

Ahmed Skali

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Research Interests

Political economics, culture and institutions, human behaviour, economic development

Current Roles

Assistant Professor (with tenure), Department of Global Economics & Management, University of Groningen, 2021-

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

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

Selected Journal Articles

Violent Conflict and Parochial Trust: Survey and Lab-in-the-Field Evidence, with K Werner
Journal of Development Economics, 177 (2025) [\[Paper\]](#)

Does Democracy Drive Income in the World, 1500-2000, with JB Madsen and PA Raschky.
European Economic Review 78 (2015), 175-195. [\[Paper\]](#)

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) [\[Paper\]](#)

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): 876-902. [\[Paper\]](#)

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): 277-289. [\[Paper\]](#)

How Often Do Dictators Have Positive Economic Effects? Global Evidence, 1858-2010. with S Rizio.
The Leadership Quarterly 31 (2020): 101302. [\[Paper\]](#)

2020 Winner, *The Leadership Quarterly* Best Paper Award

Selected media: [\[The Independent\]](#) [\[Quartz\]](#) [\[ABC Radio\]](#) [\[The Guardian\]](#) [\[The Independent Singapore\]](#) [\[Phys.org\]](#) [\[Eurekalert\]](#) [\[Democracy Chronicles\]](#) [\[Scimex\]](#) [\[Marginal Revolution\]](#)

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

World Development, forthcoming. [\[Paper\]](#)

Other Journal Articles

Moralizing Gods and Armed Conflict.

Journal of Economic Psychology 63 (2017), 184-198. [\[Paper\]](#)

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), 101521. [\[Paper\]](#)

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

Economics & Politics 33 (2021): 148-171. [\[Paper\]](#)

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

Social Psychological and Personality Science, 15 (2024) [\[Paper\]](#)

Social and moral psychology of COVID-19 across 69 countries, with F Azevedo et al.

Scientific Data, 10 (2023), 272. [\[Paper\]](#)

Predicting Attitudinal and Behavioral Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic using Machine Learning, with T Pavlovic et al.

PNAS Nexus, 1(3) (2022), pgac093. [\[Paper\]](#)

National Identity Predicts Public Health Support during a Global Pandemic, with J Van Bavel et al.

Nature Communications, 13 (2022): 517. [\[Paper\]](#)

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): 681975. [\[Paper\]](#)

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): 1018-1029. [\[Paper\]](#)

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

Technovation, 107 (2021): 102293. [\[Paper\]](#)

Media: [\[AusTaxPolicy\]](#) [\[The Conversation\]](#) [\[Department of Industry\]](#) [\[Australian Research Council\]](#) [\[Australian Advanced Manufacturing Council\]](#)

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): e0240644. [\[Paper\]](#)

How Does Globalization Affect COVID-19 Responses?, with S Bickley, HF Chan, D Stadelmann, and B Torgler

Globalization and Health, 17 (2021): 57. [\[Paper\]](#)

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

Scientific Reports, 10 (2020): 19931 [\[Paper\]](#)

Book Chapters

Perverse Social Norms, with B. Torgler and E. Yoeli (2024, forthcoming). In: S.H. Chuah, R. Hoffmann and A. Neelim (eds.), *Edward Elgar Encyclopedia of Behavioural and Experimental Economics*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar. [\[Paper\]](#)

Behavioural Cliometrics, with B. Torgler (2024, forthcoming). In: S.H. Chuah, R. Hoffmann and A. Neelim (eds.), *Edward Elgar Encyclopedia of Behavioural and Experimental Economics*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar. [\[Paper\]](#)

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. [\[Paper\]](#)

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. [\[Paper\]](#)

Working Papers

The Cost of Nativism: Evidence from the Netherlands, with H. Garretsen. [\[Paper\]](#)

R&R 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. [\[Paper\]](#)

Revised & Resubmitted to Health Economics

How Large is the Beauty Premium in Politics?, with S. Bickley, H.F. Chan, D. Stadelmann, B. Torgler, and S. Whyte. [\[Paper\]](#)

R&R European Journal of Political Economy

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

Required reading for EC1450 Religion and Political Economy (Robert Barro and Rachel Mc Cleary, Harvard University)

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

Invited Keynote

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

Teaching and Advising

Graduate Teaching

University of Groningen: EBM206A05 Globalization Debates

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology: ECON1238 Econometric Techniques

Undergraduate Teaching

University of Groningen: EBP810B05 International Economics; EBB142A05 Sustainability and Globalization; EBB811B05 Growth and Development Economics

Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology: ECON1020 Prices and Markets; ECON1339 Behavioural Business

Monash University: ECF2731 Managerial Economics; ECC3810 Public Finance; ECF3121 Economics of International Trade; ECF3120 Consumer Economics

Australian Catholic University: ECON102 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

Thesis Advising

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

Master's Theses: 10 completed (MSc Economic Development & Globalization, 2021 - present)

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

Advised master's papers have received *R&R* decisions at *Health Economics* and *World Development*.

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

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), University of Groningen.

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 Young Fellow, 2018

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
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Professor Paul A. Raschky
Department of Economics
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Professor Benno Torgler
School of Economics & Finance
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