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Miika Matias Päälysaho

Basic Information

Date of Birth: December 20, 1992

Place of Birth: Helsinki, Finland

Citizenship: Finland

Gender: Male

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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", February 2026 (single-authored)

Work in Progress

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

"Multidimensional Skills and Spatial Sorting" (with Mikko Silliman and Pablo Warnes)

"Decomposing Trends in the PISA Study" (with Roope Uusitalo and Jani Kuhakoski)
 "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 arviointi" (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

2025: "Multidimensional Human Capital: Measurement, Determinants, and Cohort Trends", *Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation*
 "Decomposing Trends in the PISA Study", *Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation* (with Roope Uusitalo and Jani Kuhakoski)
 2024: "Psychological Traits, Decision-Making, and the Labor Market", *Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation*
 (with Ramin Izadi, Toni Juuti, Martti Kaila, and Mikko Silliman)
 2019: *Hedelius Scholarship* (declined), *Jan Wallanders och Tom Hedelius stiftelse*
 2017: *Faculty of Social Sciences Prize*, Best Master's thesis in Economics at the University of Helsinki

Seminars, Conferences, and Workshops (* = scheduled)

2026: Annual Meeting of the Finnish Society for Health Economics, 46th Annual Meeting of the Finnish Economic Association, RFBerlin Conference on Health and Economic Well-Being*
 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: *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* (×1), *Journal of Labor Economics* (×2),
Journal of Public Economics (×2)
 Academic conferences: *2026 European Association of Young Economists (EAYE) Annual Meeting*

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^AT_EX, 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