 42, 135-145. (June 2016) [doi:10.1016/j.electstud.2016.02.012](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2016.02.012)
- "Proxy Politics, Economic Protest, or Traditionalist Backlash: Croatia's Referendum on the Constitutional Definition of Marriage" (with Josip Glaurdić), *Europe Asia Studies*, 68 (5): 803-825. (July 2016) dx.doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2016.1186610
- "Does the Wage Gap between Private and Public Sectors Encourage Political Corruption?" (with Boris Podobnik and H. Eugene Stanley), *PLoS ONE* 10(10): e0141211 (October 2015) [doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0141211](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0141211)
- "Prosperity and peace: Economic interests and war legacy in Croatia's EU referendum vote" (with Josip Glaurdić), *European Union Politics*, vol. 16(4): 577-600. (December 2015)
- "Political Economy of the US Financial Crisis 2007 - 2009", *Financial Theory and Practice*, 35(1), 91-128. (March 2011)

Book chapters

- "Political economy of corruption, clientelism, and vote buying in Croatian local government", in Kotarski and Petak (2018) *Policy-making at the European periphery: the case of Croatia*, [Palgrave Macmillan](#), 2018
- "The euro crisis in the periphery: Patterns of contagion, imported instabilities, and political turmoil" in *Central and South Eastern Europe 2017*, 17th edition, London, [Routledge](#), 2016
- "Croatia: Challenges after EU Accession" (with Luka Orešković) in E.E. Zeff and E.B. Pirro (eds.) *The European Union and the Member States*, Third Edition, [Lynne Reinner Publishers](#), 2015

Working papers

- "Elite networks and inequality: Political connections and personal networks among top corporate income earners", September 2019 (third DPhil paper)
- "Corruption and resource misallocation: Can corruption explain the productivity decline during the Great Recession?" (with Jurica Zrnc), January 2020
- "Persistent electoral success with endogenous rents: Can politicians extract rents and still stay in power?", April 2015 (presented at the 50th Public Choice Society Conference in New Orleans, 2013)

Writing a **blog on political economy** and related issues: <http://im-an-economist.blogspot.com/>

CONFERENCES AND RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- American Political Science Association (APSA) 2018 Annual Meeting, presenting my DPhil paper “Politics of bailouts”, September 2018, Boston, USA
- Princeton University PIIRS Conference, presenting my PhD paper “Corruption and re-election”, April 2018, Princeton, NJ, USA
- Croatian Parliament, National Council for Monitoring the Anti-Corruption Implementation Strategy, presenting the findings of my corruption research, November 2018, Zagreb, Croatia
- American Political Science Association (APSA) 2017 Annual Meeting, presenting my DPhil paper “Corruption and re-election”, September 2017, San Francisco, USA
- Co-organized the Exel 1st international conference (featuring Josh Angrist and Alan Krueger), and presented my DPhil paper “The politics of bailouts”, August 2017, Umag, Croatia
- Nuffield Politics Graduate Student Conference, presenting my DPhil paper “Corruption and re-election” June 2017, Nuffield College, Oxford, UK
- Keynote speaker on 10th Zagreb Economic Forum organized by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, topic: Democracy and growth, Zagreb, June 2015
- Conference “Challenges of Europe: Growth, competitiveness, and inequality”, Hvar, May 2015; Presenting a paper: “How do firms respond to anticipated shocks?”
- Seminars in economics, University Autònoma Barcelona, November 2014, Barcelona, Spain Presenting my paper “Persistent electoral success with endogenous rents”
- Public Choice Society 50th annual Conference, March 2013, New Orleans, USA, Presenting my paper on “Persistent electoral success with endogenous rents”

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Interviews & media appearances (TV, radio, and newspapers): <http://www.vukvukovic.org/interviews-and-op-eds.html>

Reviewer in peer-reviewed journals: Comparative Political Studies, PLOS ONE, Public Choice, European Union Politics, East European Economics, etc.

Memberships in organizations

2021, Committee on Budget and Finance, Croatian Parliament, external expert member
2017, Member of the American Political Science Association
2013, Member of the Public Choice Society
2012, Member of the European Economic Association
2011, London School of Economics Alumni Network

Scholarships and Awards

- [Sir Richard Stapley Educational Trust](#) for DPhil in Oxford, 2018-2019
- [IHS Fellowship](#), for DPhil in Oxford, 2018-2019
- [Santander Scholarship](#) for DPhil in Oxford, 2017-2018, Pembroke College, Oxford
- [Koch Foundation](#) dissertation grant for DPhil in Oxford, 2017/18
- [John Blundell Studentship](#) for DPhil in Oxford, 2016/17 and 2017/18, Adam Smith Institute
- [Frankopan Fund Scholarship](#) for DPhil in Oxford, 2016/17, 17/18, and 18/19, Staples Trust
- Scholarship for outstanding academic achievement of the Croatian Ministry of Science, 2008–2010
- **Grants:** [Pembroke College Sandrew Tavel Fund](#) grant 2018, [Koch Foundation](#) travel grant for APSA conference, 2017; DPIR [Norman Chester Fund](#) travel grant 2017; Pembroke College [Dean of Graduate's](#) fund travel grant; Institute for Humane Studies [Hayek Fund](#) travel grant 2013,-17,-18

Languages

- Bilingual in English and Croatian
- Elementary: French (A2 international level) and Spanish (A1/A2 international level)

IT Skills

- Stata, R, Python, EViews, MatLab, Mathematica, LaTeX