

# Ahmed Skali

c/o GEM Secretariat  
Faculty of Economics and Business  
University of Groningen  
Nettelbosje 2, 9747 AE Groningen  
The Netherlands

Email: [a.skali@rug.nl](mailto:a.skali@rug.nl)  
Homepage: [ahmedskali.com](http://ahmedskali.com)  
Citizenship: Australia, Morocco

## Research Interests

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

## Current Roles

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

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

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

FEBRI Fellow, 2021-

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

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

Research Fellow, Centre for Behavioural Economics, Society and Technology, Queensland University of Technology, 2019 -

Fellow, Global Labor Organization, 2023 -

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

## Job Market Paper

**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 (Robert Barro and Rachel McCleary, Harvard University)

**Abstract:** Can religious beliefs explain effort provision in salient settings? We track 15,421 soldiers in Nazi Germany's armies from the start of World War II in September 1939 to the surrender of Germany in May 1945. We proxy effort with military decorations, promotions, injuries, and fatalities. Our cross-sectional and soldier-by-month panel ( $N = 659,189$ ) results indicate that Protestants outperform Catholics, and Calvinists out-perform Lutherans. We also find that Calvinists, whose belief system favours early resolution of uncertainty about salvation, exert more effort early on in the war. Differences in commitment to the Nazi ideology and discrimination against Catholic soldiers do not appear to drive our results. Our results suggest an important role for the horizontal transmission of work ethic-enhancing norms of behaviour: Catholics from historically Protestant districts exert more effort than Catholics from Catholic districts.

## Journal Articles

**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*, forthcoming [\[Paper\]](#)

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

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

**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. [\[Paper\]](#)

**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 (2020): 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. [\[Paper\]](#)

**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. [\[Paper\]](#)

**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 [\[Paper\]](#)

**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: [\[The Independent\]](#) [\[Quartz\]](#) [\[ABC Radio\]](#) [\[The Guardian\]](#) [\[The Independent Singapore\]](#) [\[Phys.org\]](#) [\[Red Uno Bolivia\]](#) [\[Eurekalert\]](#) [\[G7 Hungary\]](#) [\[Leistungstraeger Austria\]](#) [\[Presstext Switzerland\]](#) [\[OFFNews Bulgaria\]](#) [\[Democracy Chronicles\]](#) [\[Scimex\]](#) [\[Marginal Revolution\]](#)

**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. [\[Paper\]](#)

**Moralizing Gods and Armed Conflict.**

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

Media: [\[National Affairs\]](#)

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

Media: [\[VoxEU\]](#) [\[El Espectador\]](#) [\[National Affairs\]](#)

## Many-Lab Articles

**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. [\[Paper\]](#)

## 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

**Wealth Inequality and Economic Growth: Evidence from the World Inequality Database**, with R. Steenbrink. [\[Paper\]](#)

*R&R World Development*

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

**Violent Conflict and Parochial Trust: Survey and Lab-in-the-Field Evidence**, with K. Werner. [\[Paper\]](#)

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

**Transportation Infrastructure and Child Mortality: Sub-National Evidence for 22 Developing Countries**, with R. Boot. [\[Paper\]](#)

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

**A Global Dataset of Human Mobility**, with HF Chan and B Torgler. [\[Paper\]](#)

## 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

## Previous Roles

Alfred Deakin Research Fellow, Department of Economics, Deakin University, 2020

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

Research Affiliate, QuBE, Queensland University of Technology, 2016 - 2019

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

## Professional Activity

Professional roles:

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

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

#### Conference and seminar presentations (including scheduled):

2024: Culture and Institutions Workshop (Radboud University Nijmegen). 2023: Hamburg Lectures in Law and Economics, ASREC, Households in Conflict Network (HiCN) workshop (ULB Brussels), European Public Choice Society. 2022: Cultures of Trust and Institutions of Freedom Workshop (IFN Stockholm), University of Groningen. 2021: KVS New Papers Workshop. 2020: University of Tokyo, University of Groningen, Università di Padova. 2019: Harvard University, MIT Sloan, University of California - Irvine, ASREC (Association for the Study of Religion, Economy and Culture) Conference, Monash University, Australian Conference of Economists, Australasian Public Choice Conference, Deakin University Annual Workshop on Natural Experiments in History. 2018: Pacific Trade and Development (PAFTAD) Conference (Japan Center for Economic Research), RMIT. 2017: European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (Barcelona GSE), The University of Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences, Society for the Advancement of Behavioural Economics (SABE) Conference (University of Newcastle), RMIT, Australasian Public Choice Conference (Deakin University). 2016: Public Choice Society Meetings (Fort Lauderdale, FL), University of Melbourne, Economics and Biology of Contests Conference (Queensland University of Technology), Monash University, RMIT. Pre-2016: Australasian Public Choice Conference (Queensland University of Technology), Asia-Pacific Innovation Conference (Zhejiang University), Australasian Development Economics Workshop (Monash University), Swinburne University of Technology, University of St. Gallen, Monash University, 2014 Monash Centre for Development Economics and Sustainability Workshop, 2014 Australasian Public Choice Conference (Monash University), RMIT

#### Academic visits:

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:

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

#### PhD supervisions:

Ongoing: Sam Oxley, Sophie von Rußdorf

Master's supervisions:

MSc Economic Development & Globalization: 7 completed theses, 2021 - date

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

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

## Teaching

*University of Groningen:* EBB811B05 Growth and Development Economics, EBP810B05 International Economics, EBM206A05 Globalization Debates, EBB142A05 Sustainability and Globalization

*Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology:* ECON1020 Prices and Markets, ECON1238 Econometric Techniques, 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:* Climate change: an overview (Erasmus University Rotterdam, 2022); The perils of leadership without constraints (Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, 2018, 2019).

## References

Professor Christian Bjørnskov  
Department of Economics & Business Economics  
Aarhus University  
Denmark  
[chbj@econ.au.dk](mailto:chbj@econ.au.dk)

Professor Paul A. Raschky  
Department of Economics  
Monash University  
Melbourne, Australia  
[paul.raschky@monash.edu](mailto:paul.raschky@monash.edu)

Professor Jakob B. Madsen  
Department of Economics  
The University of Western Australia  
Perth, Australia  
[jakob.madsen@uwa.edu.au](mailto:jakob.madsen@uwa.edu.au)

Professor Benno Torgler  
School of Economics & Finance  
Queensland University of Technology  
Brisbane, Australia  
[benno.torgler@qut.edu.au](mailto:benno.torgler@qut.edu.au)