

HANNAH ZILLESSEN

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OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Manor Road Building
Department of Economics, University of Oxford
Oxford, OX1 3UQ, United Kingdom

PRIMARY RESEARCH FIELDS

Labour Economics, Household Finance, Public Economics

EDUCATION

University of Oxford **2018 - 2023 (expected)**
Doctor of Philosophy in Economics

References

Johannes Abeler
University of Oxford
johannes.abeler@economics.ox.ac.uk

Hamish Low
University of Oxford
hamish.low@economics.ox.ac.uk

Abigail Adams-Prassl
University of Oxford
abi.adams@economics.ox.ac.uk

University of Oxford **2016 - 2018**
Master of Philosophy in Economics
Thesis: Integration and Assimilation of Migrants: Evidence from Germany

University of Cologne, Germany **2012 - 2015**
Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Distinction
Thesis: The Impact of Personality Traits and Cognitive Ability on Gift Exchange Behaviour

Trinity College Dublin, Ireland **2014 - 2015**
Visiting Student in Economics

RESEARCH

Job Market Paper

Uncertainty, Citizenship & Migrant Saving Choices

In most Western countries, migrants hold significantly less wealth than natives. They also face significantly more uncertainty about their future. This paper examines the central role of uncertainty about citizenship prospects and future location in explaining these saving choices. Exploiting quasi-experimental variation and panel data from Germany, I show that migrants who have a right to citizenship save as much as comparable natives, while migrants without this right save 30% less. The unexplained gap is closed completely when migrants in the latter group gain access to citizenship. The effect is not driven by changes in resources, but rather willingness to save. While standard theory predicts saving to increase in uncertainty, I show that the effect can reverse when utility is state-dependent or resources are not equally accessible across states. I specify a life-cycle saving model with

uncertain retirement location and heterogeneous country preferences. Using the model, I show that uncertainty over future preferences or states lowers migrants' incentives to give up current for future utility, their "preparatory saving motive". I test the model predictions empirically and find that migrants become more likely to save up for and invest in illiquid assets when they gain access to citizenship. This effect is driven by greater certainty over their right to stay, rather than changes in their attachment to the host country.

Work in Progress

The Effect of Conduct Grades on Non-Cognitive Skill Accumulation (With Marta Golin)

From an early age, children from disadvantaged socioeconomic backgrounds perform worse than advantaged children in standard tests of non-cognitive skills. These gaps persist into adulthood and shape life outcomes. We test whether grading primary school students on non-academic attainment, such as social conduct and work ethic, affects non-cognitive skill formation. We exploit quasi-experimental variation in conduct grades in Germany. We find that receiving conduct grades in primary school causes students to be more open to experience and willing to take risks at age 17. Further, we find that students from more disadvantaged backgrounds specifically grow up to be less neurotic and present biased adolescents. Both traits are correlated with worse adult outcomes, suggesting potential for welfare gains.

Norm Uncertainty & Political Campaigning (With Thiemo Fetzer, Lukas Hensel & Chris Roth)

We study how uncertainty impacts peer effects in political participation. Media outlets usually report only averages when reporting public opinion on policies, obfuscating any uncertainty respondents may have over their stance. In the context of Brexit, we test whether and to what extent people are motivated to campaign for or against a referendum when they learn about the degree to which others deem it "appropriate" as well as the degree to which they are uncertain about their stance. We find that respondents on either side of the Leave/Remain debate became significantly more likely to privately and publicly campaign for their preferred outcome after learning that others are highly uncertain about their views.

Labours of Love: The Search for Occupational Meaning & Worker Welfare (With Luke Heath Milsom & Shihang Hou)

Reference Dependent Social Planners (With Luke Heath Milsom)

Working for Us: Tax Legislation, Divorce Risk & Labour Force Participation

Publications

Acceptability of App-Based Contact Tracing for COVID-19: Cross-Country Survey Study. (2020).

Altmann S.; Milsom, L.; Zillesen, H.; Blasone, R.; Gerdon, F.; Bach, R.; Kreuter, F; Nosenzo, D.; Toussaert, S.; Abeler, J. *JMIR mhealth uhealth*, 8(8).

Google Scholar Citations: 365

COVID-19 Contact Tracing and Data Protection Can Go Together. (2020).

Abeler, J.; Bäcker, M.; Buermeyer, U.; Zillesen, H. *JMIR mhealth uhealth*, 8(4).

Google Scholar Citations: 252

EXTERNAL SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

2023: ASSA Annual Meetings

2022: ES European Winter Meeting, Annual Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries*, International Behavioural Public Policy Conference LSE*, EEA-ESEM Congress, NBER Summer Institute Household Finance, RES Junior Symposium, HCEO-Briq SSSI, Transatlantic Doctoral Conference, RES Annual Conference (*accepted but unable to attend)

2021: Annual Research Conference European Commission, DG ECFIN Research Seminars European Commission

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics, University of Oxford <i>Research Assistant to Prof. Johannes Abeler</i>	2018 - 2020
Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford <i>Research Assistant to Prof. Kate Orkin</i>	2017 - 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Mathematics & Statistics (1st Year Undergraduate) <i>Teaching Assistant, Philosophy, Politics & Economics</i>	2022 - 2023 University of Oxford
Quantitative Economics (2nd Year Undergraduate) <i>Teaching Assistant, Philosophy, Politics & Economics</i>	2022 - 2023 University of Oxford
Core Quantitative Methods (Graduate, Master) <i>Teaching Assistant, Economic and Social History</i>	2019 - 2022 University of Oxford
Advanced Quantitative Methods (Graduate, Master and Doctoral) <i>Teaching Assistant, Economic and Social History</i>	2019 - 2022 University of Oxford

SERVICE EXPERIENCE

Oxford DPhil Women in Economics, Oxford Mentor & Organiser	since 2019
Department of Economics, Oxford Graduate Representative for Doctoral Students	2020 - 2021
St Anne's College, Oxford MCR Welfare Representative	2019 - 2020

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Sony Pictures Germany	2015 - 2016
Other Professional Experience Constantin Entertainment, Tagesanzeiger, Charité Hospital, Japanese Gallery	2011 - 2012
Charitable Experience Balu & Du: Mentor for Disadvantaged Kids Caritas, Crisis: Volunteer for Vulnerably Housed Services	since 2014

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Department of Economics, University of Oxford <i>George-Webb-Medley Endowment Grant</i>	2020 - 2022
Department of Economics, University of Oxford <i>Doctoral Bursary</i>	2020 - 2022
German National Scholarship Foundation (Studienstiftung) <i>Full Fellowship</i>	2012 - 2019
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) <i>International Study Grant</i>	2016 - 2017
University of Cologne <i>Dean's Award for Best Academic Performance</i>	2015

MISCELLANEOUS

Languages	German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish (basic)
Software skills	Stata, Matlab, Qualtrics, L ^A T _E X