

Propositions

accompanying the Ph.D. thesis

Empirical Essays in International Economics

by

Irena Mikolajun

Tinbergen Institute - Erasmus University Rotterdam

October 27th, 2016

1. In the transient state, economic integration is independent of the level of economic development (Chapter 2).
2. Shares of output and production factors in an economic area approximately follow power laws with a time-varying exponent (Chapter 2).
3. Similarity in the way monetary policies are conducted is the best explanation for the observed communality in advanced economy inflation rates (Chapter 3).
4. Infrastructure development has a significant and lasting effect on trade (Chapter 4).
5. The dichotomy between developed and developing countries often fails to acknowledge its time-varying nature. The dichotomy between East and West often fails to acknowledge that North and South exist (Chapter 4).
6. Scientific community is also characterized by crowd behaviour, but crowd behaviour does not characterize the scientific community.
7. Media is an excellent means to form a biased view on current affairs even if accompanied by statistics. The bias is larger when no statistics is given at all.
8. When everything is too uncertain the laws of probability still hold.
9. A model needs permanent maintenance to remain relevant in understanding current developments. Permanent maintenance though does not preclude the usefulness of a model that at a certain moment of time has reached its saturation.
10. If predictability is possible then a good policy is based on the best predictable outcomes.
11. On a global scale small is negligible. Yet, many of the most influential and lasting positive changes in the world have originated from a minority.