

Contact Information

Department of Economics
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Current Positions

Professor of Economics (tenured), September 2022 –
University of Mannheim, Department of Economics

Research Fellow, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), January 2024 –

Member of the Wirtschaftshistorischer Ausschuss, March 2024 –

Research Affiliate, Center for Economics, Policy, and History (CEPH), March 2025 –

Research Fellow, RFBerlin, November 2025 –

Visiting Positions

Visiting Scholar, March 2025 – June 2025,
Northwestern University, Department of Economics

Visiting Associate Professor, January 2018 – June 2018,
Harvard University, Department of Economics

Previous Positions

Research Affiliate, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), December 2018 – December 2023

Professor of Economics (fixed-term 5-years), August 2021 – September 2022
University of Mannheim, Department of Economics

Associate Professor of Economics, April 2017 – April 2022
Department of Business and Economics, University of Southern Denmark

Assistant Professor of Economics, August 2013 – March 2017
Department of Business and Economics, University of Southern Denmark

Education

PhD in Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 2013

MRes in Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 2009

Diplom in Economics, University of Mannheim, 2007

Research Interests

Economic History, Demography, and Immigration

Published and Forthcoming Papers

"Gender-biased technological change: Milking machines and the exodus of women from farming" (joint with Marc Goni and Kjell G. Salvanes). *Forthcoming, American Economic Review*.

"Medical Technology and Life Expectancy: Evidence from the Antitoxin Treatment of Diphtheria", with Casper Worm Hansen and Peter Z. Lin. *Forthcoming, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.

"How the Other Half Died: Immigration and Mortality in US Cities", with James Feigenbaum, Casper Worm Hansen, and Hui Ren Tan. *Review of Economic Studies*, 2024, 94 (1), pp. 1-44.

"School Closures during the 1918 Pandemic", with Katherine Eriksson, Ezra Karger, Peter Nencka, and Melissa Thomasson. *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2024, 106 (1), pp. 266-276.

"The Effect of Immigration Restrictions on Local Labor Markets: Lessons from the 1920s Border Closure", with Ran Abramitzky, Leah Boustan, Elior Cohen, and Casper Worm Hansen. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, 2023, vol. 15 (1), pp. 164-91.

"Killer Incentives: Rivalry, Performance and Risk-Taking among German Fighter Pilots, 1939-45", with Leonardo Bursztyn, Lukas Leucht, and Joachim Voth. *Review of Economic Studies*, 2022, vol. 89 (5), pp. 2257-92.

"The Intergenerational Effects of a Large Wealth Shock: White Southerners after the Civil War", with Leah Boustan and Katherine Eriksson. *American Economic Review*, 2021, vol. 111 (11), pp. 3767-94.

"Structural Change and the Fertility Transition", with Benedikt Herz and Markus Brueckner, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 2020, 102(4), pp. 806-822.

"How the 1906 San Francisco Earthquake Shaped Economic Activity in the American West", with Katherine Eriksson, Casper Worm Hansen, and Lars Lønstrup, *Explorations in Economic History*, 2020, vol. 77 (July), pp. 101342.

"Agricultural Risk and the Spread of Religious Communities", with Antonio Ciccone, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 2018, 16 (2), pp. 487-521.

"Fertility and early-life mortality: Evidence from smallpox vaccination in Sweden", with Casper Worm Hansen and Peter Sandholt Jensen, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 2018, 16 (4), pp. 1021-68.

"Immigrants' Genes: Genetic Diversity and Economic Development in the US", with Markus Brueckner, *Economic Inquiry*, 2018, vol. 56 (April), pp. 1149-64.

"The Boll Weevil Plague and its Effect on the Southern Agricultural Sector, 1889-1929", with Markus Brueckner and Benedikt Herz, *Explorations in Economic History*, 2017, vol. 65 (July), pp. 94-105.

“Cultural Diversity and Economic Growth: Evidence from the US during the Age of Mass Migration”, with Markus Brueckner, *European Economic Review*, 2013, vol. 64 (November), pp. 76-97.

Non-Refereed Articles/Other Publications

“Kindergartens and Intergenerational Mobility”, with Francesco Cinnirella, Katherine Eriksson, and Viktor Malein. *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 2025, vol. 115, pp. 415-20.

“The accuracy and efficiency of the Consensus Forecast: A further application and extension of the pooled approach”, with Marcus Kappler and Steffen Osterloh, *International Journal of Forecasting*, 2009, vol. 25 (1), pp. 167-181.

Working Papers

“The Long-term Effects of Charity Nurseries: Evidence from Early 20th Century New York, with Viktor Malein. *CEPR Discussion Paper 19317*. Submitted

“Froebel's Gifts: How the Kindergarten Movement Changed the American Family”, with Francesco Cinnirella. *CEPR Discussion Paper 15146*. *Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Economic Growth*.

“Religion as Social Insurance: Evidence from the Great Mississippi Flood of 1927”, with Casper Worm Hansen, Ezra Karger, and Lars Lønstrup. *CEPR Discussion Paper 19565*. Submitted

“When London Burned to Sticks: The Economic Impact of the Great Fire of 1666” with Maja U. Pedersen, Paul Sharp, and Xanthi Tsoukli. *CEPR Discussion Paper 19316*.

“Bank Deregulation and Financial Development: The US Free Banking Experience”, with Fabrizio Spargoli.

“The Persistence of de Facto Power: Elites and Economic Development in the US South, 1840-1960”

Work in Progress

“The Making of an American: Public Kindergartens and the Assimilation of Immigrant Children”, with Francesco Cinnirella, Katherine Eriksson, and Viktor Malein.

“Liberation Technology? The Impact of the Sewing Machine on Women in the United States, with Davide Coluccia.

Honors, External Funding, and Fellowships

German Research Foundation (DFG), 2024: Funding for CEPR Applied Micro-Economic History Workshop, Heidelberg, February 7-8, 2025 (Main Applicant, amount 14.640 EUR)

Danish Council for Independent Research, 2018: Project: “Institutions of Care: The Role of Early Childhood Investments for Historical Development” (PI, amount: DKK 4,488.160 (~ 710.000 USD))

Danish Council for Independent Research, 2015: Project: “Diversity and Development: Evidence from Immigration Quotas” (joint with Casper Worm Hansen, amount: DKK 1,502.967 (~ 225.000 USD))

Editorial Service

Editorial Board: Explorations in Economic History (2023-)

Referee for academic journals: American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, British Journal of Political Science, Demography, Economic History Review, Economic Journal, Economics of Education Review, European Economic Review, European Journal of Population, European Review of Economic History, Explorations in Economic History, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Comparative Economics, Journal of Demographic Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Law, Economics and Organization, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Labour Economics, Oxford Economic Papers, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Development Economics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies, Scandinavian Economic History Review, Social Science History

Referee for funding agencies: Agence National de la Recherche (France), German Research Foundation (DFG), Israel Science Foundation, National Science Foundation (United States)

Invited Presentations

University of Bayreuth, (scheduled, 2026), Martin-Luther Universität Halle-Wittenberg (scheduled, 2026), University of Hohenheim (scheduled, 2026), University of Gothenburg (scheduled, 2025), IOS Regensburg Summer Academy (Keynote, Tutzing, 2025), Northwestern (2025), Stanford (2025), Yale (2025), Brown U (2025), UCLA Anderson (2025), UC Davis (2025), Harvard (2025), LISER & University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg, 2025), Applied Economics Workshop -- joint across UTokyo, NTU Taiwan, NUS, HKUST, Academia Sinica, HKU, Hitotsubashi, and NTU Singapore (keynote (online), 2025), Trinity College (Dublin, 2024), Paris School of Economics (Paris, 2024), Humboldt University (Berlin, 2024), Helsinki GSE (Helsinki, 2023), University of Heidelberg (Heidelberg, 2023), University of Hamburg (2023), Northwestern (2022), CERGE-EI (Prague, 2022), University of Konstanz (2022), University of Groningen (2022), LSE Epstein Keynote Lecture (2022), University of Warwick (2022), University of Mannheim (2021), Stanford University (2021), Aarhus University (2021), Brown University (Providence, 2021), Dartmouth (Hanover, 2021), IFN (Stockholm, 2020), CSEF (Naples, 2019), Parthenope University of Naples (Naples, 2019), NYU Stern, (New York, 2018), Harvard University, (Cambridge, 2018), Brown University (Providence, 2018), Norwegian University of Science and Technology, (Trondheim, 2017), Humboldt University of Berlin (Berlin, 2017), Fed Chicago (Chicago, 2017), WU Vienna (Vienna, 2017), SFI (Copenhagen, 2017), University of Bonn (Bonn, 2016), UC Davis (Davis, 2016), University of Bayreuth (Bayreuth, 2016), LMU (Munich, 2016), CBS (Copenhagen, 2015), University of Exeter (Exeter, 2015), University of Copenhagen (Copenhagen, 2014), University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Modena, 2014), Lund University (Lund, 2014), Universitat de Barcelona (Barcelona, 2013), University of Southern Denmark (Odense, 2013), UAB (Barcelona, 2013)

Conference Presentations

EHES Conference (Hohenheim, 2025), Historischer Ausschuss (Cologne, 2024), European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (Manchester, 2023), ECONtribute Workshop (Bonn, 2023), EHES Conference (Vienna, 2023), Economic History Workshop (Uppsala, 2023), Kongress für Wirtschafts- und Sozialgeschichte (Leipzig, 2023), ECONtribute Workshop (Bonn, 2021), AEA Annual Meetings (San Diego, 2020), Simposio of the Spanish Economic Association (Alicante, 2019), SSHA Annual Conference (Chicago, 2019), FAIR CELE Workshop (Bergen, 2019), RES Annual Conference (Warwick, 2019), Migration, Refugees, and the Stateless Conference (Kellogg School of Management, Evanston, 2019), LSE 4th Interwar Workshop (London, 2018), EHA Annual Conference (Montreal, 2018), World Economic History Conference

(Boston, 2018), Deep-rooted Factors in Comparative Development Workshop (Providence, 2018), Economic Demography Workshop (Denver, 2018), AEA Annual Meetings (Philadelphia, 2018), ASREC Conference (Boston, 2017), 2nd Annual Meeting of the Danish Society for Economic and Social History (Copenhagen, 2016), NBER SI 2016 DAE (Boston, 2016), Zeuthen Workshop (University of Copenhagen, 2016), 3rd SDU Workshop on Applied Microeconomics (Odense, 2016), PAA Meeting (Washington DC, 2016), Economic Demography Workshop (Washington DC, 2016), RES Annual Conference (University of Sussex, 2016), AEA Annual Meetings (San Francisco, 2016), Simposio de la Asociación Española de Economía (Girona, 2015), FRESH Meeting (Universitat de Barcelona, 2015), 11th European Historical Economics Society Conference 2015 (Pisa, 2015), Historical Economics of Religion Workshop (Queens University Belfast, 2015), EBHS Conference (La Crosse, WI, 2015), Simposio of the Spanish Economic Association (Palma de Mallorca, 2014), SSHA Annual Conference (Toronto, 2014), EHA Annual Conference (Columbus, Ohio 2014), FRESH Meeting (University of Kent, 2014), Danish Public Choice Workshop (Copenhagen, 2014), AEA Annual Meetings (Philadelphia, 2014), Simposio of the Spanish Economic Association (Santander, 2013), Swedish Economic History Meeting (Lund, 2013), FRESH Meeting (Humboldt University of Berlin, 2013), 4th Workshop on Growth, History and Development (Odense, 2013), Simposio of the Spanish Economic Association (Vigo, 2012), Royal Economic Society (Royal Holloway, 2011), EHS Annual Conference (Cambridge, 2011)

Conference Attendances

NBER DAE (Boston 2020, 2018, 2015), NBER Cohort Studies (Los Angeles, 2017, 2016), AEA Annual Meetings (New Orleans, 2023; Atlanta, 2019; Chicago, 2017), EHA Annual Conference (Atlanta, 2019; San Jose, 2017; Boulder, 2016; Nashville, 2015)

Professional Memberships

American Economic Association, European Economic Association, Royal Economic Society, Economic History Association

Teaching Experience

University of Mannheim (since 2021): Applied Economics (undergraduate), Macroeconomics (undergraduate), Historical Economic Development (graduate), Topics in Economic Demography (graduate), Economic History Reading Group (graduate), Colloquium for Doctoral Students (graduate), Research Seminar in Applied Economics (graduate), Colloquium for Students interested in Economic History (graduate)

University of Copenhagen (2017-2023): Economic History of Europe (Summer School, undergraduate)

Harvard University (2018): Comparative Historical Economic Development (graduate)

University of Southern Denmark (2013-2021): Applied Economics (undergraduate), Macroeconomics (undergraduate), Development Economics (undergraduate), Advanced Economic History (graduate), Long-Run Determinants of Economic Outcomes (graduate), Historical Perspectives on Current Economics Issues (graduate)

PhD Supervision

Current Students: Assaf Abraham (Mannheim, Supervisor), Taylan Alpaya (Mannheim, Supervisor), Adrià Mateu Romero (Mannheim, Supervisor), Janko Wilzbach (Mannheim, Co-Supervisor)

Previous Students: Viktor Malein (SDU, Supervisor), Xanthi Tsoukli (SDU, Co-Supervisor),

Evaluator: Felix Rusche (Mannheim, Internal Evaluator), Xi Lin (Mannheim, Internal Evaluator), Frederikke Frehr Kristensen (SDU, External Evaluator), Lena Sperling (CBS, External Evaluator), Melissa Rubio (Gothenburg University, External Evaluator), Christian Vedel Sørensen (SDU, External Evaluator), Paul Winfree (Queen's University Belfast, External Evaluator)

Departmental Service

Member of the Faculty Council (University of Mannheim, Fall 2023-)
Member of the Academic Council (University of Mannheim, Fall 2024-Spring 2025)
Co-organizer of the Department Seminar (University of Mannheim, Fall 2022-Fall 2024)
Co-organizer of Mannheim Alumni Symposium (University of Mannheim, Fall 2023)
Co-organizer of CDSE graduate Seminar (University of Mannheim, Fall 2022-Spring 2023)
Co-organizer of MAS seminar series (University of Mannheim, Fall 2021-Spring 2023)
Recruiting Committee (University of Mannheim, Fall 2025)
Recruiting Committee (SDU, AEA Annual Meetings, 2016-2019)
Co-organizer of HEDG seminar series (SDU, 2015-2017)
Co-organizer of Annual Workshop on Growth, History and Development (SDU, 2015)
Organizer of HEDG Mini-Workshop (SDU, 2016-2020)

Media

Articles featured in Bloomberg, Citylab, Econimate, Forbes, Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung, Los Angeles Times, NBER Digest, Pro Market, The Conversation, The Economist, The Times, Videnskab, Voxeu, Vox Talks, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal, Weekendavisen.

Mannheim, November 2025