

JOHANNES HAUSHOFER
CV OF FAILURES

Most of what I try fails, but these failures are often invisible, while the successes are visible. I have noticed that this sometimes gives others the impression that most things work out for me. As a result, they are more likely to attribute their own failures to themselves, rather than the fact that the world is stochastic, applications are crapsheets, and selection committees and referees have bad days. This CV of Failures is an attempt to balance the record and provide some perspective.

This idea is not mine, but due to a wonderful article in *Nature* by **Melanie I. Stefan**, who is a Lecturer in the School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. You can find her original article [here](#), her website [here](#), her publications [here](#), and follow her on Twitter under [@MelanieIStefan](#).

I am also not the first academic to post their CV of failures. Earlier examples are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

This CV is unlikely to be complete – it was written from memory and probably omits a lot of stuff. So if it's shorter than yours, it's likely because you have better memory, or because you're better at trying things than me.

Degree programs I did not get into

2008	PhD Program in Economics, Stockholm School of Economics
2003	Graduate Course in Medicine, Cambridge University Graduate Course in Medicine, UCL PhD Program in Psychology, Harvard University PhD Program in Neuroscience and Psychology, Stanford University
1999	BA in International Relations, London School of Economics

Academic positions and fellowships I did not get

2014	Harvard Kennedy School Assistant Professorship UC Berkeley Agricultural and Resource Economics Assistant Professorship MIT Brain & Cognitive Sciences Assistant Professorship This list is restricted to institutions where I had campus visits; the list of places where I had first-round interviews but wasn't invited for a campus visit, and where I wasn't invited to interview in the first place, is much longer and I will write it up when I get a chance. The list also shrouds the fact that I didn't apply to most of the top economics departments (Harvard, MIT, Yale, Stanford, Princeton, Chicago, Berkeley, LSE) because one of my advisors felt they could not write a strong letter for them.
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Awards and scholarships I did not get

2011	Swiss Network for International Studies PhD Award
2010	Society of Fellows, Harvard University Society in Science Scholarship University of Zurich Research Scholarship

2009	Human Frontiers Fellowship
2007	Mind-Brain-Behavior Award (Harvard University)
2006	Mind-Brain-Behavior Award (Harvard University)
2003	Fulbright Scholarship Haniel Scholarship (German National Merit Foundation)

Paper rejections from academic journals

2016	QJE, Experimental Economics
2015	AER x 2
2013	PNAS, Experimental Economics, Science, Neuron
2009	AER
2008	Science, Neuron, Nature Neuroscience, Journal of Neuroscience, Journal of Vision

Research funding I did not get

2016	MQ Mental Health Research Grant
2015	Russell Sage Research Grant (two separate ones)
2013	National Science Foundation Research Grant
2010	University of Zurich Research Grant Swiss National Science Foundation Research Grant
2009	Financial Innovation Grant International Labor Organization Research Grant 3ie Research Grant

Meta-Failures

2016	This darn CV of Failures has received way more attention than my entire body of academic work
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