

# Elisa Macchi

PHD CANDIDATE IN ECONOMICS, UNIVERSITY OF ZÜRICH  
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## PLACEMENT DIRECTOR

Hans-Joachim Voth, Professor of Economics, University of Zürich.  
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## REFERENCES

David Yanagizawa-Drott, Professor of Economics, University of Zürich.  
[david.yanagizawa-drott@econ.uzh.ch](mailto:david.yanagizawa-drott@econ.uzh.ch)

Lorenzo Casaburi, Assistant Professor of Economics, University of Zürich.  
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## Education

1 Aug '15 -	PH.D. in Economics, UZH Zürich (expected completion: June 2021)
Jul '15	M. PHIL. in Economics (LMEC), Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
Jul '13	B.A. in Economics and Business, Università degli Studi di Milano - Bicocca

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## Visiting Positions

Sep '18 - Jul '19	VISITING FELLOW Economics Department, Harvard University (sponsor: Prof. Dr. Benjamin Enke)
Feb '13	ERASMUS SEMESTER Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

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## Job-Market Paper

*"Worth your weight: experimental evidence on the benefits of obesity in low-income countries."*

When wealth information is scarce, as in developing countries, wealth signals may serve an economic function. I provide novel experimental evidence on the economic benefits of wealth signals in developing countries, by investigating the wealth-signaling value, and access-to-credit benefits of obesity in the urban area of Kampala, Uganda. In low-resource settings, obesity is akin to a status good. Using manipulated portraits (thinner/fatter) of real Kampala residents, I first show that obesity is perceived as a reliable wealth signal. Then, cooperating with 124 small financial institutions, I test for economic benefits in a real-stakes field experiment involving employed loan officers. I show that obese borrowers have easier access to credit: going from normal weight to obese is equivalent to increasing one's income by 60 percent. I pinpoint the mechanism by showing that reducing asymmetric information between borrowers and lenders reduces the obesity premium by two-thirds. Looking at the credit provision consequences, I provide evidence that many loan officers hold inaccurate beliefs about the income distribution by body mass among borrowers. Gauging into health effects, I show that obesity benefits are commonly known, and largely overestimated. I discuss implication for anti-discrimination and obesity prevention policies.

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## Other Research

*"Pressure to employ, productivity and technology adoption: experimental evidence from rural Uganda"*, with B. Caprettini (UZH). [ongoing]

*"The mental health of graduate students and professors: evidence from European Economics departments"*, with P. Barreira (Harvard) and C. Sievert (Harvard). [ongoing]

*"EU transfers and Euroscepticism: can't buy me love?"*, with A. Borin and M. Mancini [forthcoming, Economic Policy]

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## Grants & Honors

July '20	<i>Diligentia Stiftung Research Grant</i> , with D. Yanagizawa-Drott (USD 39'500)
July '21	<i>Swiss Re Fund for Development Economic - Top-up grant</i> (USD 10'800)
Dec '19	<i>GRC Travel Grant</i> (USD 2'800)
Sep '19	<i>Swiss Re Fund for Development Economics</i> (USD 27'000, maximum amount)
May '19	<i>Director's Grant Zurich GSE</i> (USD 5'400, maximum amount)
Nov '18	<i>SNSF Doc. Mobility scholarship</i>
Mar '17	<i>B. Stringher scholarship (particolarmente meritevole)</i> • Banca D'Italia
Mar '15	PhD scholarship • University of Zürich
Jan '14	Unicredit <i>Ad Honorem</i> • Unicredit S.p.a.
Sep '14	LMEC top-four-students scholarship • Alma Mater Studiorum - Università di Bologna
2010- '12	Merit-based scholarships • Università degli Studi di Milano - Bicocca

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## Conferences & seminar presentations

2020	NEUDC*, Dartmouth (virtual); <i>BREAD/CEPR/STICERD/TCD</i> (virtual); <i>DEVPEC</i> , Stanford (virtual); <i>Essen Health Conference</i> (virtual); <i>Early Career Behavioral Economics Conference</i> , BRIQ; <i>Internal Applied Microeconomics Seminar</i> , University of Zürich.
2019	<i>Development Economics Lunch</i> , Harvard; <i>Internal Applied Microeconomics Seminar</i> , University of Zürich; <i>Development Economics Lunch</i> , Harvard; <i>Political Economy and Culture Workshop</i> , Harvard; <i>Project Design seminar</i> , University of Zürich.
2018	<i>Political Economy Seminar</i> , Government department, Harvard; Accepted for poster presentation at <i>SSDEV</i> ; <i>Internal Applied Microeconomics Seminar</i> , University of Zürich.
2017	<i>European Trade Study Group (ETSG)</i> , European University Institute and University of Florence; <i>Internal Applied Microeconomics Seminar</i> , University of Zürich.

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## Teaching Experience

Spring '18	<i>T.A., Econometrics for Policy Analysts</i> (M.A.), University of Zürich
Fall '17	<i>T.A., Labor Economics</i> (M.A.), University of Zürich
Spring '17	<i>T.A., Intermediate Econometrics</i> (B.A.), University of Zürich

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## Relevant Employment History and Professional Activities

Jan '18	PhD Member of hiring committee for 2 positions in "Economics of Child and Youth Development / with a focus on breastfeeding." Economics department, University of Zürich.
Jan '17- Jan '19	Research Assistant for Fabrizio Zilibotti, SNSF Project " <i>Inequality, cultural transmission, and human capital accumulation</i> "
Jun '17- Sep '17	Ph.D. Intern, DG Economics, Statistics and Research, Bank of Italy

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## Personal skills

### IT

Stata • R • Python •  $\LaTeX$  • OTree • HTML (beginner)

### LANGUAGES

Italian (native) • English (fluent) • Spanish (fluent) • German (advanced)