

# DREW JOHNSTON

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

## EDUCATION

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

## EXPERIENCE

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

## PUBLICATIONS

### **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 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  
**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 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](#)  
([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](#))

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

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

Forthcoming at the *Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics*

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

Press: [NBER Digest](#)

([Code](#))

## 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 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