

University of Minnesota - Twin Cities

Department of Economics
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Curriculum Vitae**Fall 2026****Aleksandr Shneider****Personal Data***Address*

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Citizenship: Russia

Contact Information

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Major Fields of Concentration

Textual Analysis, Empirical Macroeconomics

Education

Degree	Field	Institution	Year
PhD	Economics	University of Minnesota (expected)	2027
M.Sc.	Economics	EIEF and LUISS, Rome	2020
B.Sc.	Economics	Lomonosov Moscow State University	2018

Dissertation

Title: “When the News Matters: Newspaper Text and Real-Time Forecasts of U.S. Growth”

Dissertation Advisor(s): Professor Kjetil Storesletten

Expected Completion: Spring 2027

References

Reference Name	Email / Contact Info	Address
Professor Kjetil Storesletten	kstoresl@umn.edu	Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, 4-101 Hanson Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Professor Joseph Mullins	mullinsj@umn.edu	Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, 4-101 Hanson Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55455
Professor Ayça Özdoğan Atabay	ozdog002@umn.edu	Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, 4-101 Hanson Hall, Minneapolis, MN 55455

Honors and Awards

- 2024–2025 *Distinguished Teaching Award*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, for ECON 4261 – Introduction to Econometrics (Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025)
- 2024 *Distinguished Teaching Award*, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, for ECON 4211 – Principles of Econometrics (Spring 2024)

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2024–Spring 2026 *Instructor*, ECON 4261 – Introduction to Econometrics, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Four semesters)
- Fall 2023–Spring 2024 *Instructor*, ECON 4211 – Principles of Econometrics, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Two semesters)
- Fall 2022–Spring 2023 *Teaching Assistant*, ECON 4161–4164 – Microeconomic Analysis I–IV, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Summer 2022 *Teaching Assistant*, ECON 4261 – Introduction to Econometrics, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Spring 2022 *Teaching Assistant*, ECON 4211 – Principles of Econometrics, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- Fall 2021 *Teaching Assistant*, ECON 1102 – Principles of Macroeconomics, Department of Economics, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Research Experience

- Summer 2023 *Research Assistant*, Minnesota Economics Big Data Institute (MEBDI), University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota.
- 2020–2022 *Researcher*, Center for International Economics Research, Institute for International Studies, MGIMO-University.

Papers

- Shneider, A. (2026). “When the News Matters: Newspaper Text and Real-Time Forecasts of U.S. Growth” (**Job Market Paper**)
- Shneider, A. and Stolyarov, A. “Pricing a Good That Costs Nothing to Copy: Discount Dynamics and Demand on Steam”
- Shneider, A. “Instruments of Change: The Rise of Identification Designs in Economics”

Computer Skills

Python, Julia, MATLAB, R, Stata, LaTeX, AI tools (LLM-based coding and research workflows)

Languages

Russian (Native), English (Fluent)

Abstract(s)

Shneider, A. “When the News Matters: Newspaper Text and Real-Time Forecasts of U.S. Growth” (**Job Market Paper**)

Does newspaper text help to forecast the U.S. economy in real time, and when? I build monthly text series—topic shares, policy-uncertainty counts and sentiment—from 11.76 million articles of seven U.S. newspapers over 1990–2020, select the economic articles with an embedding-based filter checked against hand labels, and race the text against FRED-MD in mixed-frequency regressions estimated with machine-learning methods on expanding real-time

windows. Three results. First, on all articles text alone trails the hard data, and adding it helps only consumption. Second, which articles are used matters: selecting the economic articles improves the text forecasts under every selection rule tried. Third, text beats the autoregressive benchmark only in the Great Recession, when four quarters hold between a third and a half of the benchmark's squared error; in normal times neither text nor hard data beat it.

Shneider, A. and Stolyarov, A. "Pricing a Good That Costs Nothing to Copy: Discount Dynamics and Demand on Steam"

A released video game costs nothing to copy, is bought only once and cannot be resold, so its price serves only to sort buyers over time. Using 5.6 million posted-price changes on the US Steam store since 2020 and more than 150 million dated user reviews, we document how sellers set that price and how demand responds. The average game is discounted about three times a year but changes its list price only about once a decade. Discount timing follows the platform's sale calendar and cooldown rules, and discounts deepen as games age. We measure demand with reviews and player counts, and it rises by similar proportions at the start of shallow and deep discounts. This suggests that a discount works partly as a notification to consumers waiting for a sale. We are developing a dynamic model of a seller facing a stock of waiting consumers to evaluate the platform's sales calendar and discount rules.

Shneider, A. "Instruments of Change: The Rise of Identification Designs in Economics"

I document how the identification designs of the credibility revolution spread across the economics profession. Using full texts of roughly 114,000 articles from about 200 economics journals published between 1990 and 2024, I build a phrase-based classifier for seven designs (difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity, instrumental variables, randomized experiments, event studies, synthetic control, and structural estimation), validate it on 589 hand-labelled papers, and correct the resulting series for measurement error and for the uneven availability of full text across years and publishers. The share of articles using at least one of these designs rises from 17.5% in the 1990s to 42.6% in the 2020s, a 2.4-fold increase that is only partly driven by longer papers. A pre-specified comparison across the journal hierarchy shows that observational designs—difference-in-differences, regression discontinuity, and instrumental variables—converged on the rest of the profession about a third faster per decade than resource-intensive designs such as randomized experiments and structural estimation, a pattern that survives dropping any single design and reweighting on research topic. Exploratory evidence from co-author and colleague networks shows that design choices cluster within these ties, but the clustering is not distinguishable from shared taste.