

Professor Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, Hon DSc

Tuesday 22 July 2025

Orator: Professor Sascha Becker, Department of Economics

Vice-Chancellor

It is a great pleasure to introduce this morning's honorary graduand, the distinguished economist PROFESSOR EKATERINA ZHURAVSKAYA.

Ekaterina is currently a Professor of Economics at the Paris School of Economics and at the French School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences, and a Research Fellow at the Centre for Economic Policy Research in London. She works in the fields of political economics, economics of media, and economic history. The importance of her work has been recognised by several prestigious awards.

In 2018 she won the Birgit Grodal Award (made bi-annually by the European Economic Association to a European-based female economist who has made a significant contribution to the Economics profession), and the following year she was awarded the Silver Medal in Human and Social Sciences by the Centre de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS).

She is currently the first female, non-US-based co-editor of the *American Economic Review* – the leading journal in economics. And she holds three of the discipline's most prestigious fellowships, as a Foreign Honorary Member of the American Economic Association, a Fellow Award of the International Economic Association and a Fellow of the Econometric Society. Only a very small proportion of all academic economists are awarded any of these fellowships, and as a holder of all three, Ekaterina belongs to a small, elite group of academics worldwide.

Ekaterina has published more than 40 papers, of which many came out in the very top journals in Economics. I can only highlight a couple of papers to give you an impression of the breadth of her work. She is a world leader studying the role of media in economics and politics.

In "Radio and the Rise of the Nazis in Prewar Germany", published in the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Ekaterina and co-authors look at the role of radio broadcasts in shaping election results and anti-Semitism. During the Weimar Republic, before Hitler became Chancellor, the growth of Nazi popularity slowed down in areas with access to government radio broadcasts. This effect was reversed during the campaign for the last competitive election as a result of the pro-Nazi radio broadcast once Hitler became chancellor.

Later on, radio propaganda helped the Nazis enroll new party members. Nazi radio propaganda incited anti-Semitic acts and denunciations of Jews to authorities by ordinary citizens. This paper is about traditional media, but Ekaterina has also published path-breaking work on the role of social media.

Moving to a very different topic, in "Forced Migration and Human Capital: Evidence from Post-WWII Population Transfers", published in the *American Economic Review*, Ekaterina and co-authors study

the so-called uprootedness hypothesis. That hypothesis states that those uprooted by forced migration who have lost their physical belongings, will invest more in education, which no one can take away from them. After World War II, the Polish borders shifted and Poles from the Eastern Territories of Poland were forced to resettle further west. The descendants of those forced migrants are today more educated than Poles who were not forced to resettle.

These are merely two examples from a breathtaking oeuvre covering many topics, countries and time periods.

Economics remains, sadly, a male-dominated profession. Ekaterina is a shining light and role model for all female academic economists, as her Birgit Grodal Award recognised.

She has visited our own Economics Department on many occasions and has co-authored publications with departmental members. We are delighted to welcome her back to Warwick today.

Vice-Chancellor: in the name of the Senate, I present to you for admission to the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*, PROFESSOR EKATERINA ZHURAVSKAYA.