

Updated: November 7, 2025

## **Miika Matias Päälysaho**

### **Basic Information**

Date of Birth: December 20, 1992

Place of Birth: Helsinki, Finland

Citizenship: Finland

Gender: Male

### **Contact**

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### **Current Positions**

Senior Researcher, *VATT Institute for Economic Research*, September 2024 – present

Research Affiliate, *ROCKWOOL Foundation Berlin (RFBerlin)*, November 2025 – present

### **Education**

Ph.D. in Economics, Department of Economics, *Stockholm University*, October 2024

Price Theory Summer Camp, Becker Friedman Institute, *University of Chicago*, June 2023

Master of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, *University of Helsinki*, July 2017

Bachelor of Social Sciences, Faculty of Social Sciences, *University of Helsinki*, September 2015

### **Professional Experience**

September 2024 – present, Senior Researcher, *VATT Institute for Economic Research*

June – November 2020, Research Assistant for Professors David Seim and Jesse Shapiro

January 2020 – October 2021, Research Assistant for Professors David Seim and Arash Nekoei

December 2018 – February 2019, Research Assistant for Professor Arash Nekoei

August 2017 – August 2018, Research Assistant, *The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy (ETLA)*

May – August 2017, Research Trainee, *Labour Institute for Economic Research (Labore)*

May – August 2016, Research Trainee *VATT Institute for Economic Research*

### **Publications**

(1) "Essays in Labor, Public, and Health Economics", *Dissertations in Economics* 2024:4. Stockholm, Sweden: Department of Economics, Stockholm University, September 2024

(2) "Labor Market Returns and the Evolution of Cognitive Skills: Theory and Evidence" (with Santiago Hermo, David Seim, and Jesse Shapiro), *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 137(4): 2309–2361, November 2022

### **Working Papers**

"Unemployment Insurance Generosity and Healthcare Use: Evidence from Sweden", October 2025 (single-authored)

### **Work in Progress**

"Multidimensional Skills in General Equilibrium: Theory and Evidence" (single-authored)

"The Polarization of Skills Across Space and Time" (with Mikko Silliman and Pablo Warnes)

- "Decomposing Trends in the PISA Study" (with Jani Kuhakoski and Roope Uusitalo)  
 "Disability Insurance and Health: Evidence and Implications" (with Arash Nekoei, David Seim, and Jens Wikström)  
 "Adoption of Medical Innovations Across Hospitals and Socioeconomic Groups: Evidence from Sweden" (with Fabian Sinn)  
 "Family-Level Stress and Children's Educational Choice: Evidence from Parent Layoffs" (with Julia Tanndal)

#### **Other Work**

- (1) "Työvoimapalvelujen vaikuttavuus taloustieteellisessä tutkimuskirjallisuudessa", Report commissioned by the National Audit Office of Finland, June 2020
- (2) "Palkkatuen vaikuttavuus – palkkatukijärjestelmän ja sen uudistuksien arvointi" (with Rita Asplund, Antti Kauhanen, and Pekka Vanhala), Publications of the Government's analysis, assessment and research activities 75/2018, December 2018
- (3) "The Short- and Long-Term Effects of Graduating During a Recession: Evidence from Finland", VATT Working Papers 96, VATT Institute for Economic Research: Helsinki, Finland, October 2017
- (4) "The Short- and Long-Term Effects of Graduating During a Recession: Evidence from Finland", Master's Thesis, University of Helsinki, May 2017

#### **Grants, Scholarships, and Awards**

Grant (24,000 EUR) for research project "Psychological Traits, Decision-Making, and the Labor Market"  
 (co-PI with Ramin Izadi, Toni Juuti, Martti Kaila, and Mikko Silliman), *Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation*, December 2024  
*Hedelius Scholarship* (declined), *Jan Wallanders och Tom Hedelius stiftelse*, December 2019  
*Faculty of Social Sciences Prize*, Best Master's thesis in Economics at the University of Helsinki, December 2017

#### **Seminars (\* = scheduled)**

- 2025: VATT Institute for Economic Research, Helsinki GSE Lunch seminar, ifo Institute/LMU Munich *Big Data* seminar\*
- 2024: VATT Institute for Economic Research
- 2023: *Labor Fika* seminar, Stockholm University
- 2022: *Labor Fika* seminar (×2), Stockholm University
- 2020: Brown Bag seminar, Stockholm University
- 2021: Brown Bag seminar, Stockholm University
- 2018: The Research Institute of the Finnish Economy (ETLA)
- 2017: Labour Institute for Economic Research

#### **Referee Service**

Academic journals: *Journal of Labor Economics* (×1), *Journal of Public Economics* (×1)

#### **Teaching Experience**

- EC7410 – Econometrics 1 (Master level, Stockholm University), TA for Peter Skogman Thoursie, Fall 2021
- EC7411 – Econometrics 2 (Master level, Stockholm University), TA for Per Pettersson Lidbom, Spring 2020 & 2021

#### **Languages and Software**

Languages: Finnish (native), English (fluent), Swedish (good), Spanish (basics), French (basics)  
 Software: Stata, R, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, git, Adobe InDesign

#### **References**

- Professor **David Seim**, Stockholm University, Department of Economics, david.seim@su.se  
 Associate Professor **Arash Nekoei**, Stockholm University, Institute for International Economic Studies, arash.nekoei@iies.su.se  
 Professor **Roope Uusitalo**, University of Helsinki, Department of Economics, roope.uusitalo@helsinki.fi