


Véra Zabrodina

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Economist with 10+ years of experience using causal inference and data analytics to drive strategic decisions.

WORK EXPERIENCE

University of California, Berkeley

Berkeley, CA

Postdoctoral Fellow

Sep 2024 – Present

- Built theoretical and econometric models to measure how pricing and contract design drive consumer choices in health and unemployment insurance.
- Implemented models by analyzing large datasets with 100M+ observations (insurance claims, social security records).
- Generated evidence-based strategies to mitigate insurer risk and optimize market efficiency.

University of Basel

Basel, Switzerland

Lecturer and Postdoctoral Researcher

Sep 2022 – Aug 2024

Doctoral Teaching and Research Assistant

Sep 2017 – Aug 2022

- Identified how insurance and tax policies shape labor market outcomes, informing optimal policy design.
- Designed and delivered 7 courses (140h, 200+ MSc and PhD students) on causal inference and applied econometrics.
- Drove reforms enhancing PhD training and streamlining grant evaluation across 6 university committees.

Unisanté

Lausanne, Switzerland

Health Economist

Oct 2015 – Jun 2019

- Evaluated cost-containment policies and developed healthcare utilization models to optimize regional supply planning.
- Advised policymakers and industry stakeholders on 4 major provider payment reforms in Switzerland.

SELECTED RESEARCH

- **Unemployment Insurance with Policy Differentiation** (with Conny Wunsch). *Review of Economic Studies*, revise and resubmit. Methods: Multidimensional RDD + Model of optimal unemployment insurance with heterogeneity. Findings: Demonstrated how tailoring benefits to worker age and job history enhances fiscal efficiency.
- **Timing Moral Hazard under Deductibles in Health Insurance**. Methods: Event study with multiple treatments + Dynamic model of healthcare consumption with nonlinear cost-sharing. Findings: Consumers adjust care timing to reduce out-of-pocket costs, shifting financial risk to insurers.
- **Income Tax Notches and Working Hours Mismatch** (with Ulrike Unterhofer), *Journal of Human Resources*, revise and resubmit. Methods: Bunching, difference-in-differences. Findings: Tax benefits trap 14% of small-job workers in underemployment by shaping firm hiring preferences.

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, University of Basel. *Best Doctoral Dissertation Award*.

Sep 2017 – Aug 2022

- Public finance, labor and health economics. Visits: UC Berkeley, VU Amsterdam, Erasmus University Rotterdam

MSc in Economics, University of Lausanne. *Highest GPA Award*.

Aug 2013 – Jun 2015

BSc in Economics, University of Lausanne.

Aug 2010 – Jun 2013

HONORS AND GRANTS

- Secured over **USD 240k+ in competitive grants as principal investigator** from institutional and private funding bodies, incl. the Swiss National Science Foundation.
- **Awards for research excellence**: International Health Economics Association, Student Paper Prize, 2023 and Early Career Award, 2019; Swiss Society of Economics and Statistics, Young Economist Award, 2023.

SPEAKING AND THOUGHT LEADERSHIP

- Delivered **13 invited talks at top institutions**, incl. UPenn, UC Berkeley, Georgetown, Tilburg, Manchester, Mannheim.
- Presented at **30+ conferences**, incl. Society of Labor Economists, European Economic Association, Econometric Society.
- **Publications**: Health Economics, BMC Health Services Research, PLOS ONE.
- Refereeing: American Economic Review, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Health Economics.

SKILLS

- **Data and analytics**: Applied econometrics, causal inference, policy evaluation, big data analysis, consumer demand modelling, risk assessment, data visualization and communication.
- **Technical**: R, Stata, Python, SQL, Git, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign.
- **Languages**: French (native), Russian (native), English (fluent), German (intermediate).
- **Interests**: Tennis (play in USTA leagues), skiing, web design (6 years part-time at ESL Education and freelancing).