

Ulf Zölitz
Curriculum Vitae

June 2026

Contact

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Employment

- 2023 – Associate Professor (with tenure), University of Zurich,
Department of Economics & Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development
- 2017 –2023 Assistant Professor, University of Zurich,
Department of Economics & Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development
- 2014 –2017 Postdoc, IZA and briq, Bonn

Education

- 2014 Ph.D. in Economics, Maastricht University
- 2014 Visiting student, Northwestern University
- 2010 Master in Economics, University of Bonn

Academic affiliations

IZA Research Fellow (since 2017)
CESifo Research Network Affiliate (since 2018)
CEPR Research Affiliate (since 2018)
Co-investigator University of Zurich Research Priority Program (URPP) Equality of Opportunity

Publications

- Peers Affect Personality Development, with Xiaoyue Shan;
Review of Economics and Statistics, forthcoming.
- The Causal Impact of Socio-Emotional Skills Training on Educational Success, with Giuseppe Sorrenti,
Denis Ribeaud, and Manuel Eisner. **Review of Economic Studies** (29), 2025.
- The Effect of Higher-Achieving Peers on Major Choices and Labor Market Outcomes, with Jan Feld
Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (196), 2022.
- The Impact of Peer Personality on Academic Achievement,
with Bart Golsteyn and Arjan Non. **Journal of Political Economy** (129)3, 2021.
- Achievement Rank Affects Performance and Major Choices in College,
with Benjamin Elsner and Ingo Isphording. **Economic Journal** (131)632, 2021.
- The Effect of Peer Gender on Major Choice in Business School,
with Jan Feld. **Management Science** (67)11, 2021.
- Exposure to More Female Peers Widens the Gender Gap in STEM Participation,
with Anne Ardila Brenøe. **Journal of Labor Economics** (38)4, 2020.
- Are Professors Worth It? – The Value-Added and Costs of University Instructors,
with Jan Feld and Nicolas Salamanca. **Journal of Human Resources** (55)3, 2020.
- Gender Bias in Teaching Evaluations, with Friederike Mengel and Jan Sauermann.
Journal of the European Economic Association (17)2, 2019.
- Students Are Almost as Effective as Professors in University Teaching,
with Jan Feld and Nicolas Salamanca. **Economics of Education Review** (73), 2019.

- “High” Achievers? - Cannabis Access and Academic Performance,
with Olivier Marie. **Review of Economic Studies** 84(3), 2017.
- Understanding Peer Effects – On the Nature, Estimation and Channels of Peer Effects,
with Jan Feld. **Journal of Labor Economics** 35(2), 2017.
- Parental Preferences for Primary School Characteristics, with Lex Borghans and Bart Golsteyn.
The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy. 15(1), 85–117, 2015.
- School Quality and the Development of Cognitive Skills between Age Four and Six,
with Lex Borghans and Bart Golsteyn. **PLoS One**. July 2015.

Selected working papers and projects

- Same-Sex Teacher Effects, with Jan Feld, Alexandra de Gendre, and Nicolás Salamanca.
revise & resubmit: **Review of Economic Studies**
- The Value of a Peer, with Ingo Isphording,
reject & resubmit: **Journal of Political Economy**.
- Disconnecting Women: Gender Disparities in the Impact of Online Instruction, with Xiaoyue Shan
and Uschi Backes-Gellner, revise and resubmit: **Journal of Human Resources**
- Global Evidence on Parenting,
with Marta Golin and Helge Liebert.
- Fertility Regrets in Parents,
with Raffaella Dimastrochicco.

Teaching

University of Zurich: Microeconomics I, Economics of Education, Economics of Education,
Economics of Child and Youth Development, Mentoring for the next Generation

Funding

Principal investigator: Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) project funding
“Assigned by Algorithms? Using Machine-Learning to Optimize Peer Group Allocation” CHF 468’482
(~ 578,000 USD)

Principal investigator: Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) project funding
“The World Parenting Survey” CHF 474’760 (~ 587,000 USD)

Principal investigator: Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development funding “The World Parenting
Survey” CHF 500’000 (~ 521,000 USD)

Presentations and seminars

- 2026 Bocconi, Utrecht University, Generalizing Treatment Effects in Education Workshop, Jacobs Center Retreat.
- 2025 CESifo education workshop, Family and Education Workshop Nappa Valley, Ca' Foscari University of Venice, MPI Bonn, Maastricht University
- 2024 IIES Stockholm, Preferences, Traits, and Skills Workshop University of Amsterdam, Jacobs Center Retreat.
- 2023 Keynote LEER Conference Leuven, CESifo education conference, University of Rotterdam, FAU Erlangen-Nürnberg, HSG St Gallen, MPI Bonn, Royal Holloway.

- 2022 Bocconi, NHH (FAIR) Norwegian School of Economics, SOLE meeting Minneapolis.
- 2021 ASSA meeting, EUI Florence, Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Queens University, Institut d'Economia de Barcelona (IEB), Next Generation Economics Seminar, Joint IZA & Jacobs Center Workshop: Consequences of Covid-19 for Child and Youth Development, CESifo Area Conference on Economics of Education, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt.
- 2020 Harvard University, SOFI Stockholm, University of Konstanz, Ski and Labor Seminar Engelberg.
- 2019 University of Chicago, DICE Düsseldorf, ZEW Mannheim, Jacobs Center CCWD workshop Zurich, VATT Helsinki, WU Vienna Behavioral Public Economics Workshop, Bristol BEPIB Workshop, Lund University Workshop on Economics of Education, CESifo Munich Lunchtime Seminar, SOLE meeting Arlington, NBER Children's Program Meeting Boston, Berlin Applied Micro Seminar, briq/IZA Workshop on Behavioral Economics of Education, NTNU Trondheim, University of Lugano, Ausschuss für Bildungsökonomie Universität Göttingen, Ski and Labor Seminar Engelberg.
- 2018 University of Mannheim, CEMFI Madrid, University of Sussex, University of Essex, SOLE meeting Toronto, CESifo Area Conference on the Economics of Education, IZA World Labor Conference, Victoria University Wellington, Milan Labor Lunch Seminar, IWAE workshop Catanzaro, briq Workshop Skills, Preferences and Educational Inequality, z-proso workshop.
- 2017 Bocconi University, Copenhagen Business School, University of Zurich, SOLE conference, EALE conference, Higher Education and (In)Equality of Opportunity Workshop, Lund University, IZA education workshop.
- 2016 Oxford Applied Micro Seminar, UC Santa Barbara, Society of Labor Economists conference' SOLE, IWAE workshop, NBER SI, Causal Mechanisms Workshop LMU, University of Hamburg.
- 2015 UC Davis, University of Colorado Denver, Montana State University, SEA meeting New Orleans, University of Rotterdam, Seminar at Tinbergen Institute Amsterdam, VfS-Annual Conference Münster, Sixth International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education (IWAE), ZEW research seminar Mannheim, University of Gothenburg, Department of Economics, Göteborg, Sweden, IZA Brown Bag Seminar, IZA, Bonn, Germany, LEER workshop on Education Economics, Leuven, Belgium, Third Lisbon Research Workshop on Economics, Statistics and Econometrics of Education, University of Lisbon, Portugal.
- 2014 Seminar at RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, USA, Black lunch University of Chicago, Northwestern University, Dutch Economist Day Amsterdam, Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB), Maastricht University, Maastricht, Annual Conference of the European Association of Labour Economists' (EALE), IZA, NBER's Summer Institute - Economics of Crime Working Group' (co-author), 13th IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting of Labor Economists, Society of Labor Economists conference (SOLE), IZA Brown Bag Seminar, 16th IZA CEPR European Summer Symposium in Labour Economics ESSLE, Buch, Germany.
- 2013 EALE conference, IWAE Catanzaro, ESPE conference University of Aarhus, Maastricht, Onderwijs Research Dagen (ORD), University of Brussels, Second Lisbon Research Workshop on Economics, Statistics and Econometrics of Education 2012: Day for Labor Economists, Catholic University of Leuven, Seminar on the Development and Utilization of Human Resources (DUHR), Maastricht, Onderwijs Research Dagen (ORD), University of Wageningen.
- 2011 Topics-Course on Experiments and Behavioral Economics, University of Bonn.

Supervision of PhD candidates

Primary advisor of Xiaoyue Shan (NUS), Tuomas Kari (LSE, postdoc), Niccolo Cattadori (Bank of Italy), and Rafael Hernandez Pachon (Aalto University, postdoc) and Ana Brás-Monteiro. Co-advisor of Justus Bamert at ETH Zurich and Maximilian Mähr at University of Mannheim.

Referee service

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Quarterly Review of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Review: Insights, Journal of the European Economic Association, Economic Journal, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economics Policy, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Management Science, Journal of Health Economics, American Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Labor Economics, Economics of Education Review, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization

Other activities

Workshop (co)organizer: 2021 & 2020 Jacobs Center/IZA workshop: Consequences of COVID-19 for Child and Youth Development; 2019 Jacobs Center & Center for Child Well-Being and Development Workshop; 2019 joint briq/IZA workshop: Behavioral Economics of Education; 2018 Jacobs Center & Center for Child Well-Being and Development Workshop; 2017 joint briq/IZA workshop: Cognitive and Non-cognitive Skills; 2017 Jacobs Center Workshop on Longitudinal Studies; 2016 IZA Workshop: Education, Interventions and Experiments; 2016 & 2015 Organizer of the IZA Summer School.

Seminar organizer: 2021-2026 University of Zurich Empirical Micro Seminar; 2013-2014 Maastricht University Development and Utilization of Human Resources (DUHR) seminar.