

DREW JOHNSTON

drewjohnston1@gmail.com · drew-johnston.com

EDUCATION

Harvard University	Cambridge, MA
PhD, Economics (advisors: Raj Chetty, Ed Glaeser, Jesse Shapiro)	2019-2024
AM, Economics	2019-2022
Columbia University	New York, NY
BA, Computer Science and Economics	2013-2017

EXPERIENCE

Meta	New York, NY
Postdoctoral Research Scientist, Computational Social Science	2024-
Contractor, Central Applied Science	2023-2024
Contractor, Core Data Science	2018-2019, 2020-2023
Contractor, Feed Science	2017-2018
Opportunity Insights	Cambridge, MA
Research Collaborator	2024-
Graduate Research Assistant, Prof. Raj Chetty	2021-2024
New York University, Stern School of Business	New York, NY
Junior Research Scientist, Profs. Theresa Kuchler & Johannes Stroebe	2017-2019

PUBLICATIONS

[The Social Integration of International Migrants: Evidence from the Networks of Syrians in Germany](#)

Forthcoming in the *Journal of Political Economy*

Best Poster at the *International Conference on Computational Social Science* (IC2S2 2022)

with Michael Bailey, Martin Koenen, Theresa Kuchler, Dominic Russel, Johannes Stroebe

([Slides](#)) ([Research Summary](#))

[Cross-Gender Social Ties Around the World](#)

American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings, 115, 132-38, May 2025.

with Michael Bailey, Theresa Kuchler, Ayush Kumar, Johannes Stroebe

Press: [The Economist](#)

([Data](#)) ([Appendix](#)) ([Code](#))

[Measuring Global Migration Flows using Online Data](#)

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, 122 (18) e2409418122, April 2025

with Guanghua Chi, Guy Abel, Eugenia Giraudy, Mike Bailey

Press: [New York Times](#) (1), [New York Times](#) (2)

([Data](#)) ([Appendix](#)) ([Code](#))

[Social Networks Shape Beliefs and Behavior: Evidence from Social Distancing during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)

Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics, 2 (3), 463-494, August 2024

with Michael Bailey, Martin Koenen, Theresa Kuchler, Dominic Russel, Johannes Stroebe

Press: [NBER Digest](#)

([Appendix](#)) ([Code](#))

[Social Capital I: Measurement and Associations with Economic Mobility](#)

Nature, 608 (7921), 108-121. August 2022. ([Cover Article](#))

with Raj Chetty, Matthew O. Jackson, Johannes Stroebe, Theresa Kuchler, Nathaniel Hendren, Robert Fluegge, Sara Gong, Federico Gonzalez, Armelle Grondin, Matthew Jacob, Martin Koenen, Eduardo Laguna-Muggenburg, Florian Mudekereza, Tom Rutter, Nicolaj Thor, Wilbur Townsend, Ruby Zhang, Mike Bailey, Pablo Barberá, Monica Bhole, Nils Wernerfelt

Press: [NYT](#) (1), [NYT](#) (2), [The Economist](#), [Washington Post](#), [NPR](#), [CBS](#), [Axios](#), [Brookings](#), [El País](#), [The Hill](#)
([Social Capital Atlas](#)) ([Data](#)) ([Slides](#)) ([Summary](#)) ([Appendix](#))

Social Capital II: Determinants of Economic Connectedness

Nature, 608 (7921), 122-134. August 2022.

with Raj Chetty, Matthew O. Jackson, Johannes Stroebel, Theresa Kuchler, Nathaniel Hendren, Robert Fluegge, Sara Gong, Federico Gonzalez, Armelle Grondin, Matthew Jacob, Martin Koenen, Eduardo Laguna-Muggenburg, Florian Mudekereza, Tom Rutter, Nicolaj Thor, Wilbur Townsend, Ruby Zhang, Mike Bailey, Pablo Barberá, Monica Bhole, Nils Wernerfelt

Peer Effects in Product Adoption

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, 14 (3), 488-526, July 2022

with Michael Bailey, Theresa Kuchler, Johannes Stroebel, Arlene Wong

Press: [VoxEU](#), [LSE Business Review](#), [World Economic Forum](#)

([Code](#)) ([Appendix](#))

Social Connectedness in Europe

International Conference on Social Informatics (SoCIInfo 2020), 1-14, October 2020

with Michael Bailey, Theresa Kuchler, Dominic Russel, Bogdan State, Johannes Stroebel

Press: [Facebook Research](#)

([Data](#)) ([Code](#)) ([Appendix](#))

POLICY REPORTS

The War in Ukraine and the Potential of Facebook's Social Connectedness Index to Anticipate Human Displacement

UN International Organization for Migration: Migration Research Series, No. 73, April 2023

with Umberto Minora, Martina Belmonte, Claudia Bosco, Stefano Iacus, Eugenia Giraudy, Francesco Sermi

WORKING PAPERS

Social Ties and Residential Choice: Micro Evidence and Equilibrium Implications

with Martin Koenen

Social Capital in the United Kingdom: Evidence from Six Billion Friendships

with Tom Harris, Shankar Iyer, Tom Rutter, Guanghua Chi, Patrick Lam, Lucy Makinson, Antonio S. Silva, Martin Wessel, Mei-Chen Liou, Yingcan Wang, Qamar Zaman, Mike Bailey

Press: [The Economist](#), [The Guardian](#) (1), [The Guardian](#) (2), [The Independent](#), [The Times](#), [The Standard](#)

([Data](#)) ([Visualization](#))

CONFERENCE & SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2025	International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2)	(SweCSS)
	NSF Conference on Network Science and Economics	(Stanford)
	American Economic Association Meeting	(San Francisco)
2024	Digital Technologies and Sustainable Development Workshop	(Oxford)
	Barcelona Summer Forum (Migration)	(BSE)
2023	NSF Conference on Network Science and Economics	(Virginia Tech)
	European Networks Conference	(Central European University)
	Urban Economics Association European Meeting	(Bocconi)
	Summer School on the Economics of Migration	(UC Davis & Alianza MX)
2022	International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2)	(UChicago)
	Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics	(Stanford)
	Urban Economics Association Annual Meeting	(World Bank)
2021	Networks 2021 (Sunbelt & NetSci joint meeting)	(Virtual)
	Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting	(Houston)
2020	Facebook Computational Social Science Seminar	(Virtual)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Refereeing: *Nature*, the *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, the *Review of Economics and Statistics*, the *Economic Journal*, the *Journal of Urban Economics* ($\times 2$), *PNAS Nexus*, *Management Science*, and the *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*

Program Committee: FAcCT '23 (ACM Conference on Fairness, Accountability, and Transparency)

RESEARCH GRANTS

2023 | \$10,000, Chae Family Economics Research Fund (with Martin Koenen)
\$5,000, Warburg Fund (with Martin Koenen)

2022 | \$24,000, Chae Family Economics Research Fund (with Martin Koenen)

OTHER

Member, Brooklyn Community Board 9 2025-
Affiliated Researcher, Laboratorio de Oportunidades (Spain)
Affiliate, Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science
2x NCAA Team Fencing Champion