

Nicholas Swanson

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Education

PhD Economics, University of California, Berkeley, 2017 - 2024 (Expected)

Fields: Development Economics (Primary), Labor Economics, Behavioral Economics (Secondary)

MSc Economics with *Distinction*, London School of Economics, 2015 – 2016.

Rank: 2nd / 108 students

B.A. Economics with *First Class Honors*, University of Cambridge, 2008-2011 .

Publications

Research Transparency is on the Rise in Economics, 2020, AEA Papers and Proceedings (with David Birke, Garret Christensen, Rebecca Littman, Edward Miguel, Elizabeth Levy Paluck and Zenan Wang)
Click for paper

Working Papers

Open Science Practices are on the Rise: The State of the Social Sciences (3S) Survey (with David Birke, Garret Christensen, Rebecca Littman, Edward Miguel, Elizabeth Levy Paluck and Zenan Wang)

Click for paper

Accepted: Nature Communications

Appropriability as a barrier to technology adoption: Evidence from Burundi

Research Question: Is there evidence of large distortions arising from a failure to invest in training workers in general skills? And what is the fundamental cause of this underinvestment?

Email for draft

Budget Neglect in Consumption Smoothing: A Field Experiment on Seasonal Hunger (with Ned Augenblick, Kelsey Jack, Supreet Kaur and Felix Masiye)

Research Question: Does "budget neglect" lead to misoptimization by agents in consumption-savings decisions?

Email for draft

Works in Progress

Kinship pressure and Employer-Employee matching distortions

Research Question: There are many family firms in developing countries. Is this partially due to social pressure to hire relatives?

Savings constraints and misprediction: evidence from Earned Wage Access data

Research Question: What are the welfare effects of earned wage access? Does this differ meaningfully by the heterogeneity in hours volatility workers face?

Mapping the distribution of worldwide slums (with Michael Gechter, Nick Tsivanidis)

Research Question: Where are slums located across the developing world? Which policies are contribute to more/less slum growth?

Presentations

2023 - PacDev, Warwick PhD Conference, IZA/CREST Conference: Labor Market Policy Evaluation, Advances in Field Experiments

2022 - Advances in Field Experiments, Steg Workshop, IPA GPRL, NEUDC

2021 - PEP Convening, PacDev, Early-Career Behavioral Economics Conference

2020 - Yale Whitebox Conference

Academic Awards and Honors

Stone Center Dissertation Fellowship (2023)

IRLE Dissertation Fellowship (2023)

Survey CTO Research Grant Awardee (2022)

Global Priorities Fellowship (2022)

Rocca Dissertation Fellowship (2x 2021/2022)

University of Cambridge MPhil Economics Stipend (£10,000) - declined (2015)

Kings Scholar (for distinguished performance in examinations) (2009, 2011)

Gerald Shove Prize (for distinguished performance in economics) (2009, 2011)

Grants

Lead PI only:

Weiss (2022 - \$ 48,120)

ATAI (2022 - \$ 8,377)

JPAL-JOI - \$ 7,310

PEP (2020 - \$ 10,000)

PEDL Exploratory Grant (2020 - £34,172)

EASST Grant Award (2020 - \$55,000)

CEGA Travel Grant Award (2019 - \$4,000)

CEGA Research Award (2019 - \$15,000)

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant, Ted Miguel (2018/19), Nick Tsivanidis (2019/2020)

Marshall Institute Research Assistant, June 2016 - May 2017

Research Assistant to Professor Nava Ashraf (London School of Economics)

Field Research Assistant, April 2014 - June 2015

Research Assistant to Professor Sendhil Mullainathan (Harvard), Dr Heather Schofield (University of Pennsylvania), Dr Frank Schilbach (MIT) and Dr Anuj Shah (University of Chicago)

Service

Referee - Journal of Development Economics

Other Professional Experience

Consultant - Covid Group Testing Project, Berkeley, June-July 2020

Investment Banking Analyst, Evercore Partners, London, UK, February 2013 - March 2014

Research Analyst, HSBC, London, UK, September 2011 - November 2012

Skills and other

Programming

Python, STATA, Matlab, R, \LaTeX

Languages

English (native), French (beginner), Italian (beginner)