

BENJAMIN DAVIES

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Education

Stanford University

PhD in Economics (advised by Matthew Jackson and Arun Chandrasekhar) 2020–

University of Canterbury

BSc(Hons, 1st class) in Economics and Mathematics 2014–17

Working Papers

[The value of conceptual knowledge](#) (with Anirudh Sankar)

[Learning about a changing state](#)

Work in Progress

How mechanistic explanations reshape learning and behavior: Evidence from a fertilizer choice experiment in Eastern Uganda (with Anirudh Sankar, Robert Dulin, Vesall Nourani, Jess Rudder, Abraham Salomon, and Godfrey Taulya)

Publications

[Gender sorting among economists: Evidence from the NBER](#), *Economics Letters* 2022

[COVID-19, lockdown and two-sided uncertainty](#) (with Arthur Grimes), *New Zealand Economic Papers* 2022

[Research funding and collaboration](#) (with Jason Gush, Shaun C. Hendy, and Adam B. Jaffe), *Research Policy* 2022

[Relatedness, complexity and local growth](#) (with David C. Maré), *Regional Studies* 2021

Technical and Policy Reports

[Estimating sample paths of Gauss-Markov processes from noisy data](#) 2024

[Delineating functional labour market areas with estimable classification stabilities](#) (with David C. Maré) 2020

[Climate change adaptation within New Zealand's transport system](#) (with Anthony Byett and others) 2019

Awards

William Georgetti Scholarship (for “best brains” in New Zealand)	2020
Seamus Hogan Memorial Prize (for best thesis in economics at Canterbury)	2017
Cook Memorial Prize (for top honors mathematics student at Canterbury)	2017
Sir Frank Holmes Prize (for top undergraduate economics student in New Zealand)	2016

Research and Professional Experience

Stanford University

Research Assistant to Matthew Jackson	2021–22
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Motu Economic and Public Policy Research

Research Analyst	2018–20
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PwC

Actuarial Consulting Intern	2015–16
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Teaching Experience

Stanford University

Teaching Assistant for ECON 137 (Decision Modeling and Information)	2025
Teaching Assistant for BUSGEN 143 (Finance, Corporations, and Society)	2025
Teaching Assistant for ECON 43 (Personal Finance)	2023–24
Teaching Assistant for ECON 135 (Foundations of Finance)	2022–24

University of Canterbury

Teaching Assistant for FINC 331 (Financial Economics)	2017
Teaching Assistant for ECON 208 (Intermediate Microeconomics)	2016–17
Teaching Assistant for ECON 321 (Microeconomic Theory)	2016–17

Conference Presentations

NBER Summer Institute (Science of Science Funding)	2021
American Economic Association Annual Meeting	2021
New Zealand Association of Economists Conference, Wellington	2019
New Zealand Association of Economists Conference, Auckland	2018
European Group of Risk and Insurance Economists Annual Seminar, London	2017

Last updated: October 2025