

Štěpán Mikula

CONTACT INFORMATION Masaryk University
Department of Economics
Lipová 41a
Czech Republic, 602 00 Brno
Web: <https://sites.google.com/site/stepanmikula/>
Phone: +420 724 512 946
E-mail: stepan.mikula@econ.muni.cz
ORCID iD: [0000-0003-1725-8561](https://orcid.org/0000-0003-1725-8561)
IDEAS/RePEc: [pmi826](https://ideas.repec.org/p/pmi/mi826)

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND **Masaryk University**, Brno, Czech Republic
Ph.D., Economics (Economic policy), 2017

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE **Masaryk University, Department of Economics**, Brno, Czech Republic
Associate professor **2023–present**
Researcher, Assistant professor **2012–2023**

INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE Long-term research stays: (a) Frisch Centre for Economic Research at the University of Oslo (2022); (b) University of Stavanger (2020); (c) Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim (2015).

I serve as a co-PI in an ongoing international research project jointly funded by the Czech Science Foundation and Austrian Research Fund.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS Guzi, M., P. Huber, & Š. Mikula (2021). The Long-term Impact of the Resettlement of the Sudetenland on Residential Migration. *Journal of Urban Economics*, 126 (November), [doi:10.1016/j.jue.2021.103385](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jue.2021.103385).

Abstract: We analyze the long-term impact of the resettlement of the Sudetenland after World War II on residential migration. This event involved expulsion of ethnic Germans and an almost complete depopulation of an area of a country and its rapid resettlement by 2 million Czech inhabitants. Results based on a regression discontinuity design show a highly persistent higher population churn and thus a lower attachment of residents to their region in resettled areas. Descriptive evidence also indicates that resettled settlements still have fewer local club memberships, less frequently organize local social events and had lower turnout in municipal elections until the 1990s. This thus suggests persistently lower levels of local social capital. This finding is consistent with recent theoretical models that suggest a highly persistent impact of the destruction of local social capital on residential migration.

Guzi, M., & Š. Mikula (2021). Careful What You Say: The Effect of Manipulative Information on the 2013 Czech Presidential Run-off Election. *Economics Letters*, 209 (December), 110152, [doi:10.1016/j.econlet.2021.110152](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.econlet.2021.110152).

Abstract: We exploit a quasi-natural experiment that emerged during the Czech presidential run-off election to identify the impact of inaccurate and misleading information on electoral outcomes. A political campaign associated a vote for one of the candidates with a legally and politically unfounded risk relevant to people owning houses confiscated from ethnic Germans after the Second World War. Using municipality-level data in a difference-in-differences

framework, our analysis suggests that the manipulative campaign affected the electoral outcomes and increased voter turnout in municipalities with a higher share of voters at risk of the unproven threat to housing ownership.

Coufalová, L., & Š. Mikula (2023). The Grass Is Not Greener on the Other Side: The Role of Attention in Voting Behavior. *Public Choice*, 194, doi:10.1007/s11127-022-01030-z.

Abstract: A lack of information about electoral candidates leads to a ballot order effect that increases the chances of candidates in the top electoral list positions winning voters' support. The ballot order effect is confounded by the effect of ranking and the effect of attention, which work in the same direction. We exploit a variation in ballot layout (the quasi-random location of the break between the first and second sides of the ballot) in the 2006, 2010, 2013, and 2017 Czech parliamentary open list proportional representation elections to disentangle these effects and identify the effect of attention. We show that being listed on the reverse side of the ballot paper decreases electoral support—measured by number of preferential votes received—by at least 40%. Focusing on preferential votes allows us to filter out the effect of political party preference.

SELECTED
WORKING
PAPERS

Mikula, Š., T. Reggiani, & F. Sabatini (2023). *The Long-Term Impact of Religion on Social Capital: Evidence from Post-war Czechoslovakia*. MUNI ECON WP No. 2023-3.

Abstract: We exploit a historical experiment that occurred in Czechoslovakia after World War Two to study the drivers of social capital accumulation in an extremely unfavorable environment. Between 1945 and 1948, the Sudetenland became the scene of ethnic cleansing, with the expulsion of nearly three million German speakers and the simultaneous influx of nearly two million resettlers. Focusing on the areas where at least 90% of the population was forced to leave, we show that the municipalities hosting a church built before 1945 developed significantly higher social capital under the communist rule, which persisted after the dissolution of Czechoslovakia and the current days.

Mikula, Š., & J. Montag (2022). *Roma and Bureaucrats: A Field Experiment in the Czech Republic*. MUNI ECON WP No. 2022-1.

Abstract: This paper tests for discriminatory treatment of the Roma minority by public officials in the Czech Republic. Our focus is on public servants at local job centers whose job is to advise unemployed individuals and process applications for unemployment benefit. Our experimental design facilitates testing for the presence of each of two key (but intertwined) drivers of discrimination: ethnic animus and socioeconomic status prejudice. We find substantial evidence for the presence of discrimination based on both of these sources. Since Roma tend to have lower socioeconomic status, the two sources of discrimination compound for them.

Mikula, Š., & M. Pytliková (2021). *Air Pollution and Migration: Exploiting a Natural Experiment from the Czech Republic*. IZA DP No. 14863.

Abstract: This paper examines the causal effects of air pollution on migration by exploiting a natural experiment in which desulfurization technologies were rapidly implemented in coalburning power plants in the Czech Republic in the 1990s. These technologies substantially decreased air pollution levels without per se affecting economic activity. The results based on a difference-in-differences estimator imply that improvements in air quality reduced emigration from previously heavily polluted municipalities by 24%. We find that the effect of air pollution on emigration tended to be larger in municipalities with weaker social capital and fewer man-made amenities. Thus, our results imply that strengthening social capital and investing in better facilities and public services could partially mitigate depopulation responses to air pollution. Finally, we look at heterogeneous migratory responses to air pollution by education and age and find some evidence that the more educated tend to be more sensitive to air pollution in their settlement behavior.

OTHER
PUBLICATIONS

Coufalová, L., & Š. Mikula, M. Ševčík (2023). Homophily in Voting Behavior: Evidence from Preferential Voting. *Kyklos*, available online, [doi:10.1111/kykl.12328](https://doi.org/10.1111/kykl.12328).

Krčál, O., Š. Mikula, & R. Staněk (2023). Social Capital and Mobility: An Experimental Study. *Rationality and Society*, 35(1), 61–80. [doi:10.1177/10434631221134176](https://doi.org/10.1177/10434631221134176).

Coufalová, L., Mikula, Š., & Žídek, L. (2022). Misreporting in Financial Statements in a Centrally Planned Economy: The Case of Czechoslovak State-owned Enterprises in Late Socialism. *Accounting History*, 28(1), 170–191. [doi:10.1177/10323732221109652](https://doi.org/10.1177/10323732221109652).

Guzi, M., & Š. Mikula (2022). Reforms That Keep You at Home: The Effects of Economic Transition on Migration. *Economics of Transition and Institutional Change*, 30(2), 289–310, [doi:10.1111/ecot.12287](https://doi.org/10.1111/ecot.12287).

Mikula, Š., & T. Reggiani (2022). Residential-Based Discrimination in the Labor Market. *The BE Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy*, 22(2), 373–388, [doi:10.1515/bejeap-2021-0331](https://doi.org/10.1515/bejeap-2021-0331).

Coufalová, L., Mikula, Š., & Žídek, L. (2020). Competitiveness of Czechoslovak Exports Under Socialism and its Impact on Industries' Output Growth After 1989. *Economics of Transition and Institutional Change*, 28(1), 111–135, [doi:10.1111/ecot.12232](https://doi.org/10.1111/ecot.12232).

Polasik, M., A. Huterska, R. Iftikhar, & Š. Mikula (2020). The Impact of Payment Services Directive 2 on the PayTech Sector Development in Europe. *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 178, 385–401, [doi:10.1016/j.jebo.2020.07.010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2020.07.010)

Bøe, K. S., T. Jordal, Š. Mikula, and P. Molnár (2019). Do Political Risks Harm Development of Oil Fields? *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 157(1), 338–358, [doi:10.1016/j.jebo.2018.01.005](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2018.01.005).

Huber, P., and Š. Mikula (2019). Social Capital and Migration Intentions in Post-Communist Countries. *Empirica*, 46(1), 31–59, [doi:10.1007/s10663-018-9417-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s10663-018-9417-7).

MAJOR PROJECTS

Effects of (Dis-)integrations at the Austrian-Czech Border
(co-PI)

2020–2023

An international project funded by the Czech Science Foundation and the Austrian Science Fund (GF20-18033L/I4068).

International Migration: Drivers and Impacts
(team member)

2020–2023

Czech Science Foundation funded project (GA20-31615S).

Residential Mobility, Social Capital and Trust: Evidence from a Natural Experiment
(team member)

2018–2020

Czech Science Foundation funded project (GA18-16111S).

The Effect of Housing on Preferences and Behavior: Lab-in-the-Field Experiments with Participants of a Randomized Controlled Trial
(team member) **2018–2019**

Czech Science Foundation funded project (GA18-19492S).

After the Curtain: Empirical Studies of Migration in Transition Economies
(team member) **2015–2017**

Czech Science Foundation funded project (GA15-17810S).

Real Functioning of the Centrally Planned Economy in Czechoslovakia
(team member) **2015–2017**

Czech Science Foundation funded project (GA15-09404S).

OTHER
ACTIVITIES

The organizer of [MUES](#) Seminar series, and [Young Economists' Meeting](#) conference.

PROFESSIONAL
REFERENCES

References are listed in alphabetical order.

[Peter Huber](#) (co-author), Austrian Institute of Economic Research, Vienna, Austria.
Contact information: peter.huber@wifo.ac.at, +43 1 798 26 01 - 404.

[Tommaso Reggiani](#) (co-author), Cardiff University, United Kingdom.
Contact information: reggianit@cardiff.ac.uk, +44 (0) 29208 70724.

[Fabio Sabatini](#) (co-author), Sapienza University of Rome, Italy.
Contact information: fabio.sabatini@uniroma1.it.

Public evaluation reports from the habilitation procedures (promotion to Associate Professor) at Masaryk University submitted by [Benjamin Elsner](#) (University College Dublin), [Jan Fidrmuc](#) (Université de Lille), and [Martin Kahanec](#) (Central European University) are available from my [university profile](#).