

Boris Nikolaev

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Research Interests

I strive to understand the proper role of the public sector in promoting economic development, freedom, and individual well-being. I use both traditional and non-traditional measures of economic performance and incorporate ideas from behavioral economics. I am also interested in the history of economic thought and try to encourage my students to be more open for the diversity of ideas that make academic life so rich.

Education

- exp. 2013 **Ph.D. Economics**
University of South Florida | Tampa, Florida
Advisor: Professor Phillip K Porter
- 2008 **M.A. Economics**
University of South Florida | Tampa, Florida
- 2006 **B.S. Economics** (Summa Cum Laude)
Manchester College | North Manchester, Indiana
Minors: **Philosophy and Mathematics**

Academic Appointments

University of South Florida, Department of Economics

- 2011-current *Instructor, History of Economic Thought* [[syllabus](#)][[evaluations](#)]
- 2010-current *Instructor, Principles of Macroeconomics* [[website](#)] [[evaluations](#)]
- 2008-current *Instructor, Principles of Microeconomics* [[website](#)] [[syllabus](#)] [[evaluations](#)]
- Spring 2008 *Instructor, M.A. Mathematical Economics*
- Summer 2008 *Teaching Assistant, Principles of Microeconomics*, Brad Kamp
- Fall 2007 *Teaching Assistant, Ph.D. Mathematical Economics*, Phillip Porter
- Summer 2007 *Teaching Assistant, American Economic History*, Michael Loewy
- Summer 2007 *Teaching Assistant, Aggregate Economics*, Michael Loewy

Grants, Awards & Fellowships

- 2010 The Provost Award for Outstanding Teaching by a Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of South Florida
- 2010 NEH Grant for the study of History of Political Economy, Duke University
- 2006-2007 Graduate Fellowship, University of South Florida
- 2005 BKD Indiana Excellence Award
- 2005 Multicultural Affairs Distinguished Scholar Award, Manchester College
- 2004 Eli Lilly Imaginary Grant Recipient, Manchester College
- 2001-2005 Manchester College (National) Deans List
- 2002 Outstanding Academic Scholarship, Manchester College
- 2001-2005 International Scholarship, Manchester College

Research

Working Papers

- October 2011 **B. Nikolaev**, Rising Income Inequality and Economic Growth—Are Americans Better Off?—Evidence from Subjective Well-Being Data, University of South Florida. [draft ready]
- October 2011 **B. Nikolaev**, Why There Is No Bubble for Higher Education, but Why Policy Makers Should Be Concerned, University of South Florida. [draft ready]
- September 2011 **B. Nikolaev**, How large is the Happiness Premium from Education? University of South Florida, October, 2011. [draft ready]
- December 2005 **B. Nikolaev**, Is There A Bubble in the US Housing Market? Undergraduate Senior Thesis, Manchester College.

Dissertation (in progress)

Essays on the role of the public sector in determining the individual level of well-being and its relationship to economic growth, freedom, and income inequality.

Optimal Government Spending—Accounting for the Trade-off between Income Inequality, Growth in GDP, and Freedom (expected 2012-13)

The (Un) Happy Government Index. (expected 2012-13)

Do Budget Deficits Crowd out Happiness? (expected 2012-13)

Collaborative Projects

Equality or Growth?—Measuring the Preferences of Americans (with Ali Besharat, 2012)

Measuring Students' Attitudes About the Financial Return from College Education (with Ali Besharat, 2012)

Active Research

Education and Happiness – Are Europeans and Americans different? (data collected, some analysis performed)

Private Returns and Social Costs—Should the US Government Subsidize Higher Education? (conceptual stage)

Professional Development

Duke University, Center for the History of Political Economy

Summer 2010 Certificate on “Teaching the History of Political Economy” (a month long seminar)

University of South Florida, Center for 21st Century Teaching Excellence

Spring 2010 Certificate on “Creating an Academic Teaching Portfolio”

Summer 2008 Certificate on “Instructional Workshops for Teaching Excellence,” 20 hours

Summer 2008 Certificate on “Teaching Undergraduates for International Instructors”

Work Experience

2005-current **Florida Seating** | Clearwater, Florida
Creative Director
Senior designer (web, graphic), product development, branding & photography.

2008-current **Zpryme Research & Consulting** | Austin, Texas
Independent Contractor
Market research, data analysis & media development.

2008-current **Dear Earth, LLC** | Miami, Florida
Independent Contractor
Branding, web development & product photography of organic, eco-sustainable clothing products.

2005-2006 **P&M Equity, LLC** | St. Petersburg, Florida
Senior Financial Analyst
Market research, financial reporting and budgeting, management of multi-million real estate portfolio.

2002-2005 **Manchester College Peace Studies Institute** | North Manchester, Indiana
Student Assistant
Promote social responsibility, tolerance, and peace through variety of media campaigns.

Technical Proficiency

Software

Adobe	Acrobat • Premiere • Dreamweaver • Flash • Illustrator • InDesign • Lightroom • Photoshop
Microsoft	Word • Excel • Powerpoint • Access • Visio • Project
Open Source	Open Office • FileZilla • InfranView • GIMP • Audacity • Virtual Dub
Programming	HTML • CSS • PHP • Flash • Javascript (basic) • XML
Statistical	Stata (main) • Maple • SPSS • SAS (basic)
CMS	Drupal • Joomla • Wordpress • Magento

References

Phillip K Porter (major professor)
Professor of Economics
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Donald Bellante
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