

# Andrea R. Hofer

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## Education and Work Experience

- 09.2022–present **Swiss National Bank**, *Economic Education Unit*
- 2016–2022 **University of Zurich, Department of Economics**, *PhD Candidate*  
Advisors: Prof. Dr. Nir Jaimovich, Prof. Dr. Ana Costa-Ramón
- 2021–2022 **Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)**, *Assistant to the editor of the Covid Economics Journal*
- 2020–2021 **Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR)**, *Copyeditor for VoxEU.org*
- 2020–2020 **Northwestern University**, *Visiting associate*
- 2014–2016 **University of Zurich**, *Master of Arts in economics*
- 2013–2014 **Ca'Foscari University of Venice**, *Erasmus exchange semester*
- 2011–2014 **University of Zurich**, *Bachelor of Arts in economics*
- 2010–2011 **ETH Zurich**, *Successfully passed first year of BSc ETH Physics*

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## References

### Nir Jaimovich

University of California, San Diego  
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### Ana Costa-Ramón

University of Zurich  
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### Marek Pycia

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## Research Interests

Primary: Labor Economics

Secondary: Gender and Family Economics

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## Working Papers

### **A Purse of her Own: Women's Access to Financial Services and Female Labor Supply** (Job Market Paper)

Up until 1975, US women faced significant discrimination when applying for bank accounts or loans in their own names: many banks required male co-signers,

essentially granting married women's husbands access to their accounts. Such discriminatory practices were outlawed in the US with various credit laws introduced in different states at different times, culminating in the national Equal Credit Opportunity Act in 1975. In this paper, I study the consequences of granting married women more control over their own finances due to these law changes empirically and in a structural life-cycle model. I find that giving women full control over their own resources increases their likelihood of participating in the labor market by 4-7.5 p.p. Since a standard collective household bargaining model would predict a decrease in labor supply, I enhance the standard model two-fold: I introduce a norm cost the husband faces when the wife works as well as a hiding share of labor income which the wife can use purely for her own consumption. I then calibrate the model to the US labor market in 1970 and show that the enhanced model is able to replicate the increase in female labor supply seen in the data.

### **Cultural Attitudes and Unemployment Benefit Take Up: Evidence from the Swiss Language Border**, *joint with Michael Baltensperger*

Does stigma prevent individuals from applying to unemployment benefits even if they are eligible? We exploit the cultural divide at the Swiss language border which separates German from French speaking municipalities to show that cultural values are an important determinant for unemployment take up. French-speakers—who hold cultural values associated with lower stigma towards unemployment benefit take up—are consistently more likely to apply for unemployment benefits within the first six months after job loss. This result holds also for workers who live on different sides of the language border but who were employed at the same firm before job loss.

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### Work in Progress

"Mothers' Labor Supply and Immigration: Evidence from the Swiss Border Opening", *joint with Andreas Beerli and Ursina Schaede*

"Norms vs. Law Changes: What Matters for Female Labor Force Participation?", *joint with Ursina Schaede and Lea Weigand*

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### Teaching

2022 Design of teaching materials for the Economic Education Unit at the Swiss National Bank on:

- How to invest and trade online
- The economics of big tech companies

2020,2021 Teaching assistant for the PhD course "Mathematical methods for Microeconomics" (lecturer: Andreas Hefti)

- 2018,2019 Teaching assistant for the undergraduate course "Market Design" (lecturer: Marek Pycia)
- 2017,2018 Teaching assistant for the undergraduate course "Introduction to Game Theory" (lecturer: Samuel Haefner)
- 2016 Teaching assistant for the undergraduate course "Introduction to Macroeconomics" (lecturer: Christian Hopenstrick)
- 2015 Teaching assistant for the undergraduate course "Introduction to Microeconomics" (lecturer: Ernst Fehr)

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## Media Coverage

09. 2020 "Weshalb Schweizerinnen kaum von der Einwanderung profitieren", *NZZ*, 04.09.
01. 2020 "Gender Data Gap", *Podcast Femme Fact*, Folge 6
08. 2019 "Die Fakten zum Gender Gap", *Beobachter*, Nr. 16

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## Seminar and Conference Presentations

- 11.2022 *MIFE Early Career Workshop*, University of Mannheim
- 2019/2020/2021 *Internal Macroeconomics Seminar*, Department of Economics, University of Zurich
- 11.2021 Presentation on the gender data gap at the workshop *Gender Issues and the Position of Women in Climate and Disaster Resilience*, Bern
- 10.2021 *Internal Seminar*, KOF Swiss Economic Institute, ETH Zurich
- 02.2020 *Internal Seminar*, Northwestern University

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## Grants/Awards

- 2021 Dissertation Fellowship Department of Economics, University of Zurich
- Fall 2014 Erasmus scholarship
07. 2010 Award for the best high school degree in business and economics 2010, Kantons-schule Solothurn.

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## Projects

- 07.2019-present Co-founder of Gender Economics Blog **Économétrices**, joint with Ursina Schaeде
- Summarizes current research in gender economics for a non-specialist audience (in German)

- 2016 - 2020 Member of "Students across borders", an organization which helps refugees integrate in Switzerland
- teach German and Swiss German classes
  - support in applying to university
- 2016 - 2017 Co-organizer of lecture series "Sustainability - Challenges and Solutions" at University of Zurich, joint with Jonathan Krakow
- 2007-2008 Volunteer teacher in China

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## Languages

Proficient: Python, Stata, GitHub/Git, LaTeX

Basic: R, Julia, SAS, Matlab, SQL

Fluent: English, French, Italian, German (native)

Intermediate: Chinese, Spanish