

Holly M. Dykstra

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Employment

University of Konstanz, 2021–Present (Parental Leave: 02-09/2024)
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics

Other Affiliations

Sustainability Transparency Accountability Research (STAR) Lab, Harvard University, 2022–Present
Thurgauer Wirtschaftsinstitut (TWI), University of Konstanz, 2021–Present

Education

Harvard University, Ph.D. in Public Policy, 2021
Dissertation: “Essays in Behavioral and Experimental Economics”
Committee: Christine Exley, David Laibson, Brigitte Madrian (chair)
Columbia University, Columbia College, A.B. in Economics (*cum laude*), 2012
Study Abroad: Department of Economics, Boğaziçi University

Research Fields

Behavioral Economics, Experimental Economics, Public Economics, Household Finance

Research

Working Papers

“The Buy-In Effect: When Increasing Initial Effort Motivates Behavioral Follow-Through,” with Shibeal O’Flaherty and Ashley Whillans. R&R at *Management Science*.

“When Agents Give Up Agency: The Role of Decision Avoidance,” with Christine Exley and Muriel Niederle.

Publications

“Patience Across Payday: The Role of Scarcity in Commitment Decisions.” Forthcoming at *Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics*.

“Nudging the Commute: Using Behaviorally-Informed Interventions to Promote Sustainable Transportation,” with Michael Daly, Lyndsay Gavin, Shibeal O’Flaherty, Jessica Roberts, Joseph Sherlock, and Ashley Whillans. *Behavioral Science & Policy*, 2021, 7(2), 27-49.

Works in Progress

“Changing Incentives for Earnings in Public Housing: a Quasi-Experimental Investigation into the Federal Family Self-Sufficiency Program,” with Sofia Fernández Guerrero.

Presentations

- 2025 Berlin Behavioral Economics Seminar (upcoming), iSEE Workshop at NYU Abu Dhabi (upcoming), Joachim Herz Stiftung
- 2024 Early-Career Behavioral Economics Conference of the IZA Institute of Labor Economics, European Economic Association Meeting
- 2023 Prague Conference on Behavioral Sciences
- 2022 Bundesbank/Banque de France Spring Joint Conference, Max Planck Institute Workshop on Paternalism: Origins and Consequences, Thurgauer Wirtschaftsinstitut, Universities of Bonn and Cologne ECONtribute Workshop on Autonomy & Paternalism, University of Portsmouth Decision-Making for Others Conference
- 2021 Boğaziçi University, ESA Global Around-the-Clock Conference, IE University, Innsbruck Experimental Finance Conference, Maastricht Behavioral Economic Policy Symposium, National University of Singapore, London Business School Trans-Atlantic Doctoral Conference, University of Exeter
- 2020 ESA Job Market Candidates Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School Applied Microeconomics Seminar, Harvard University Graduate Student Workshop in Behavioral Economics, University of Innsbruck, University of

Konstanz

Honors & Fellowships

Add-On Fellowship for Interdisciplinary Economics, Joachim Herz Stiftung, 2024
Teaching Innovation Fund, University of Konstanz, 2023
Departmental Teaching Prize (Lehrpreis), University of Konstanz, 2022
Derek Bok Center Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, 2017, 2020
Ph.D. Dissertation Fellowship, Taubman Center for State and Local Government, Harvard Kennedy School, 2017-2018, 2018-2019
Pershing Square Foundations of Human Behavior Grant, Harvard University, 2018
Graduate Student Fellowship, Harvard University, 2014-2016

Teaching

Graduate Courses

Behavioral Public Economics, Lecture, University of Konstanz (Summer 2022, Summer 2023)
Behavioral Economics and Policy, Seminar, University of Konstanz (Winter 2022/23, Winter 2024/25)
Economics of Poverty, Seminar, University of Konstanz (Winter 2021/22)

Undergraduate Courses

Development Microeconomics, Seminar, University of Konstanz (Winter 2021/22, Winter 2022/23, Winter 2023/24, Winter 2024/25)

As Teaching Assistant

The Political Economy of Globalization, Harvard College, for Robert Lawrence and Lawrence Summers (Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2020)
Fundamentals of Program and Policy Evaluation, Harvard Kennedy School, for Janina Matuszeski (Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2019)
Quantitative Analysis and Empirical Methods, Harvard Kennedy School, for Dan Levy (Fall 2018)

Supervision

Master's Theses

2024: Leila Berisha, Joana Haudek, Mathis Schnauder, Johannes Schrön, Mihane Sermaxhaj, Adrian Siessegger, Mendim Sijarina, Bent Untucht
2023: Dilara Bastürk, Mergim Halilaj, Eva Herrmann, Robin Kazmaier, Florian Lutz, Anjana Nehm, Niklas Schuller, Dominik Pscheidl, Antonio von Hardenberg, Junrui Wang, Claudia Wieland

Bachelor's Theses

2024: Lucas Hauser, Leon Huber, Carlo Mohl, Fabio Wanner
2023: Thomas Bauck, Tobias Baur, Drinit Bislami, Pierre Frey, Natan Legesse, Jakob Sarrazin, Milena Schroth, Lara Sommer, Aaron Wedlich, Philipp Uhl
2022: Jan Vincent Clermont, Jennifer Ochmann, Kaspar Deicher, Johannes Diener, Maximilian Dürkop, Murathan Gecgin, Maximilian Graessel, Luise Schorm, Sarah Mekhail, Veronika Miller

Professional Service

Referee

Behavioral Science and Policy, Review of Economics and Statistics

Committees

Admissions Committees: Master's Degree (2022, 2023)
Conference Organization: Theem (2022, 2023, 2024)
Hiring Committees: Junior Professorship in Labor Economics (2023), Junior Professorship in Applied Microeconomics (2022/2023), Junior Professorship in Accounting (2022)

As Graduate Student

Co-Director, Petey Greene Program, Harvard University (education for incarcerated students), 2017-2021
GSAS Representative, Behavioral Insights Student Group, Harvard University, 2016-2018

At-Large Representative for the Social Sciences, Graduate Student Council, Harvard University, 2016-2017

Prior Employment

Senior Research Assistant, Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Washington, DC, 2012-2014

Summer Intern, Moore Capital Management, New York, NY, 2011

Intern, OrbiMed Advisors, New York, NY 2010-2011

Languages

English (native), German (highly proficient)

Last updated in January 2025