VELJKO USKOKOVIĆ

Teaching Assistant | PhD Student

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February 11th, 2026

Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026 Selection Committee

National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)

1050 Massachusetts Avenue

Cambridge, MA 02138

Re: Application to the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026 (July 17-23, 2026)

Dear Members of the Selection Committee,

I am applying for the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026. I am a PhD student in Optimization and Analytics and a Teaching Assistant at the University of Belgrade, Faculty of Organizational Sciences, with an MSc in Business Analytics and BSc in Information Systems and Technologies. My research examines data-drive decision-making, innovation policy in digital and platform settings, with a focus on predictive AI, and platform governance.

My current projects combine computational social science and predictive AI-oriented workflows. I use large-scale scientific corpora and bibliometric/network methods to map how AI research and applications diffuse into the sharing economy and adjacent platform sectors, and I am developing related work on (i) how persistence in innovation policy affects innovation capability, (ii) platform governance. Across these projects, my goal is to move from synthesis and measurement to causal evidence that can inform innovation-policy decision-making.

The Boot Camp is an ideal fit because it provides an on-ramp into the economics of innovation and innovation policy and includes engagement with the NBER Summer Institute Innovation Policy meeting. I am eager to deepen my understanding of canonical models and empirical facts in innovation economics, strengthen identification strategies for policy evaluation, and learn best practices for measuring innovation using administrative and text data.

I would also contribute actively to the cohort by sharing reproducible Python/R workflows, text-as-data measurement tools, and a perspective from an emerging European context where digital-platform adoption and regulation can differ from benchmark settings.

My recommender will be: Veljko Jeremić, Full Professor, University of Belgrade – Faculty of Organizational Sciences, veljko.jeremic@fon.bg.ac.rs

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veljko Uskoković

VELJKO USKOKOVIĆ

Teaching Assistant

@University of Belgrade, Faculty of Organizational Sciences

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Professional Summary

Veljko Uskoković is a PhD student (Optimization and Analytics) and Teaching Assistant at the University of Belgrade, with MSc in Business Analytics (Business Statistics) and BSc in Information Systems. He works at the intersection of strategy, innovation, and computational social science, studying digital platforms and the governance of AI-enabled business models. Methodologically, he combines advanced statistical modeling, meta-analysis, and bibliometric/scientometric techniques, using reproducible Python/R workflows and high-performance computing. He is an AI enthusiast who approaches LLMs and predictive methods with careful validation. His research interests focus on the data-drive decision-making, predictive AI and innovation policies.

Education

- **PhD Studies** – University of Belgrade, Faculty of Organizational Sciences, 2024 – Present
    - Completed courses:
        - *Decision-Making — Selected Topics (Grade 10/10)*
        - *Multivariate Analysis — Selected Topics (Grade 10/10)*
        - *Time Series and Fractals — Selected Topics (Grade 10/10)*
        - *Quantitative Models and Methods in Management (Grade 10/10)*
        - *Research Methodology (Scientific Research Methods) (Grade 10/10)*
        - *Statistics in Management (Grade 10/10)*
        - *Virtual and Augmented Reality (Grade 10/10)*
    - To be taken in next exam window (March-April)*:*
        - *Big data and business intelligence*
        - *Models in marketing and communications*
- **MSc in Business Analytics (Business Statistics)** – University of Belgrade, Faculty of Organizational Sciences, 2024 (GPA: 10.00/10.00)
- **BSc in Information Systems and Technologies** – University of Belgrade, Faculty of Organizational Sciences, 2023 (GPA: 9.73/10.00)

Academic Appointment

Teaching Assistant (2023-Present) – University of Belgrade

- Course delivery (BS and MS studies): *Probability Theory, Statistics, and Biostatistics*
- Provided methodological support for student projects (*study design, data preparation, model selection, interpretation, reporting*)
- Developed and refined quantitative teaching materials (*problem sets, practice exams, solution keys*) and contributed to assessment design and grading rubrics
- Built applied lab exercises in *Python/R* using reproducible workflows

Skills

- Statistical modeling & causal inference (*R, Python, SPSS, GLMs, time series*)
- Reproducible research & data workflows (*Git/GitHub; VS Code/Jupyter; HPC/parallel processing; PDF-to-data pipelines*)
- Computational text analysis & NLP (*LLM-assisted coding with human validation; topic modeling; embeddings*)
- Bibliometric & scientometric analysis (*OpenAlex, VOSviewer; network analysis*)
- Systematic literature reviews & meta-analysis (*effect sizes calculation; heterogeneity & publication-bias diagnostics*)

Conferences & Workshops

- AMD PDW in Nice (France) organized by EDHEC business school (workshop leaders: *Prof. C. Chet Miller* & *Prof. Prithviraj Chattopadhyay*)
- Chile Strategy Conference 2025 (supported by *AoM STR division* and *Strategy Science*)
    - Presenting paper: *Jeremić V. et al. (2025) - Enhancing the trustworthiness of sharing economy platforms via standards: insights from the emerging market.*
- Academy of Management Annual Conference Copenhagen 2025
    - participated in STR division *Managing your dissertation workshop* (working group guided by *Prof. Rahul Kapoor*)
- Winter School *Researching Open Innovation* 2025 (organized by *Prof. Wim Vanhaverbeke* and *Prof. Agnieszka Radziwon*)
- The sixth *CWTS Scientometrics Summer School* (2024) (organized by *Prof. Ludo Waltman and Prof. Rodrigo Costas*)
- Participated in the organization of scientific international conference:
    - SMS Extension 2024 in Belgrade &
    - IC-SHARE 2024

Languages

- English (CAE certificate - C1)
- French (DELF certificate - B2)
- Serbian (Native)

Research Interests

- data-drive decision-making,
- predictive AI,
- innovation policies

Work in progress

Uskoković, V., Damnjanović, V., Milosavljević, M., & Jeremić, V. (2026). Steering the Confluence of Platform Economy and Entrepreneurial Domains in Latin America: A Systematic Exploration of Emerging Themes. *R&R in International Entrepreneurship and Management Journal (AJG 2).*

Uskoković, V., Jeremić, V.& Vlačić, B. (2026). The impact of Policy Persistence on Innovation Capability (*drafting*)

Selected Pre-dissertation publications

Uskoković, V., Maričić, M., Dacić-Pilčević, A. & Jeremić, V. (2024). Navigating the landscape: Unveiling the reflection of AI in the sharing economy through bibliometric-based approach. *Proceedings of Rijeka Faculty of Economics: Journal of Economics and Business, 42* (2), 479-507. https://doi.org/10.18045/zbefri.2024.2.5

Uskokovic, V., Drinjak, N., Ignjatovic, M. (2025). Navigating the landscape of multivariate analysis: Bibliometric patterns and trends. *65th ISI World Statistics Congress*, 5-9 October, The Hague, Netherlands. https://www.isi-next.org/abstracts/submission/2825/view/

Maričić, M., Ribić, M., **Uskoković, V.**, & Drinjak, N. (2025). Trends and patterns in the usage of shared accommodation in Europe and Serbia: What do we know so far? *Business Systems Research: International Journal of the Society for Advancing Innovation and Research in Economy*, 16(1), June 2025, ISSN (Online): 1847-9375. https://doi.org/10.2478/bsrj-2025-0006

Uskoković, V., Damnjanović, V., Maričić, M., & Jeremić, V. (2024). Confluence of open innovation and sharing economy: lessons learned and roadmap for future research. *Proceedings of the R&D Management Conference 2024 – Transforming industries through technology*, June 17-19, Stockholm, Sweden. https://enauka.gov.rs/handle/123456789/926299

Miličić, T., Jotić, A., Marković, I., Popadić, D., Lalić, K., **Uskoković, V.**, et al. (2024). *The changes in CD4+CD25high T cells and TGFβ1 levels in different stages of adult-onset Type 1 diabetes. Journal of Medical Biochemistry*. https://aseestant.ceon.rs/index.php/jomb/article/view/49868

Uskoković, V., Petrović, M. & Sznyk, A. (2023). Benchmarking the Circular Economy Index: methodological challenges and practical implications. *64th ISI World Statistics Congress*. 16-13 July 2023, Ottawa, Canada. https://www.isi2023.org/abstracts/submission/1534/view/

Uskoković, V., Maričić, M., & Jeremić, V. (2022). *Towards an Impartial Evaluation of Cities' Smartness: A Multivariate Statistical Approach. Marketing and Smart Technologies*. Springer, Singapore. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-16-9272-7_9

Essay: ***Measuring and Governing Innovation in AI-Enabled Platform Economies***

My research agenda starts from a straightforward reality. A surging share of innovation is created, scaled, and commercialized through digital platforms, while AI is rapidly becoming a general-purpose technology that reshapes competition, work, and the policy environment. But the empirical toolkit has not kept up. We still have trouble measuring where AI-enabled innovation is happening, who captures the gains, and which policy levers actually change firm behavior, especially in emerging and middle-income settings that are underrepresented in standard datasets. I aim to contribute to the economics of innovation and innovation policy by building credible evidence on how governance choices and public policy affect innovative activity, knowledge diffusion, entry and competition, and market outcomes. My current work uses computational social science to bring order to fast-moving innovation domains and turn them into testable, policy-relevant questions. One stream maps how AI shows up in the sharing economy using bibliometric and network methods, with the goal of identifying the topics that attract attention but lack causal evidence, where better identification would deliver the biggest payoff. A related project studies standards and trust in sharing-economy settings, asking how formal and informal standards shape perceived reliability and whether they shift participation, quality provision, and value creation. I also co-author a systematic exploration of platform economy and entrepreneurship in Latin America (currently R&R), where I help synthesize findings and lay out a research roadmap for understudied contexts. Across these projects, my goal is to translate broad claims into measurable constructs and sharper hypotheses that can be taken to data.

These projects set up my next step. Moving from mapping and synthesis to measurement and identification. My dissertation-in-development focuses on policy persistence and innovation capability. The central question is whether innovation responds not only to the level of policy support, but also to its continuity and credibility over time. In theory, predictable policy can crowd in long-horizon investments in capabilities, data infrastructure, and organizational learning. In practice, persistence can also entrench weak policy mixes, reward compliance over performance, and dampen experimentation. Empirically, I plan to build panel data linking measures of policy continuity to firm- and regional-level innovation outcomes, and to address confounding political and macroeconomic shocks with careful research design. The aim is to separate credible commitment from simple inertia and move beyond broad correlations. Looking ahead, I see three medium-term directions. First, I plan to test whether different combinations of innovation policy tools, such as R&D subsidies, tax incentives, and demand-side procurement, generate sustained gains in innovation and productivity or mainly shift activity across firms without raising overall performance. Second, I aim to build and validate text-based measures of AI adoption and capability building using sources such as job postings, product descriptions, and scientific or patent text, and connect them to outcomes like productivity, workforce composition, and new product introduction. Third, I want to study regulation and policy experimentation in emerging markets, where institutional variation is high and the returns to credible evidence are large, with a focus on diffusion as well as invention. Overall, I am applying to the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp because it is a rare, compelling, focused on-ramp into innovation economics and innovation policy. The program's training and engagement with the NBER Summer Institute Innovation Policy meeting would immensely broaden my command of core models and facts, sharpen identification strategies, and improve measurement using administrative and text data. In return, I would bring a reproducible computational toolkit in Python and R, experience with bibliometrics and text-as-data, and a perspective shaped by an emerging European context.

Re: Recommendation for Veljko Uskoković — NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026

Dear Kevin, Ina and Kyle,

I am writing to recommend Veljko Uskoković for the NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp 2026. As his faculty advisor, I have seen him develop into an early-career researcher with uncommon seriousness and momentum. Veljko approaches research with disciplined curiosity: he interrogates assumptions, traces ideas to first principles, and insists on clarity in both reasoning and execution. He is equally strong in independent work and in collaboration. In a team, he listens carefully, integrates perspectives without diluting the core argument, and moves the work forward with calm persistence. He is generous with his time and knowledge, and he treats shared progress as a priority rather than an afterthought. Just as importantly, he remains highly coachable; he seeks critique early, absorbs it without defensiveness, and returns with sharper questions and better solutions.

Veljko is also developing his career in a notably strategic and holistic way. He started early by placing himself in demanding international research environments, attending major gatherings such as the Academy of Management Annual Meeting and the *Chile Strategy Conference*, as well as more specialised strategy and innovation conferences, not as a formality but as a learning discipline. In the same spirit, he has actively pursued intensive winter and summer schools to refine his methods, expand his intellectual horizons, and benchmark his work against global standards. This pattern reflects a mindset I value highly. That is, he is determined to widen local boundaries through sustained exposure to excellent communities and high expectations, and he does so with humility and genuine enthusiasm for learning. I am confident he would benefit greatly from the Boot Camp's rigorous training and contribute meaningfully to the cohort through his work ethic, collegiality, and constructive engagement. I warmly and without reservation recommend him.

Sincerely,

Veljko Jeremić

University of Belgrade – Faculty of Organizational Sciences

https://www.linkedin.com/in/veljkojeremic/

https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=bnEneU4AAAAJ