

# TUULI TÄHTINEN

tuuli.tahtinen@eui.eu ◊ sites.google.com/view/tuulitahtinen

European University Institute, Department of Economics

Villa La Fonte, Via delle Fontanelle 18, 50014 San Domenico di Fiesole, Italy

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Placement Director:

**David K. Levine**

david.levine@eui.eu

+39 0554685913

Placement Administrative Officer:

**Martina Zucca**

martina.zucca@eui.eu

+39 0554685982

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy, Public Economics, Development Economics, Applied Microeconomics

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## REFERENCES

**Andrea Mattozzi**

Professor of Economics

University of Bologna

andrea.mattozzi@unibo.it

**Thomas Crossley**

Professor of Economics

European University Institute

thomas.crossley@eui.eu

**Enrico Cantoni**

Professor of Economics

University of Bologna

enrico.cantoni@unibo.it

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## EDUCATION

**European University Institute, Florence**

2017–present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis: *Essays in Empirical Political Economy*

Advisors: Andrea Mattozzi, Thomas Crossley

Expected Completion Date: April 2023

**Aalto University, Finland**

2021, 2022

Visiting Doctoral Student

**European University Institute, Florence**

2017–2018

M.Res., Economics

**University of Helsinki**

2013–2016

M.Soc.Sc., Economics

**University of Helsinki, Aleksanteri Institute**

2013–2016

Expertise in Russian and Eastern European Studies

**Kazan (Volga region) Federal University, Russia**

2014

Student Exchange

**University of Helsinki**

2010–2013

B.Soc.Sc., Economics

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## RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Pellervo Economic Research PTT. Helsinki, Finland.**

2016–2017

Economist

**Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority. Helsinki, Finland.**

2015

Research Assistant

**VATT Institute for Economic Research. Helsinki, Finland.**

2014

Research Assistant

## TEACHING

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Teacher Training Certificate: Introduction to Teaching in Higher Education.  
European University Institute.

2020

## CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

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**2022:** Helsinki GSE Development Economics PhD Workshop (scheduled); Helsinki GSE Labor Economics PhD Seminar (scheduled)

**2021:** EALE Annual Conference; EEA-ESEM Congress; Annual Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics; 3rd International Conference on European Studies; Annual Congress of the Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics; 69th Congress of the French Economic Association; 55th Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association; XXIII Applied Economics Meeting; 3rd QMUL Economics and Finance Workshop for PhD & Post-doctoral Students; 10th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association; Scottish Economic Society Annual Conference; Annual Meeting of the European Public Choice Society; ETH Zürich (Public Policy Group); 14th RGS Doctoral Conference in Economics

**2020:** EUI Microeconometrics Working Group

**2019:** 41st Annual Meeting of the Finnish Economic Association

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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Co-organizer: Development Economics PhD Workshop at Helsinki GSE  
Referee: *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*

## GRANTS

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PhD Grant, Academy of Finland

2017–2021

PhD Completion Grant, European University Institute

2020

## RESEARCH

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### Job Market Paper

*“Populism and Ideological Convergence: Evidence from a Multiparty System”*

Populist parties have gained significant power in European politics in the last decades, raising concerns over the potentially contagious effect of populism. I study how populist party representation in local councils affects other parties' ideological positions. I use variation created by close elections to identify ideological shifts resulting from a change in party representation, holding voter preferences constant. I derive ideological positions from a voting advice application, and model candidates' responses using item response theory to obtain measures of ideology that are comparable across election years. I show that higher populist representation causes mainstream parties to become more ideologically aligned with the populist party. The results demonstrate that increased populist representation can spread populist ideologies.

### Working Papers

*“When Facebook is the Internet: the Role of Social Media in Ethnic Conflict”*, [EUI WP 2021/01](#)

This paper investigates whether social media affects the intensity of ethnic conflict. To distinguish the potential effects of social media from those of the broader internet, I focus on the ongoing Myanmar conflict because in such context internet is mainly accessed via Facebook. To identify the causal effect of social media on conflict, I take advantage of a shock in Facebook availability and use local variation in cell phone coverage as an exogenous determinant of social media use. Results indicate that on average

social media availability reduced the occurrence of conflict. However, the analysis reveals important regional differences suggesting that inflammatory content on social media may escalate conflict in areas where ethnic tensions are particularly high.

### Work in Progres

*“Making the Cut: Close Elections and Local Welfare Policies”*, with Nikolaj Broberg and Thomas Walsh  
*“Politician Ideology and Policy Outcomes”*

### Policy Papers (in Finnish)

*“Profitability, competition, and development needs in the private rental housing market”*, with Eeva Alho, Valtteri Härmälä, Antti Kekäläinen, Kirsi Noro and Lauri Vuori, Publications of the Government’s analysis, assessment and research activities 9/2018.

*“Immigrants on the labour market – A study of the working lives of immigrants arriving in Finland in different years”*, with Henna Busk, Signe Jauhiainen, Antti Kekäläinen and Satu Nivalainen, Finnish Centre for Pensions, Studies 6/2016.

*“Patient freedom of choice, the Swedish model and Finland’s health and social services reform – from the point of view of functionality of the markets and economic effects”*, with Ari Ahonen and Liisa Vuorio, Publications of the Finnish Competition and Consumer Authority 6/2015.

## SKILLS

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<b>Software</b>	R, Stata, MATLAB, QGis, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
<b>Languages</b>	Finnish (native), English (fluent), Swedish (basic), Italian (basic), German (basic)

Last updated: October, 2022