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OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics
Brown University
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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: Swiss, German

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics, Brown University

Expected Completion Date: May 2023

M.A. in Economics, Brown University, 2018

M.A. in Economics, *summa cum laude*, University of Zurich, 2016

B.A. in Political Science and Economics, University of Zurich, 2013

REFERENCES

Professor David Weil
James and Meryll Tisch Professor of Economics
Department of Economics, Brown University
(401) 863-1754
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Professor Oded Galor
Herbert Goldberger Professor of Economics
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Professor John Friedman
PDBF Distinguished Professor of Economics
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(401) 863-9590
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Professor Pedro Dal Bó
Professor of Economics
Department of Economics, Brown University
(401) 863-2953
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RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

Primary fields: Inequality, Demographic Economics, Macroeconomics
Secondary fields: Economic Growth, Labor Economics

RESEARCH PAPERS

“Population Aging, Cohort Replacement, and the Evolution of Income Inequality in the United States” (with Vesa-Matti Heikkuri). **Job Market Paper 1.** [[most recent version](#)]

We study how demographic change affects the evolution of household income inequality in the United States, both historically and prospectively. We emphasize the distinct roles of population aging and cohort replacement and develop a methodology to study their joint compositional effect on income inequality. In the process, we also develop a novel methodology to aggregate subgroup Gini coefficients into a population-level Gini coefficient based on the principle of maximum entropy. We find that rising income inequality is embodied in birth cohorts born since the mid-20th century and that most of the increase in inequality over the past two decades can be accounted for by demographic change. Furthermore, we predict that demographic change over the next two decades will lead to further increase of the Gini coefficient by one to six percentage points.

“Subgroup Decomposition of the Gini Coefficient: A New Solution to an Old Problem” (with Vesa-Matti Heikkuri). **Job Market Paper 2.** [[most recent version](#)]

We study inequality decomposition by population subgroups. We define properties of a satisfactory decomposition and ask what they imply for the decomposition of familiar inequality indices. We find that the Gini coefficient, the generalized entropy indices, and the Foster-Shneyerov indices all admit satisfactory decomposition formulas derived from a common set of axioms. While our axiomatic approach recovers the known decomposition formulas for the generalized entropy and the Foster-Shneyerov indices, it leads us to a novel decomposition formula for the Gini coefficient. The decomposition of the Gini coefficient is easy to compute, and it has both a geometric and an arithmetic intuition.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Schief, Matthias, Sonja Vogt, and Charles Efferson (2021). [Investigating the Structure of Son Bias in Armenia with Novel Measures of Individual Preferences](#). *Demography* 58(5), 1737–1764.

RESEARCH PAPERS IN PROGRESS

“The Mechanisms underlying Affective Polarization. An Experimental Study” (with Devesh Rustagi)

“Success-biased Cultural Evolution in a Panel of Countries”

“Institutional Changes and the Allocation of Talent. Macroeconomic Effects of a School Reform in Finland” (with Vesa-Matti Heikkuri and Cosimo Petracchi)

“Tight Bounds for the Gini Coefficient of Composite Populations” (with Vesa-Matti Heikkuri)

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Brown University

Teaching Assistant, Essential Mathematics for Economics (Alex Poterack), Spring 2021

Teaching Assistant, Behavioral Economics and Public Policy (Prof. Neil Thakral), Spring 2020

Teaching Assistant, Race and Inequality in the United States (Prof. Glenn Loury), Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant, Economic Growth (Prof. David Weil), Spring 2019

Teaching Assistant, Theory of Economic Growth (Prof. Oded Galor), Fall 2018

Swiss Federal Institute of Technology

Research Assistant, Chair of Applied Macroeconomics (Prof. Jan-Egbert Sturm), 2016–2017

University of Zurich

Research Assistant, Chair of Microeconomics and Experimental Economics (Prof. Ernst Fehr), 2016–2017

Research Assistant, Chair of Macroeconomics and Political Economy (Prof. Fabrizio Zilibotti), 2012–2016

AFFILIATIONS & RESEARCH VISITS

Population Studies and Training Center, Brown University, 2021–present

PaceLab, University of Lausanne, 2020–present

Visiting Scholar, Nuffield College, Oxford, Summer 2018

HONORS & AWARDS

International Fellowship, PSTC, Brown University, 2021-2022

James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Wealth and Income Inequality Project, Graduate Student Support, Brown University, Fall 2020

Semester Prize Awarded for Outstanding Master's Thesis, University of Zurich, 2016

INVITED SEMINARS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2022 Annual Meeting of the Population Association of America[†]

2021 Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality at City University of New York, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research

2020 CeDEx at University of Nottingham

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Economic Association, European Economic Association, Population Association of America

REFEREEING

Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Evolutionary Human Sciences

MISCELLANEOUS

Languages: English, German, French, Russian

Programming Languages: C++, Python, R, Matlab, Stata, L^AT_EX

[†]Presentation by co-author