Justus Bamert

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Academic Positions

Princeton University, Visiting Postdoctoral Research Associate	2025
ETH Zurich, Postdoctoral Researcher	2025

Education

ETH Zurich, Ph.D., Economics	2019-2025
Harvard Kennedy School, Research Fellow	2022-2024
ETH Zurich, M.A., Comparative and International Studies	2012-2014
University of Zurich, B.A., Political Sciences	2009-2012

Research Fields

Labor Economics, Education Economics

Working Papers

Brief Exposure to Female STEM Professionals and Students' Trajectories in College

I study how STEM outreach events in high school, featuring talks by 1,500 female and male professionals, affect students' college trajectories. Using administrative data on all Swiss high school graduates, I find that exposure in the final year of high school increases college STEM enrollment by 4.1% and STEM degree completion by 7.7%. Events with a quasi-random higher share of female speakers have larger effects for both female and male students. Presentation style alone explains a significant share of these effects: female speakers are more likely to use interactive formats, to which students respond positively. Accounting for interactivity reduces the female-speaker effect by 37%.

A Free Lunch? How Changing Childcare Defaults Increases Parental Labor Supply

I analyze a policy reform that shifts public lunchtime childcare in kindergartens and schools in the city of Zurich, Switzerland, from an opt-in to an opt-out system. In the new system, children are automatically signed up for low-cost lunchtime childcare unless parents actively deregister their child. Leveraging the staggered rollout in an event-study design, I document that the policy increases public childcare enrollment by on average 2.3 additional hours per week, compared to a baseline of 6.0 hours. The policy increases the employment rate of mothers with children in kindergarten by 4.8% and total earnings by 7.5%, and has a small positive effect on the extensive margin of fathers. The effects are particularly pronounced among low-income families, immigrant parents, and families with a male breadwinner model. Investigating the underlying mechanism, I document that parents react to the default component of the policy, suggesting that behavioral frictions play an important role in public childcare uptake.

Selected Work in Progress

Female Mentors and Female Students' STEM Participation
AEA RCT Registry 0013028
I investigate how mentoring programs shape female students' educational choices. Existing evidence across studies suggests that female mentors are most likely to impact female students' outcomes in contexts in which students have few other role models. Collaborating with the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences, this ongoing work investigates the impact of a seven-month mentoring program that pairs female students with female STEM professionals, focusing on two groups: students with and without STEM role models prior to the intervention. Exploiting oversubscription, I randomize access to the program and assess its impact on students' college educational choices, tracked through administrative data, as well as on their knowledge and self-concept in STEM. In June 2024, a first cohort of 203 students completed the baseline survey and was randomized into the program.

Availability of Specialization Tracks and STEM Choice in High School
I study how the availability of high-school specialization tracks affects students' participation in STEM in high school. Using Swiss administrative data and a fixed-effects strategy, I compare STEM enrollment of students who have different high-school tracks available at the high school that is closest to their place of residence, while controlling for a large set of fixed effects. My results show that while male students are significantly more likely to enroll in a STEM track when the track is available, STEM track availability is not correlated with female students' choices. Conversely, both male and female students are more likely to enroll in STEM when the language specialization, the most popular non-STEM track, is not offered. My findings suggest that the structure of students' choice sets can be an important tool for increasing female students' STEM participation.

The Effects of Early Access to Job Ads on Job Seekers and Firms' Recruitment
(with Michael Siegenthaler, Andreas Beerli, and Daniel Kopp)

Grants

ETH Zurich, Executive Board	USD 75,000
Swiss National Science Foundation, Postdoc Mobility scholarship	USD 150,000
Swiss Federal Office for Gender Equality	USD 164,000
Ernst Göhner Stiftung	USD 47,000
ETH Zurich, Executive Board	USD 24,000
Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs	USD 212,000

(with Michael Siegenthaler, Andreas Beerli, and Daniel Kopp)

Teaching

The Economics of Work, Wages, and Discrimination, Lecturer, Dep. of Management, Technology, and Economics, ETH Zurich	2025
Corporate Finance, Teaching Assistant, Department of Finance, University of Zurich	2012
Advanced Comparative Politics, Teaching Assistant, Department of Political Science, University of Zurich	2011

Presentations

2026 World Bank/Bocconi, North East Universities Gender Day NEUGD 2026, CESifo Area Conference on Labor Economics, Nottingham GEP Labour Economics and Globalisation Workshop, BSE Summer Forum, IEB IV Workshop on Public Economics

2025 SKILS 2025, World Bank Mend the Gender Gap Workshop, LSE CEP Education conference 2025, BSE Summer Forum, IWAEE International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education, SOLE Sixth World Labor Conference, MIT Policy Impacts Annual Conference, ESWC Econometric Society World Congress, Princeton Labor Seminar

2024	Harvard Labor Lunch Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School Economics and Social Policy Workshop, HKS WAPPP Seminar, CESifo/ifo Junior Workshop on the Economics of Education, IZA Summer School, EALE Annual Conference 2024, IZA/ECONtribute Workshop on the Economics of Education
2019-2023	Harvard Labor Lunch Seminar, University of Zurich Labor Lunch Seminar, University of Zurich Conference on Gender and Inequality, Workshop on Shaping Digital Job Search Strategies and Outcomes

Policy Work

Supporting Swiss High Schools With Data Insights on the School-Specific Gender Gap in STEM, project website: www.edumap.ch
This project informs school leaderships' decision making about the gender gap in STEM. High schools in Switzerland lack access to information on the tertiary study choices of their former graduates. The project addresses this gap by collaborating with the Federal Statistics Office to provide school leaderships through a new online platform with detailed insights on the school-specific gender gap in STEM choice. For the project, I have acquired project funding of CHF 200,000 (USD 230,000), including funds for a pre-doc position. Several of my research projects build on the work done for Edumap.

Graduates from ETH Zurich and Their Contribution to the Swiss Labor Market, report for *ETH Zurich Executive Board*, 2025

What Is the Employment Situation of Female STEM Graduates in Switzerland?, *KOF Analyses*, 2022

Evaluation of the Job Registration Requirement, technical report for *State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO*, 2021

Gender Gaps in STEM: A Descriptive Analysis, *KOF Analyses*, 2020

Past Employment

Founding Employee of Wingtra, spinoff from ETH Zurich developing aerial robots, growth to 65 employees, awarded rank 7 of Swiss Startup Top 100 in 2018. 2015-2018

Languages

German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Italian (beginner)

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