

# DREW JOHNSTON

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## EDUCATION

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

## EXPERIENCE

<b>Meta</b>	<b>New York, NY</b>
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
<b>Opportunity Insights</b>	<b>Cambridge, MA</b>
Research Collaborator	2024-
Graduate Research Assistant, Prof. Raj Chetty	2021-2024
<b>New York University, Stern School of Business</b>	<b>New York, NY</b>
Junior Research Scientist, Profs. Theresa Kuchler & Johannes Stroebe	2017-2019

## PUBLICATIONS

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

Forthcoming in the *American Economic Association Papers & Proceedings*  
with Michael Bailey, Theresa Kuchler, Ayush Kumar, Johannes Stroebe  
([Data](#)) ([Appendix](#))

### [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](#))

### [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 (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

## 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:** 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

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**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

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Affiliate, Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science  
2x NCAA Team Fencing Champion