

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

Prof. **Johannes Abeler**
University of Oxford, IZA, CESifo, CeDEx, VfS
johannes.abeler@economics.ox.ac.uk

Prof. **Abigail Adams-Prassl**
University of Oxford, Citizens Advice, IFS, CEP, CEPR, IZA, Bonavero Institute
abi.adams@economics.ox.ac.uk

Prof. **Hamish Low**
University of Oxford, IFS
hamish.low@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 Sept 2012 - Oct 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

Working Papers

Uncertainty, Citizenship & Migrant Saving Choices (JOB MARKET PAPER)

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 migrant 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 persistently save 30% less. The unexplained gap is closed completely when migrants in the latter group gain access to citizenship. The effect does not derive from changes in capacity, but rather willingness to save. Specifying a life cycle saving model with uncertain retirement location and heterogeneous country preferences, I show that the response is consistent with a preparatory saving motive where migrants become more willing to invest long term once they have greater certainty over the marginal utility they can expect

to derive from consumption in retirement. I substantiate the model predictions empirically by documenting that migrants become significantly more likely to invest in illiquid assets as they gain access to citizenship.

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

Non-cognitive skills are important predictors of life outcomes. Thus, it is worrying that from an early age we observe persistent gaps in non-cognitive skills between children from different backgrounds. We test whether grading primary school students on non-academic attainment, such as social conduct and work ethic, can affect non-cognitive skill formation and reduce these gaps. We exploit a natural experiment in Germany where various states introduced conduct grades at different points during the 2000s. 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. Even more importantly, we find that students from more disadvantaged backgrounds grow up to be less neurotic and present biased adolescents if they received conduct grades in primary school – decreasing a detrimental existing gap.

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.

Work in Progress

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 Credits, Divorce Risk & Women Labour Force Participation

Publications

Acceptability of App-Based Contact Tracing for COVID-19: Cross-Country Survey Study. (2020).
Altmann S.; Milsom, L.; Zillessen, H.; Blasone, R.; Gerdon, F.; Bach, R.; Kreuter, F; Nosenzo, D.; Toussaert, S.; Abeler, J. *JMIR mhealth uhealth*, 8(8).

COVID-19 contact tracing and data protection can go together. (2020).
Abeler, J.; Bäcker, M.; Buermeyer, U.; Zillessen, H. *JMIR mhealth uhealth*, 8(4).

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
Research Assistant to Prof. Johannes Abeler

2018 - 2020

Centre for the Study of African Economies, University of Oxford
Research Assistant to Prof. Kate Orkin

2017 - 2018

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Sony Pictures, Berlin	2015 - 2016
Constantin Entertainment, Munich	2012
Tagesanzeiger, Zurich	2012
Charité Hospital, Berlin	2012
Japanese Gallery, London	2011

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