

Talan B. İşcan

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics
Dalhousie University
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CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Dalhousie University. Professor, July 2004
Project Lead, MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance, March 2024

PAST APPOINTMENTS

Dalhousie University. Chair, July 2016–June 2023
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid. Visiting Professor, January 2013–June 2013
Cornell University. Visiting Professor, August 2005–December 2005
Cornell University. Visiting Scholar, August 2004–July 2005, January 2006–July 2006
Dalhousie University. Associate Professor, July 1999–June 2004
International Monetary Fund. Visiting Scholar, May–June 2001
Harvard University. Visiting Scholar, February–May 2001
Dalhousie University. Assistant Professor, September 1994–June 1999
Cornell University. Lecturer, July–August 1994
World Bank. Intern (MENA division), June–August 1992
World Bank. Intern (MENA division), June–August 1991

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Economics. Cornell University, 1994
M.A. Economics. Cornell University, 1993
B.Sc. Economics. Middle East Technical University, 1989

AWARDS AND HONOURS

Nominated for the 2018 Award for Excellence in Graduate Supervision,
Dalhousie University
Department of Economics Award for Excellence in Teaching, Dalhousie University, 2012
SSHRC 4A Award, Dalhousie University, July 2003
Research Development Fund, Dalhousie University, June 1998
Mellon Foundation Area Studies Fellowship, Cornell University, 1993
Professor Herbert Joseph Davenport Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Cornell University, 1993
First of graduating class in economics, 1989, Middle East Technical University

FIELDS & CURRENT RESEARCH THEMES

Fields: Macroeconomics, international economics, economic development

Research: Environmentally extended structural change; sustainable agriculture and diets

ARTICLES

A new measure of climate transition risk based on distance to a global emission factor frontier (with Benjamin N. Dennis), July 2025, *Ecological Economics*, forthcoming.

Inequality and structural transformation: the case of South Korea (with Kyoung Mook Lim), *Economic Modelling*, vol. 107, 2022, p. 105735. doi.org/10.1016/j.econmod.2021.105735

Does distance matter for trade in services? The case of interprovincial trade in Canada (with Catherine Boulatoff and Yulia Kotlyarova), *Open Economies Review*, vol. 33, 2022, pp. 157–185. [doi/10.1007/s11079-021-09629-3](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11079-021-09629-3)

Drivers of farm commercialization in Nigeria and Tanzania (with Obed Owusu), *Agricultural Economics*, vol. 52, no. 2, 2021, pp. 265–299. [doi:10.1111/agec.12618](https://doi.org/10.1111/agec.12618)

Structural change and global trade flows: Does an emerging giant matter? (with Benjamin Dennis), *Review of International Economics*, vol. 28, no. 5, 2020, pp. 1191–1231. [doi:10.1111/roie.12486](https://doi.org/10.1111/roie.12486)

Redistributive land reform and structural change in Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, vol. 100, issue 3, 2018, pp. 732–761. [doi:10.1093/ajae/aax093](https://doi.org/10.1093/ajae/aax093)

Market power and the aggregate saving rate (with Andrea Giusto), *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, published online, 2018, pp. 1–29. [doi:10.1017/S1365100517000694](https://doi.org/10.1017/S1365100517000694).

The rescaled VAR representation: An application to macroeconomic forecasting (with Andrea Giusto), *Studies in Nonlinear Dynamics & Econometrics*, vol. 22, no. 4, 2018. [doi:10.13140/RG.2.2.19175.04009](https://doi.org/10.13140/RG.2.2.19175.04009).

School fees and access to primary education: Assessing four decades of policy in sub-Saharan Africa (with Katie Tinker and Daniel Rosenblum), *Journal of African Economies*, vol. 24, no. 4, 2015, pp. 559–592. [doi:10.1093/jae/ejv007](https://doi.org/10.1093/jae/ejv007)

Windfall resource income, productivity growth, and manufacturing employment. *Open Economies Review*, vol. 26, no. 2, 2015, pp. 279–311. [doi: 10.1007/s11079-014-9330-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11079-014-9330-z)

Allocative inefficiency and sectoral allocation of labor: Evidence from U.S. agriculture. *Economic Modelling*, vol. 43, December, 2014, pp. 305–320.

Changes in the terms of trade and sectoral reallocation of labor: The case of Guyana, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago. *Open Economies Review*, vol. 23, no. 3, 2012, pp. 473–500. [doi:10.1007/s11079-011-9201-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11079-011-9201-9)

Agricultural distortions, structural change, and economic growth: A cross-country analysis (with Benjamin N. Dennis). *American Journal of Agricultural Economics*, vol. 93, no. 3, 2011, pp. 885–905. [doi:10.1093/ajae/aar011](https://doi.org/10.1093/ajae/aar011).

Productivity growth and the U.S. saving rate. *Economic Modelling*, vol. 28, 2011, pp. 501–514.

How much can Engel's law and Baumol's disease explain the rise of service employment in the United States? *The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*, vol. 10 (2010), issue 1 (Contributions), Article 26. <http://www.bepress.com/bejm/vol10/iss1/art26>

The impact of monetary policy shocks on stock prices: Evidence from Canada and the United States (with Yun Li and Kuan Xu). *Journal of International Money and Finance*, vol. 29, no. 5, September 2010, pp. 876–896. doi:10.1016/j.jimonfin.2010.03.008

Engel versus Baumol: Accounting for U.S. structural change using two centuries of data (with Benjamin N. Dennis). *Explorations in Economic History*, vol. 46, no. 2, April 2009, pp. 186–202. Online supplementary material (data): doi:10.13140/RG.2.2.25047.06561.

Net foreign asset positions and consumption dynamics in the international economy (with Fabio Ghironi and Alessandro Rebucci). *Journal of International Money and Finance*, vol. 27, no. 8, December 2008, pp. 1337–1359.

Productivity growth and agricultural out-migration in the U.S. (with Benjamin N. Dennis). *Structural Change and Economic Dynamics*, vol. 18, no. 1, March 2007, pp. 52–74.

Investor protection and international investment positions: An empirical analysis (with Teresa Cyrus and Sheena Starky). *International Finance*, vol. 9, no. 2, 2006, pp. 197–221.

Fraud, banking crisis, and regulatory enforcement: Evidence from micro-level transactions data (with Bartu Soral and Greg Hebb). *European Journal of Law and Economics*, vol. 21, 2006, pp. 179–197.

Terms of trade risk with partial labor mobility (with Benjamin N. Dennis). *Journal of International Economics*, vol. 68, no. 1, January 2006, pp. 92–114.

On the terms of trade and sectoral reallocations (with Benjamin N. Dennis). *Review of International Economics*, vol. 13, no. 5, November 2005, pp. 892–903.

Present value tests of the current account with durables consumption. *Journal of International Money and Finance*, vol. 21, no. 3, May 2002, pp. 385–412.

The terms of trade, productivity growth, and the current account. *Journal of Monetary Economics*, vol. 45, no. 3, June 2000, pp. 389–411.

New borders and trade flows: A gravity model of the Baltic States (with Darren Byers and Barry Lesser). *Open Economies Review*, vol. 11, no. 5, January 2000, pp. 73–91.

Financing constraints and investment decline in Mexico. *Manchester School*, vol. 68, no. 1, January 2000, pp. 24–43.

Trade liberalization and productivity: A panel study of the Mexican manufacturing industry. *Journal of Development Studies*, vol. 34, no. 5, July 1998, pp. 123–148.

The link between inflation and output variability in Canada (with Lars Osberg). *Journal of Money, Credit, and Banking*, vol. 30, no. 2, May 1998, pp. 361–372.

Exports and capital accumulation: Some empirical evidence from the Mexican manufacturing industry. *Applied Economics Letters*, vol. 5, 1998, pp. 355–360.

Contribution of exports to growth, Mexico 1970–1990: Capital accumulation or labour productivity growth? *Revista Economía Mexicana–Nueva Época*, (in English with a Spanish abstract) vol. 4, no. 1, 1997, pp. 5–32.

Devaluations and aggregate output fluctuations: A random coefficient regression model for Mexico. *Applied Economics*, vol. 29, no. 12, December 1997, pp. 1575–1584.

BOOK CHAPTERS

External shocks, relative prices and sectoral reallocation in a small open economy: Evidence from Mexico. In *Latin American Economic Crisis*, ed. by Enrique Bour, Daniel Heymann and Fernando Navajas. Palgrave MacMillan, 2004, pp. 167–186.

COMMENTS & REVIEWS

Comment: The current account and the interest differential in Canada. In *Canada in the Global Economy, 2004*. Ottawa: Bank of Canada, 2005, pp. 216–225.

Understanding Economic Growth and Economic Development, Review of *Explaining Growth: A Global Research Perspective* by Gary McMahon and Lyn Squire, eds. (2003), and *Productivity Growth, Inflation, and Unemployment: The Collected Essays of Robert J. Gordon* by Robert J. Gordon (2004), *Review of Income and Wealth*, series 50, no. 4, December 2004, pp. 585–596.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[Canada's agricultural policies are falling short of health and sustainability goals](#) (joint with K. Kevany, K. Mullinix, H. Nye). *The Conversation*. 16 October 2024.

[The COVID Real Estate Boom: An Exploratory Analysis](#) (in collaboration with Property Valuation Services Corporation). November 2021.

Mapping project could unearth mineral wealth. Correspondence. *Nature*, vol. 575, issue 7783, 21 November 2019.

Made in USA: A Canadian Recession? Op-Ed. *Dalnews*, vol. 2, no. 5, 20 February 2008.

Debt. In *Encyclopedia of Capitalism*, volume 1, ed. by S. B. Hussein. New York: Facts on File, 2004.

Finance. In *Encyclopedia of Capitalism*, volume 1, ed. by S. B. Hussein. New York: Facts on File, 2004.

Risk. In *Encyclopedia of Capitalism*, volume 2, ed. by S. B. Hussein. New York: Facts on File, 2004.

Uncle Sam is Calling the Tune: Who is Paying the Piper? *Nova Scotian Messenger*, vol. 8, 2003.

Terms of trade risk (with Benjamin N. Dennis). In *Proceedings of the 2002 North American Summer Meetings of the Econometric Society*, ed. by D. Levine, and W. Zame.
<http://www.econometricsociety.org/meetings/vol1/index.html>.

Mercados Financieros Internacionales (Lecture notes on International Financial Markets). Santiago, Chile: CIEPLAN, Serie Docente 18, 1999, 42 pages.

Investment, domestic demand and exports: Evidence from the Mexican manufacturing industry. *Twenty-Third Annual Conference of the Atlantic Economic Association, Selected Papers*. Acadia University Press, 1995, pp. 71–80.

UNPUBLISHED PAPERS

What do Canadian agricultural policies support? The need to prioritize environment, equity, and health (with Kathleen Kevany and Tony Weis), July 2025 (to be submitted).

Background Paper for Reorienting For Food Systems for Greater Sustainability: Potential Policies and Strategies (with Kathleen Kevany), June 2024.

Accounting for structural change with population growth (with Shamsul Arefin), August 2022.

Aggregate saving and income inequality: What are the links? June 2010.

Migration costs, partial labor mobility and wage gaps: A general-equilibrium appraisal with an application to farm out-migration in the United States (with Benjamin N. Dennis), March 2005.

Investment and the current account: A triangular model of the G7 with (Gourango Rao), Dalhousie University, Working Paper #2000-3, revised October 2000.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a net-zero economy: an analysis of global structural change, in progress, 2024

Greenhouse gas emissions embodied in internationally traded goods lead to large differences in consumption- and production-based measures, tentative title and in progress, 2023

Land grab and land reform: a historical perspective

METHODS & TOOLS DEVELOPED

Curriculum Development: *Economics of Food and Food Systems*, approved 2023. An introductory course on the production and consumption of food as seen through the lenses of historically observed food systems. While what we eat defines us as individuals, how and what we produce to eat define us as societies.

Teaching Method: [Writing to Learn: Using a Single Context Method](#). Presented at “Assessing Student Learning, Dalhousie University Centre for Learning and Teaching Conference,” 30 April 30–1 May 2008, Halifax. Implemented at Macroeconomic Theory for MDE, and Economic Growth in Historical Perspective, various years.

Learning Tool: Learning (Research) by Doing: Undergraduate Education in Data-Oriented Environments: A New Online Assignment Tool (completion date Winter 2016, available [online](#)). Supported by a \$5,000 CLT Learning and Teaching Grant, Dalhousie University, 2015. Presented at 2016 Dalhousie Conference on University Teaching and Learning, 27–28 April 2016. Implemented at International Finance, Winter 2016.

Textbook-length Lecture Notes:

International Finance. Advanced undergraduate level.

Advanced Macroeconomic Theory. Graduate level.

COURSES TAUGHT

Dalhousie: Macroeconomic Theory (PhD, MA, Master of Development Economics); Macroeconomics (advanced undergraduate, intermediate, and introductory); International Finance; Honours Thesis; Economic Growth in Historical Perspective; International Banking (MBA).

Cornell: Intermediate macroeconomics; Introductory macroeconomics.

Cuba: Lectures and seminars on direct methods of calculating purchasing power parity, economic vulnerability, and models of human capital. INIE, Havana, February 2003.

SPEAL II: Lectures on international financial markets at CORDES, in Quito, Ecuador (November 1999) and at the Catholic University, in La Paz, Bolivia (October 1998).

Baltic Economic Management Training Programme: Lectures on international banking and finance, and international trade (Cesis, Latvia, May 1997; Klaipeda, Lithuania, May 1996; Dalhousie University, October 1994, 1995, 1996, 1998, and 1999). Workshop entitled “Do the Current Account Deficits Matter?” (Tallinn, Estonia, November 2000).

SERVICE**Reviewer**

Quality Assurance Review, Economics Department, University of New Brunswick, November 2024

Academic Unit Review, Memorial University of Newfoundland, Department of Economics, May–June 2023

Editor Atlantic Canada Economics Review, Associate Editor. 2016–2019

Organizer

Reorienting Our Food Systems for Greater Sustainability: Potential Policies and Strategies (with K. Kevany). MacEachen Institute Policy Roundtable, June 25, 2024, Dalhousie University, with briefing notes [Reorienting Agricultural Policies to Support Healthier Diets](#), 6 August 2024

Atlantic Canada Economics Association Meetings, Dalhousie University, Halifax, 2023

Canadian Economics Association Meetings, Canadian Development Economics Study Group and development economics sessions, University of Toronto, Toronto, 2009

Referee African Education Review, Agricultural Economics, American Economic Review, American Journal of Agricultural Economics, Australasian Agricultural and Resource Economics, B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics, Bulletin of Economic Research, Canadian Journal of Development Studies, Canadian Journal of Economics, Economic History Review, Economic Journal, Economic Modelling, Economics of Transition and Institutional Change, European

Economic Review, International Economic Journal, International Finance, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Chinese Economic and Business Studies, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Financial Stability, Journal of International Money and Finance, Journal of Macroeconomics, Journal of International Trade and Economic Development, Open Economies Review, Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, Review of Income and Wealth, Review of International Economics, Review of International Economics and Finance, Southern Economic Journal, Addison Wesley, McGraw Hill, MIT Press, Prentice Hall, University of Toronto Press, SSHRC, Centre for Teaching and Learning (Dalhousie).

Professional Associations

Atlantic Canada Economics Association Meetings, Organizing Committee Member, 2022
 Canadian Economics Association Executive Council, Member. 2007–2010
 Canadian Economics Association Nominating Committee, Member. 2007–2010
 Canadian Development Economics Study Group, Vice President. 2007–2010

MAJOR ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE (Dalhousie University)

Department

Undergraduate Advisory Committee. Member. July–September 2024, December 2024–present
 Department Chair. July 2016–June 2023 (July–December 2016 on leave)
 Seminar Coordinator. Winter 2019
 Physical Resources Committee. Chair, 2018
 Macroeconomics and Economic Development (MED) Study Group, Coordinator. 2013–2017
 Personnel Committee. Chair, 2008–2012, 2013–2016
 Tenure and Promotions Committee. Chair, 2013–2015
 Acting Chair. June 2014, June 2016
 Personnel Committee. Co-Chair, 2012
 Departmental Unit Review Response Committee. Chair, 2007
 Student Exchange Program with Universidad Torcuato di Tella. Coordinator, 2000–2016
 Graduate Coordinator. 2000–2004
 Macroeconomics Comprehensive Examination Committee. Chair, 1996–2012; 2014–2015. Member 2017, 2019
 Macro/Development Comprehensive Examination Committee. Chair, 2012; 2014; Member 2017
 Macro/Health Comprehensive Examination Committee. Member, 2019, 2020

Financial Economics Comprehensive Examination Committee. Member, 2015

Physical Resources Committee, Chair. 1995–1998; 2018

Faculty of Science

Associate Dean Global Relations Search Committee. Member, 2021

Psychology Internal Unit Review Committee. Member, 2018

Psychology Internal Unit Review Committee. Chair, 2010

Faculty of Science Strategic Planning Committee. Member, 2008

Psychology Chair Advisory Committee. Chair, 2008

Mathematics and Statistics Chair Advisory Committee. Member, 2003

University

Employee Benefits Committee. Member, 2001–2004

GRANTS & RESEARCH CONTRACTS

Agricultural policies that support new farmers and sustainable diets: land trusts and co-operatives in the Canadian context (principle investigator). July 2025–June 2027.

Transition through partnerships for sustainable diets: Food procurement, placement, and possibilities. SSHRC Partnership Development Grant (co-applicant). March 2024–February 2026.

Aligning Canada's agriculture production incentives to encourage transition to healthier and more sustainable diets (with Kathleen Kevany). MacEachen Institute for Public Policy and Governance. March 2024–February 2027

Understanding the scope and size of service trade in Atlantic Canada. Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency, Atlantic Policy Research Initiative, principal investigator, September 2016–September 2017

Terms-of-trade shocks in the Caribbean region. Inter-American Development Bank, consultant, November–December 2008

Productivity in Provincial Economics. Nova Scotia, Industry Canada, principal investigator, February–December 2003

GRADUATE SUPERVISION

Alexa Mucyo Kayonga (MDE, expected December 2025). Artisanal Small-scale Mining and Governance of the Commons (tentative title).

Ali Smaili (PhD, expected December 2025). Urban Migration and Slum-like Housing: Evidence from Kenya (tentative title).

Weiyi Li (PhD, December 2024, co-supervised: SDUFE). Health Insurance, Health Status, Retirement and Work: Evidence from China.

- Mahmood Hasan (MA, 2020). Demand for Residential Solar Photovoltaic Systems: Evidence from Nova Scotia. (Recipient of the U.L.G. Memorial Prize for the best master's thesis.)
- Obed Owusu (PhD, 2019: Royal Bank of Canada). Subsistence Agriculture and Labour Reallocation in Developing Countries.
- Shamsul Arefin (PhD, 2017: First Secretary, National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh). Labour Reallocation out of Agriculture: Evidence from Developing Countries.
- Neelesh Kumar Shukla (Master of Applied Computer Science, 2016, co-supervised). A New Online Assignment Evaluation System.
- Kyoung Mook Lim (PhD, 2014: Washington College). Macroeconomic Consequences of Publicly Provided Health Insurance: The South Korean Context.
- Yang Yang (MA, 2014). Inflation Expectations and Inflation Forecasting: Consumers versus Professional Forecasters.
- Qi Chen (MDE, 2013). Land Reform and Structural Transformation: Evidence from East Asia.
- Kevin Linklater (MDE, 2012). Foreign Aid and Dutch Disease: A Case Study of Burkina Faso, Gambia, Malawi, and Mozambique.
- Jamie Charlebois (MDE 2012). Pirate Economics: The Economic Causes and Consequences of Contemporary Maritime Piracy in Sub-Saharan Africa.
- Pamela Ormonde (MDE 2011). The Relationship between Mineral Rents and Poverty: Evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa and South America.
- Katherine Tinker (MDE 2011). School Fees and Primary Education in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1970-2011.
- Wenbo Zhu (MA 2011, co-supervised). The Contribution of Region-Specific Shocks to Aggregate Fluctuations: Evidence from the Local Housing Markets in Canada
- Xizhe Wu (MA 2010). Exchange rate regimes in the Asia-Pacific Region: An empirical analysis.
- Kyoung Mook Lim (MDE 2009). Exchange rate policy and inflation targeting in South Korea.
- Ümit Mansız (MA 2007). Net foreign assets and consumption in Canada.
- Bartu Soral (MDE 2006). Banking crises in Turkey and bankruptcy for profit: A case study of Esbank.
- Stephen Membe (MDE 2004). East African Economic Union.
- Ayodele Kasumu (MDE 2004). Current account and consumption smoothing: Evidence for Nigeria, 1970-1999.
- Sheena Starky (MDE 2003). Legal environment as a determinant of international investment positions: An empirical analysis.
- Kevin Richards (MA 2002). The integration and development of Baltic stock markets: An economic analysis of the legal and institutional environments.

Samuel Howse (MA 2000, co-supervised). Dynamic programming problems: Neural network solutions and economic applications.

Aznan Abu-Bakar (MDE 1998). Consumption smoothing and financial intermediation.

Darren Byers (MDE 1997). Baltic trade flows: A gravity model approach.

Yin Ming Ho (MA 1996). Real effects of contractionary monetary policy in Canada: Evidence from manufacturing industries.

EXTERNAL REVIEWER

Farzaneh Davarzani (PhD), Department of Economics, University of Ottawa, February 2022

Hubert Scarlett (PhD), Department of Economics, University of Manitoba, September 2019

Noha Abdel Razek (PhD), Department of Economics, University of Alberta, August 2012

Marlon Stewart (MA), Department of Economics, University of the West Indies, October 2010

Ergete Assefa Ferede (PhD), Department of Economics, University of Alberta, June 2005

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Halifax Cycling Coalition, Board Member, November 2020–present; Executive Committee Member 2022–2023; Chair of the Advocacy Committee, 2023–present

Scholars at Risk program at Dalhousie University (with about \$350,000 secured funding from Dalhousie and the Scholars Rescue Fund), Member, December 2021–December 2023

Halifax West End Steelers Minor Basketball Club, Volunteer Coach (2010–2019 multiple seasons)

LANGUAGES

English; Spanish; Turkish.

French (speaking: fair; reading: good; writing: fair).

LAST UPDATED: JULY 22, 2025