

DREW JOHNSTON

drewjohnston@g.harvard.edu · drew-johnston.com

EDUCATION

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

EXPERIENCE

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

WORKING PAPERS

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

PUBLICATIONS

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

[Social Capital II: Determinants of Economic Connectedness](#)

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

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](#)

([Working Paper](#)) ([Code](#)) ([Appendix](#))

Social Connectedness in Europe

International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo 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

PRESENTATIONS

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

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Refereeing: the Quarterly Journal of Economics, the Review of Economics and Statistics, the Economic Journal, the Journal of Urban Economics ($\times 2$), 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

Affiliate, Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science

2x NCAA Team Fencing Champion