

## HANNA M. SCHWANK

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### EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, May 2022 (expected)  
Dissertation Title: *Essays in Economic History and Labor Economics*  
Dissertation Committee: Samuel Bazzi, James Feigenbaum, Johannes Schmieider, and Robert Margo

M.A., Political Economy, Boston University, Boston, MA, 2018

M.Sc., Public Economics, Free University Berlin, Berlin, Germany, March 2016

B.Sc., Economics, Free University Berlin, Berlin, Germany, March 2013

### FIELDS OF INTEREST

Economic History, Labor Economics, Gender Economics

### WORKING PAPERS

“[Disruptive Effects of Natural Disasters: The 1906 San Francisco Fire](#),” September 2021. Job Market paper.  
“[Childhood Migration and Education: Evidence from Indonesia](#),” September 2021, submitted.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Gender Wage Gap Revisited: Evidence from Worker Deaths” (joint with Hannah Illing)  
“A Silver Lining? Women and the 1918 Flu Pandemic”

### PRESENTATIONS

24<sup>th</sup> Colloquium on Personnel Economics, Herning, Denmark, 2022 (scheduled)  
Economic History Association Annual Meeting, Tucson, AZ, poster session, 2021 (scheduled)  
Florida State University Applied Micro Seminar, Tallahassee, FL, 2021 (scheduled)  
NBER SI Development of the American Economy, Cambridge, MA, poster session, 2021  
Friedrich Alexander University Applied Micro Workshop, Nuremberg, Germany, 2020, 2021  
10<sup>th</sup> Urban Economics Association European Meeting, Copenhagen, Sweden, 2021  
Institute for Employment Research (IAB) Brown Bag Workshop, Nuremberg, Germany, 2020  
Harvard University Economic History Workshop, Cambridge, MA, 2020  
Novafrica PhD Workshop on Migration and Development, Lisbon, Portugal, 2019  
2<sup>nd</sup> CReAM/RWI Workshop on the Economics of Migration, Essen, Germany, 2019  
Boston University Global Development Policy Center HCI Speaker Series, Boston, MA, 2019

**FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS**

Human Capital Initiative Research Fellow, Boston University GDP Center, 2018-2022  
Summer Research Grant, Boston University, 2017-2020  
Graduate Student Grant, Fulbright Association, 2014-15  
Scholarship for Undergraduate and Graduate Studies, Friedrich-Ebert-Foundation, 2011-16

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant for Johannes Schmieder, Boston University, Spring 2015, 2017-18, Fall 2021  
Research Assistant for James Feigenbaum, Boston University, Fall 2019, Spring 2021  
Researcher, Institute for Employment Research (IAB) Nuremberg, Fall 2020  
Research Assistant for Samuel Bazzi, Boston University, 2018-2019  
Research Assistant, German Institute for Economic Research (DIW) Berlin, 2013-16

**REFEREE EXPERIENCE**

*Economics Bulletin*

**DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

Empirical Microeconomics Reading Group, Boston University, Organizer, 2018-20  
Graduate Economics Association, Boston University, Officer, 2018-19

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Instructor, Behavioral Economics (Undergraduate), Department of Economics, Boston University, Spring 2020

**LANGUAGES**

German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate), Spanish (basic)

**COMPUTER SKILLS:** Stata,  $\LaTeX$ , ArcGIS

**CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS:** Germany/F1

**REFERENCES**

**Professor Samuel Bazzi**

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University of California, San Diego  
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**Professor Johannes F. Schmieder**

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## **Disruptive Effects of Natural Disasters: The 1906 San Francisco Fire** (Job Market Paper)

Natural disasters are growing in frequency globally. Understanding how vulnerable populations respond to these disasters is essential for an effective policy response. This paper explores the short- and long-run consequences of the 1906 San Francisco Fire, one of the largest fires in American history. It destroyed nearly half of the residential buildings in the city. Historical records suggest that exogenous factors such as wind and the availability of water determined where the fire stopped. Residents of the affected areas had to evacuate, but the city was rebuilt within a few years. Using linked Census records, I follow residents of San Francisco and their children from 1900 up to 1940. Destroyed and unaffected areas may have been different on average, so to control for confounding factors, I implement spatial regression discontinuity design across the boundary of the razed district. I find that the fire increased the short-run migration rate of affected residents by 6.3 percentage points. Victims switched to lower paying occupations and were less likely to be self-employed in 1910 and the following decades. Experiencing the disaster disrupted children's school attendance and led to an average loss of six months of education. As a consequence, there is more downward and less upward intergenerational mobility among affected children. Overall, my findings reject a reversal of fortune for the survivors of the disaster.

## **Childhood Migration and Education: Evidence from Indonesia**

Millions of families migrate every year in search of better opportunities. Whether these opportunities materialize for the children brought with them depends on the quality of the destination that their parents selected. Using Indonesian Census data, I find that average differences in educational outcomes are small between children who moved domestically and those who did not. However, conditional on having migrated, destination turns out to be very important. Exploiting variation in the age of migration, I show that children who spend more time growing up in better districts have higher graduation rates and more years of completed schooling. These effects are persistent and carry over to better labor market outcomes. Overall, my findings suggest substantial heterogeneity of returns to childhood migration with respect to destination.

## **The Gender Wage Gap Revisited: Evidence from Worker Deaths** (with Hannah Illing)

Previous literature has established that women earn less than men, a pattern that is strikingly stable across countries, yet declining over time. One challenge when studying the gender wage gap is that men and women differ in (un)observable characteristics, and that women may sort into different jobs than men. In this paper we investigate how substitutable women and men are if they work in the exact same job position. We first identify unexpected worker deaths in German social security data in 1980-2019. We then compute the wage gap between the deceased worker and their successor for different gender combinations. We find that holding the job position constant, men who replace deceased women earn substantially higher wages. The opposite is true when women follow deceased men. The implied "replacement gender wage gap" for full-time workers in the 1980 to 2019 period is about 14 percent. In addition, we find that the gap has decreased since 1980. It is higher in West Germany compared to East Germany.