

# Andrea R. Hofer

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## Education and Work Experience

- 08.2023–present **Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**, *Labour Market Economist in the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, Youth Team*
- 09.2022–06.2023 **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

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### Marek Pycia

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### Ulf Zölitz

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## Research Interests

Primary: Labor Economics

Secondary: Gender and Family Economics, Cultural Economics

### **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.

*Winner of best paper award at the MIFE Early Career Workshop 2022.*

### **Mothers' Labor Force Participation and the Availability of Part-Time Jobs**, *joint with Ursina Schaeede and Andreas Beerli*

How does the structure of jobs in the labor market shape mothers' labor supply? In this paper, we show that mothers' labor force participation declines following a labor market shock that reduces the availability of part-time jobs, while fathers and women without children remain unaffected. We leverage an immigration reform that sharply increased the supply of high-skilled, full-time workers in a pre-defined set of border localities in Switzerland. Using social security registers and business census data in a difference-in-differences design, we show that the reform leads to a change in the structure of the labor market with fewer part-time jobs, resulting in a drop in mothers' labor force participation by 4 percentage points. This pattern translates into an increase in the "child penalty" that persists up to ten years after the birth of the first child. We provide evidence that mothers' drop-out is primarily driven by firms reducing their demand for part-time workers, thus highlighting a competition channel that manifests itself through the number of hours that workers are willing to supply. We rule out alternative mechanisms such as household income effects, fertility, and gender norms.

### **The Judge in the Marriage Bed: The Modernization of the Swiss Marital Law and Female Labour Force Participation**, *joint with Ursina Schaeede and Lea N.*

This paper analyses the impact of the modernization of the Swiss marital law in the 1980s on married women's labor force participation in Switzerland. The reform of the law comprised multiple measures to foster the equality between husband and wife within the marriage. The Swiss people voted on the reform in a referendum in 1985, accepting the new marital law. Hence at the time of the vote, it was revealed that the Swiss people hold more liberal attitudes than those represented by the old version of the law. The new marriage law was then implemented in 1988. For our analyses, we classify municipalities into conservative and liberal municipalities depending on the referendum voting results in the municipality. Overall, we find that from 1988 on, i.e., after the new marital law has been implemented, married women in conservative municipalities are catching up with married women in liberal municipalities in terms of labor force participation in the first year after getting married. We do not see a strong direct response of married women's employment in conservative relative to liberal municipalities between 1985 and 1988, i.e., after the referendum revealed relatively more liberal national norms of the Swiss people than what has been represented by the old marital law but prior to the law change.

**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

"How to overcome the negative effects of stigmatization on unemployment benefit take-up: evidence from a reform of the Swiss unemployment system"

"Quantitative evaluation of an apprenticeship support programme in Germany", OECD report

"Mapping of community engagement activities in the Basque Country", OECD report

"Who are the NEETs in Northern Denmark and what policy approaches can best support them?", OECD report

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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 Hепенstrick)
- 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

- 06.2024 European Social Service Conference, Antwerp
- 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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## Seminar and Conference Organisation

- 2024 Co-organizer of the bi-weekly Applied Economic Seminar at the OECD

07.2024 Organizer of two-day workshop on "Strengthening community action for health and well-being" in Bilbao, Spain

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## Grants/Awards

2022 Best paper award MIFE early career workshop  
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 Schaeede  
– 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