

Quamrul H. Ashraf

Department of Economics
Williams College
24 Hopkins Hall Drive
Williamstown, MA 01267

Phone: (413) 597-3051
Fax: (413) 597-4045
Quamrul.H.Ashraf@williams.edu
<http://econ.williams.edu/people/qa1>

Current Position:

Assistant Professor of Economics, Williams College, Williamstown, MA Jul. 2009 – present

Education:

Ph.D., Economics, Brown University, Providence, RI May 2009

Thesis Title: “Essays on Deep Determinants of Comparative Economic Development”

Thesis Committee: Oded Galor (primary), Peter Howitt, David N. Weil

M.A., Economics, Brown University, Providence, RI May 2004

B.A. (summa cum laude), Economics and Computer Science, Trinity College, Hartford, CT May 1999

Teaching and Research Fields:

Economic Growth, Macroeconomics, Population Economics, Computational Economics

Publications:

“The ‘Out of Africa’ Hypothesis, Human Genetic Diversity, and Comparative Economic Development” (joint with Oded Galor), *American Economic Review*, forthcoming.

“Dynamics and Stagnation in the Malthusian Epoch” (joint with Oded Galor), *American Economic Review*, August 2011, 101(5), pp. 2003–2041.

“Isolation and Development” (joint with Oded Galor and Ömer Özak), *Journal of the European Economic Association*, April/May 2010, 8(2-3), pp. 401–412.

“When Does Improving Health Raise GDP?” (joint with Ashley Lester and David N. Weil), in Daron Acemoglu, Kenneth Rogoff, and Michael Woodford (eds.), *NBER Macroeconomics Annual 2008, Vol. 23*, pp. 157–204, Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Working Papers:

“Cultural Diversity, Geographical Isolation, and the Origin of the Wealth of Nations” (joint with Oded Galor), December 2011, NBER Working Paper 17640. *Under review*.

“The Effect of Interventions to Reduce Fertility on Economic Growth” (joint with David N. Weil and Joshua Wilde). August 2011, NBER Working Paper 17377. *Revise and resubmit at Population and Development Review*.

“Banks, Market Organization, and Macroeconomic Performance: An Agent-Based Computational Analysis” (joint with Boris Gershman and Peter Howitt), June 2011, NBER Working Paper 17102. *Under review*.

“The Climatic Origins of the Neolithic Revolution: Theory and Evidence” (joint with Stelios Michalopoulos), February 2011, Williams College Working Paper 2010-02. *Under review*.

Research in Progress:

“How Inflation Affects Macroeconomic Performance: An Agent-Based Computational Investigation” (joint with Boris Gershman and Peter Howitt). *In progress*.

“Diversity at the Origin and Ethnic Civil Conflict in Contemporary National Populations” (joint with Eren Arbatli and Oded Galor). *In progress*.

“The Evolution of Individual Property Rights in the Process of Development” (joint with Oded Galor and Boris Gershman). *In progress*.

“The Road from Serfdom: Industrialization and Emancipation in Nineteenth-Century Imperial Russia” (joint with Oded Galor, Boris Gershman, and Steven Nafziger). *In progress*.

“Geographical Isolation, Endogenous Technological Progress, and the Evolution of Cross-Country Comparative Development” (joint with Oded Galor and Ömer Özak). *In progress*.

Presentations and Discussions:

Departmental Seminar, Clark University (scheduled) Mar. 2012
Annual Meeting, ASSA Jan. 2012
Political Economy Group Meeting, NBER Nov. 2011
Culture and Institutions Group Meeting, NBER Nov. 2010
Departmental Seminar, Amherst College Apr. 2010
Economic History and Development Workshop, UMass Amherst Apr. 2010
Departmental Seminar, Williams College Jan. 2009; Mar. 2010
Departmental Seminar, GEM Group, UCLA Anderson Feb. 2009
Departmental Seminar, Boston College Jan. 2009
Workshop in Macroeconomics, Brown University Oct. 2008
Income Distribution and Macroeconomics Group Meeting, Summer Institute, NBER Jul. 2008
Annual Meeting, Society for Economic Dynamics Jul. 2008
Macro Lunch Workshop, Brown University Oct. 2006; Dec. 2006; Jun. 2008

Professional Service:

Referee for *American Economic Review* (2x), *Econometrica* (2x), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Journal of Economic Growth*, *Economic Journal*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Economic Theory*, *Journal of the European Economic Association* (2x), *American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *European Economic Review*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *Journal of African Economies*

External Reviewer for *Research Grants Council of Hong Kong*

Member of *American Economic Association*, *Econometric Society*, *European Economic Association*

Teaching Experience:

Courses Taught:

Long-Run Perspectives on Economic Growth, Williams College Spring 2010; Fall 2010, 2011
Principles of Macroeconomics, Williams College AY 2009 – 2010; Spring 2011
Development Economics, Williams College Fall 2009, 2010, 2011
Intermediate Macroeconomics (TA), Brown University Fall 2005
Financial Markets (TA), Brown University Spring 2005
Corporate Finance (TA), Brown University Fall 2004
Growth and Development (TA), Brown University Summer 2004
Basic Econometrics (TA), Trinity College Fall 1998
Macroeconomics (TA), Trinity College Fall 1997

Thesis Advising:

Thelonious Jensen (main advisor), Williams College AY 2010 – 2011
Dean Weesner (main advisor), Williams College Spring 2011
Jason Copelas (second reader), Williams College AY 2009 – 2010

Departmental Service:

Graduate School / Post-graduate Advisor, Williams College Fall 2010 – present
Coordinator, Brown Bag Lunch Workshop, Williams College AY 2010 – 2011
Organizer, Macro Lunch Workshop, Brown University AY 2006 – 2007

Institutional Service:

Faculty Program Director, Wood Neighborhood, Williams College AY 2011 – 2012

Academic Grants, Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

Hellman Fellows Research Grant, Williams College..... AY 2012 – 2013
Class of 1957 Summer Research Grant, Williams College Summer 2010, 2011
Economics Merit Dissertation Fellowship, Brown University AY 2007 – 2008
Summer Research Fellowship, Brown University Summer 2005, 2006
University Fellowship, Brown University AY 2003 – 2004
Economics Department Fellowship, Brown University AY 2003 – 2004
Honors in General Scholarship, Commencement, Trinity College May 1999
Departmental Honors (Economics and Computer Science), Commencement, Trinity College..... May 1999
Class of '99 President's Fellow (Computer Science), Trinity College..... 1998 – 1999
Class of '99 Thomas Holland Scholar, Trinity College..... 1997 – 1998
Faculty Honors List, Trinity College..... 1996 – 1999
Phi Beta Kappa..... Initiated in 1999
Pi Gamma Mu..... Initiated in 1998

Related Work Experience:

Academic:

Research Assistant to Peter Howitt, Brown University Summer 2005; Spring 2006 – Spring 2007
Research Assistant to David N. Weil, Brown University..... Summer 2006
Research Assistant to Ralph Walde, Trinity College Summer 1997

Non-academic:

Software Engineer, Research and Development Group, Bluestreak Inc., RI..... Dec. 2000 – Aug. 2003
Financial Analyst, Equity Derivatives and Risk Technology, Merrill Lynch, NY..... Aug. 1999 – Nov. 2000
Finance Intern, Prudential Securities, Hartford, CT..... Sep. 1998 – Jun. 1999
IT Consultant, Information Technology Services Division, United Nations, NY Jun. 1998 – Aug. 1998

Personal:

Nationality: Bangladeshi (U.S. H1B visa)
D.O.B.: June 23, 1976
Family status: Married to Elisaveta A. Koryushkina, one child (Zamir Q. Ashraf)
Languages: Bilingual in English and Bengali, knowledge of Hindi and Arabic