

Christopher Gandrud, Ph.D

Head of Economics and Experimentation

Zalando SE

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Work Experiences

Zalando SE

I build and manage cross-functional teams that bring scientific innovations to production. Empathy is at the core of my management style. Empathising with customers enables my teams to work on what is important. Empathising with my team members enables me to focus on how to improve our processes to create high impact teams and great places to work.

Head of Economics and Experimentation (from 2019)

- **Measuring the right things:** I guide teams of economists, data scientists, and product managers redeveloping Zalando's approach to KPI framework and how we evaluate product investments for long-term strategic success.
- **Scaling incremental impact research software and services:** I lead the development of Zalando's large scale A/B testing platform (service receives 10s of thousands of requests per second) and broader program to enable teams throughout the company to measure their incremental impact with causal machine learning methods. I guide research into new machine learning methods and their application in production.

Economics Team Lead (2017-2019)

I created and led a cross-functional team of engineers, product managers, data scientists, and economists to develop Zalando's **real-time and machine-learned content recommendation system**. We built a platform that dramatically expanded Zalando's on-site advertising business. Our work improved the customer experience by expanding the diversity and quality of on-site fashion content.

Harvard University Institute for Quantitative Social Science (2017)

Research Fellow

I led a team developing statistical software for academic and industry applications.

City, University of London (2015-2018)

Lecturer in Statistics and International Political Economy

Hertie School of Governance (August 2013-June 2017)

Post-Doctoral Fellow in International Political Economy and Statistics

Yonsei University (2012-2013)

Lecturer in Statistics and International Political Economy

Eduction

London School of Economics (2008-2012)

MRes/PhD Political Science (Quantitative Research Methodology)

Awarded MRes with Distinction

My thesis used signalling games, event history analysis, and case studies to examine how economic policies are made in times of crisis.

London School of Economics (2005-2006)

MSc Comparative Politics (Research Methodology)

Graduated with Distinction

McGill University (2003-2005)

BA (Honours) Political Science & Geography

Graduated with First Class Honours, in the top 10% of the class

Publications

Book: Reproducible Research with R and RStudio. 2020. Third Edition. *Chapman & Hall/CRC Press division of the Taylor & Francis Group.*

For the full list of my publications and open source software projects see: https://github.com/christophergandrud/cv/blob/main/cv_pdf/Gandrud_cv.pdf

Other Skills

Programming and Machine Learning

I am a highly skilled user of AWS, Bash, CSS, Git/GitHub, HTML, JavaScript, Julia, Jupyter, RMarkdown, LaTeX, Linux, SQL, Python, R, Shiny web apps, SPSS, Stan, and Stata.

Languages

B1 German proficiency. I have also studied Korean, Spanish, and French.