

# Ahmed Skali

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## Research Interests

Political economy, behavioural economics, development economics, culture and institutions

## Current Roles

Tenured Assistant Professor, Department of Global Economics & Management, University of Groningen, 2021-

Associate Editor & Methods Advisor, *The Leadership Quarterly*, 2024 -

Editorial Board member, *The Leadership Quarterly*, 2020 -

## Main Journal Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

**Wealth Inequality and Economic Growth: Evidence from the World Inequality Database**, with R Steenbrink

*World Development*, 199 (2026)

**Violent Conflict and Parochial Trust: Survey and Lab-in-the-Field Evidence**, with K Werner

*Journal of Development Economics*, 177 (2025)

**Not all about the Money: Service Quality Information Improves Consumer Decision-Making**, with J Blijlevens, SH Chuah, A Neelim, and J Prasch

*Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, 228 (2024)

**Child Labour and Psychosocial Well-Being: Findings from India**, with S Feeny, A Jyotishi, S Nath, A Posso and PK Viswanathan

*Health Economics*, 30 (2021)

**Trust in Government in Times of Crisis: A Quasi-Experiment during the Two World Wars**, with D Stadelmann and B Torgler

*Journal of Comparative Economics*, 49 (2021)

**How Often Do Dictators Have Positive Economic Effects? Global Evidence, 1858-2010**, with S Rizio

*The Leadership Quarterly*, 31 (2020)

2020 Winner, *The Leadership Quarterly* Best Paper Award

Selected media: *The Independent*, *Quartz*, *ABC Radio*, *Marginal Revolution*, *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*

**Does Democracy Drive Income in the World, 1500-2000**, with JB Madsen and PA Raschky

*European Economic Review*, 78 (2015)

## Revise-and-Resubmits

**The Cost of Nativism: Evidence from the Netherlands**, with H Garretsen.

Revisions requested, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*

Media: [\[UKrant\]](#) [\[ESB\]](#) [\[Vox NL\]](#) [\[ScienceGuide\]](#)

**Transportation Infrastructure and Child Mortality: Sub-National Evidence for 22 Developing Countries**, with R Boot.

Revised and Resubmitted to *Health Economics*

**How Large is the Beauty Premium in Politics?**, with S Bickley, HF Chan, D Stadelmann, B Torgler, and S Whyte.

Revisions requested, *European Journal of Political Economy*

## Other Journal Articles (Peer-Reviewed)

**Moralizing Gods and Armed Conflict.**

*Journal of Economic Psychology*, 63 (2017)

**The Ethics of Student Participation in Economic Research: Arguments and Evidence**, with R Hoffmann, J Blijlevens, SH Chuah, A Neelim, and J Laban

*Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics*, 85 (2020)

**Masculinity Cues, Perceptions of Politician Attributes, and Political Behaviour**, with HF Chan, D Stadelmann, B Torgler, and S Whyte

*Economics & Politics*, 33 (2021)

**The Additionality of R&D Tax Policy: Quasi-Experimental Evidence**, with J Holt and R Thomson.

*Technovation*, 107 (2021)

**Patience Predicts Attitudes towards Vaccination and Uptake of Vaccines**, with HF Chan, S Rizio and B Torgler

*Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 15 (2024)

**Can Psychological Traits Explain Mobility Behavior During the COVID-19 Pandemic?**, with HF Chan, J Moon, D Savage, B Torgler, and S Whyte.

*Social Psychological and Personality Science*, 12 (2021)

**Early COVID-19 Government Communication is Associated with Reduced Interest in the QAnon Conspiracy Theory**, with HF Chan, S Rizio and B Torgler.

*Frontiers in Psychology*, 12 (2021)

**Risk Attitudes and Human Mobility During the COVID-19 Pandemic**, with HF Chan, D Savage, D Stadelmann, and B Torgler

*Scientific Reports*, 10 (2020)

**How Confidence in Healthcare Systems Affects Mobility and Compliance during the COVID-19 Pandemic**, with HF Chan, M Brumpton, A Macintyre, J Arapoc, D Savage, D Stadelmann & B Torgler. *PLOS One*, 15 (2021)

**National Identity Predicts Public Health Support during a Global Pandemic**, with J Van Bavel et al. *Nature Communications*, 13 (2022)

**Predicting Attitudinal and Behavioral Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic using Machine Learning**, with T Pavlovic et al. *PNAS Nexus*, 1 (2022)

**Social and moral psychology of COVID-19 across 69 countries**, with F Azevedo et al. *Scientific Data*, 10 (2023)

**How Does Globalization Affect COVID-19 Responses?**, with S Bickley, HF Chan, D Stadelmann, and B Torgler. *Globalization and Health*, 17 (2021)

## Book Chapters

**Perverse Social Norms**, with B Torgler and E Yoeli (2025). In: SH Chuah, R Hoffmann and A Neelim (eds.), *Edward Elgar Encyclopedia of Behavioural and Experimental Economics*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

**Behavioural Cliometrics**, with B Torgler (2025). In: SH Chuah, R Hoffmann and A Neelim (eds.), *Edward Elgar Encyclopedia of Behavioural and Experimental Economics*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar.

**The Detective Mindset: Forensic Approaches to Detecting Behaviour** (2021). In: J Blijlevens, M Elkins, and A Neelim (eds.), *Behavioural Business: The Psychology of Decisions in Economy, Business and Policy Contexts*. Singapore: Springer Nature.

**Foreign Aid and Development Goals: Revisiting the Evidence**, with E Munyanyi and S Awaworyi Churchill (2020). In: S Awaworyi Churchill (ed.), *Moving from the Millennium to the Sustainable Development Goals: Lessons and Recommendations*. London: Palgrave MacMillan.

## Working Papers

**Protestantism and Effort Expenditure on the Battlefield: Soldier-Level Evidence from World War II**, with T Beaton and B Torgler. [\[Paper\]](#)

*Required reading for EC1450 Religion and Political Economy (R. Barro and R. McCleary, Harvard University)*

**Political Entrenchment and GDP Misreporting**, with H.F. Chan, B. Frey and B. Torgler. [\[Paper\]](#)

## Invited Keynote Address

**Against Practical Science**, Australian Research Council BITA (Behavioural Insights for Technology Adoption) Conference, Brisbane, Australia, 2026

## Education

Ph.D., Department of Economics, Monash University, October 2015

Thesis title: *Essays in Political Economy*

M.A., Economics, University of Delaware, 2008

M.A., Monnaie, Finance et Gouvernance, Université Lumière Lyon 2, 2008

B.S., Economics, University of Delaware, 2006

Licence en Sciences Economiques et de Gestion, Université Lumière Lyon 2, 2005

Visiting student, Universitat de Barcelona, 2004-05

## Teaching and Advising

### *Thesis Advising*

**PhD Theses:** Ongoing - Sam Oxley, Sophie von Russdorf, Patricia Guilford

**Master's Theses:** 10 completed (MSc International Economics & Sustainable Development, 2021 - present)

**Bachelor's Theses:** 10 completed (BSc International Business, 2021 - present)

Advised master's papers outcomes: publication in *World Development*; R&R at *Health Economics*.

### *Graduate Teaching*

*University of Groningen:* Globalization Debates

*Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology:* Econometric Techniques

### *Undergraduate Teaching*

*University of Groningen:* International Economics; Sustainability and Globalization; Growth and Development Economics

*Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology:* Prices and Markets; Behavioural Business

*Monash University:* Managerial Economics; Public Finance; Economics of International Trade; Consumer Economics

*Australian Catholic University:* Microeconomics I

### *Guest Lectures*

*Erasmus University Rotterdam* (2022): The Economics of Climate Change: An Overview

*Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology* (2018, 2019): The Perils of Leadership without Constraints

## Academic Memberships

Research Fellow (External), Centre for Behavioural Economics, Society and Technology, Queensland University of Technology, 2016 -

Fellow, Global Labor Organization, 2023 -

Affiliate, Households in Conflict Network (HiCN), 2023 -

Research Affiliate, *Groningen Growth and Development Centre*, 2021-

Research Affiliate, *In the LEAD* Centre of Expertise, 2021-

## Professional Activity

Invited talks (selected):

Harvard University, MIT Sloan, University of California - Irvine, University of Tokyo, University of Melbourne (Economics Department), University of Melbourne (School of Psychological Sciences), Monash University, Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics, Cultures of Trust and Institutions of Freedom Workshop (IFN Stockholm).

Professional roles:

Steering committee member, Centre for Public Health in Economics and Business, University of Groningen, 2022 -

Chair, Economics of Religion Research Cluster, RMIT, 2017 - 2018

Deputy Chair, Behavioural Business Lab, RMIT, 2018 - 2020

Advisor, Business College Human Ethics Advisory Network, RMIT, 2018 - 2020

Economics Seminar Coordinator, Swinburne University of Technology, 2016

Academic visits:

School of Economics, Administration and Public Policy, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, August 2025 - May 2026

Centre for Behavioural Economics, Society and Technology, Queensland University of Technology, December 2019

Chair of Development Economics, University of Bayreuth, January 2018

School of Economics and Finance, Queensland University of Technology, October 2016 - December 2016

Conference organization:

2020 Natural Experiments in History Workshop, 2018 Australasian Public Choice Conference

Refereeing:

European Economic Review, The Leadership Quarterly, Health Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of Population Economics, Economic Inquiry, Journal of Economics & Management Strategy, Regional Studies, Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy, and Society; Scientific Reports, Kyklos, Technovation, Empirica, Economics Bulletin, Review of World Economics (*Welt-wirtschaftliches Archiv*), Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, Economic Modelling, Science and Public Policy

## Conference discussant:

2023 European Public Choice Society, 2018 Pacific Trade and Development Conference, 2016 Public Choice Society Meetings

## Thesis examinations:

PhD: Monash University (2018), University of Newcastle (2022), Deakin University (2024)

Honours: Queensland University of Technology (2017, 2018)

## Awards and Competitive Funding

**Top 5 best teacher**, Faculty of Economics and Business, University of Groningen: Spring 2021; Fall 2024

Co-Investigator: Behavioural Insights for Societal and Business Impact. RMIT, 2019, \$4,550

Co-Investigator: Service Quality and Consumer Choice in the Victoria Energy Retail Market. Consumer Policy Research Centre, 2018, \$73,853

Early Career Researcher Publication Award. RMIT, 2018, \$4,980

PAFTAD Travel Fellowship, 2018, \$3,000

Co-Investigator: Seed Funding, International Development and Trade Research Group. RMIT, 2017, \$38,000

Dean's Postgraduate Research Excellence Award. Monash University, 2010-13

Monash Postgraduate International Research Scholarship. Monash University, 2010-14

Monash Graduate Scholarship. Monash University, 2010-14

Graduate Research Award (best master's thesis), Department of Economics, University of Delaware, 2008

Explo'ra Scholarship. Rhône-Alpes Region, 2004-05, 2007-08

Omicron Delta Epsilon, 2006

## Previous Roles

Lecturer, Department of Economics, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, 2017 - 2020

Research Fellow, Faculty of Business and Law, Swinburne University of Technology, 2015 - 2016

## References

Professor Jakob B. Madsen  
Department of Economics  
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Department of Economics  
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Melbourne, Australia  
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Professor Benno Torgler  
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Queensland University of Technology  
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