

# Vesa-Matti Heikkuri

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citizenship: Finnish

## Employment

### **Tampere University**

Assistant Professor, 2025-

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, 2023-2024

## Education

### **Brown University**

Ph.D., Economics, 2023

M.A., Economics, 2018

### **University of Helsinki**

M.Sc., Mathematics, 2022

### **University of Groningen**

Visiting student (Erasmus), Spring 2015

### **University of Oulu**

M.Sc., Economics, 2016

B.Sc., Economics, 2014

## Teaching Experience

### **Instructor, Tampere University**

Advanced macroeconomics, 2024-2025

Master's thesis seminar, 2024-2025

### **Teaching Assistant, Brown University**

Intermediate Microeconomics (Mathematical), Professor Rajiv Vohra, Spring 2023

Mathematics for Economists (graduate course), Lecturer Alex Poterack, Fall 2018 and Fall 2022

Economic Growth, Professor David Weil, Fall 2021

Essential Mathematics for Economics, Lecturer Alex Poterack, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and Summer 2021

Economania (Summer course for high school students), Summer 2019

Economic Development, Professor Louis Putterman, Spring 2019

### **Teaching Assistant, University of Oulu**

Economic Theory II (macro), Professor Mikko Puhakka,

Fall 2014 and Fall 2015

## Presentations

**2025:** Finnish Economic Association Annual Meeting, INTEDU Conference

**2024:** Finnish Economic Association Annual Meeting, ZEW Public Finance Conference, Helsinki GSE Labor & Public Economics Seminar, Helsinki Macro Research Away Day, International Institute of Public Finance Annual Congress<sup>†</sup>, 38th meeting of the European Economic Association, European Association for Labour Economists Conference, Helsinki GSE Macro Seminar  
**2023:** Population Association of America Annual Meeting<sup>†</sup>, ECINEQ Meeting  
**2022:** Brown University Growth lab, Population Association of America Annual Meeting, Brown University Theory seminar  
**2021:** Stone Center on Socio-Economic Inequality at City University of New York<sup>†</sup>, Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research<sup>†</sup>, Brown University Growth breakfast  
**2020:** Brown University Macro lunch

## Professional Activities

### Referee

Empirical Economics, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Economic Growth, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Design

### Organizer

FIT seminar 2024-  
 Co-organizer of Workshop on Wealth Inequality, Wealth Accumulation, and Public Policy at Tampere University, January 2024

## Awards and Fellowships

### Brown University Merit Dissertation Fellowship

Spring 2022

### James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Wealth and Income Inequality Project Fellowship

Spring 2021

### Stephen R. Ehrlich Fellowship Fund

2017-2018

## Languages and Skills

Finnish (native), English (fluent)  
 Matlab, R, Stata, Python, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

## Working Papers

*Population Aging, Cohort Replacement, and the Evolution of Income Inequality in the United States* [Latest version]  
 with Matthias Schief

This paper examines the impact of demographic change on household income inequality in the United States, both historically and prospectively. We emphasize the distinct roles of population aging and cohort replacement and develop a methodology to study their joint compositional effect. We document that cohorts born later in the 20th century embody higher levels of income inequality compared to earlier-born cohorts, and we argue that most of the increase in inequality over the past two decades can be accounted for by demographic change. Moreover, we predict that future demographic change will continue to put significant upward pressure on household income inequality in the United States.

*Subgroup Decomposition of the Gini Coefficient: A New Solution to an Old Problem* [Latest version]

with Matthias Schief

*Revise and Resubmit at Econometrica*

We study inequality decomposition by population subgroups. We define properties of a satisfactory decomposition and ask what these properties imply for the decomposition of familiar inequality indices. We find that the Gini coefficient, the generalized entropy indices, and the Foster-Shneyerov indices all admit satisfactory decomposition formulas derived from a common set of axioms. While our axiomatic approach recovers the known decomposition formulas for the generalized entropy and the Foster-Shneyerov indices, it leads us to a novel decomposition formula for the Gini coefficient. The decomposition of the Gini coefficient is easy to compute, and it has both a geometric and an arithmetic intuition.

Work in Progress

*On the Determinacy of Equilibrium in a Continuous-time Overlapping Generations Model*

*Re-evaluating the Effect of the Finnish Comprehensive School Reform on Intergenerational Mobility*

with Andrea Albanese and Stefano Lombardi

*Tight Bounds for the Gini Coefficient of Composite Populations*

with Matthias Schief

*Optimal Transport and the Measurement of Inequality*

with Tommaso Coen and Matthias Schief

<sup>†</sup>Presentation by co-author