

David Yanagizawa-Drott

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<https://yanagizawadrott.com>

University of Zurich, Department of Economics
Schönberggasse 1, 8001, Zürich, Switzerland.

+41 44 634 61 53
david.yanagizawa-drott@econ.uzh.ch

CURRENT POSITION

UBS Foundation Professor of Economics

Department of Economics, University of Zurich (UZH)

UBS Center for Economics in Society (UZH)

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2016 – 2026	Professor of Development and Emerging Markets, Dept. of Economics, UZH
2014 – 2016	Associate Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University
2010 – 2014	Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Harvard University

VISITING POSITIONS

Sep 2013 – Apr 2014 Visiting Assistant Professor, MIT Economics Department

EDUCATION

PhD, Economics. IIES Stockholm University, 2010

MSc, Economics. University of Gothenburg, Sweden, 2005

BA, Economics and Japanese. University of Gothenburg, Sweden, 2004

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Co-Chair, Project AI Evidence, Poverty Action Lab at MIT (Since 2025)

Co-Founder, Scientific Lead KOYA Labs (Since 2024)

Associate Editor, *Journal of Political Economy* (Since 2022)

Associate Editor, *Quarterly Journal of Economics* (2020-2025)

Editorial Board, *Econometrica* (2022-2025)

Editorial Board, *Review of Economic Studies* (2019-2025)

Board of Editors, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* (2016-2022)

Associate Editor, *Review of Economics and Statistics* (2016-2019)

Associate Editor, *Journal of the European Economic Association* (2019-2022)

AWARDS

[Yrjö Jahnsson Award](#) European Economic Association (2025)

[Ambergsska Priset](#) The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences (2011)

Excellence in Refereeing Awards: *JEEA* (2016), *AER: Insights* (2020)

CURRENT AFFILIATIONS

[CEPR](#) | Research Affiliate

[J-PAL Poverty Action Lab](#) | Affiliated Professor

[BREAD](#) | Fellow

[EUDN](#) | Full member

PREVIOUS AFFILIATIONS

National Bureau of Economic Research ([NBER](#)) | Political Economy | Member

Weatherhead Center for International Affairs ([WCFA](#)) | Faculty affiliate

Center for International Development ([CID](#)) | Faculty affiliate

[Carr Center](#) for Human Rights Policy | Faculty affiliate

Harvard Humanitarian Initiative ([HHI](#)) | Faculty member

PUBLICATIONS [[Google Scholar](#)]

Going Viral (with Marcel Caesmann, Bruno Caprettini & Hans-Joachim Voth)
Journal of the European Economic Association, forthcoming

Changing Culture and Norms in Developing Countries (with Eliana La Ferrara)
Handbook of Culture and Economic Behavior, edited by B. Enke, P. Giuliano, N. Nunn, and L. Wantchekon, forthcoming

Opinions as Facts (with Leonardo Bursztyn, Aakaash Rao & Chris Roth)
Review of Economic Studies, Vol.90(4), 2023

Can Good Products Drive Out Bad? A Randomized Intervention in the Antimalarial Medicine Market in Uganda (with M. Bjorkman-Nyqvist and J. Svensson)
Journal of the European Economic Association, Vol.20(3), 2022

Misperceived Social Norms: Women Working Outside the Home in Saudi Arabia (with L. Bursztyn and A. González)
American Economic Review, Vol.10(10), 2020

Reducing Child Mortality in the Last Mile: A Randomized Social Entrepreneurship Intervention in Uganda (with M. Bjorkman-Nyqvist, A. Guariso, and J. Svensson)
AEJ: Applied, July 11(3), 2019

Long-Range Growth: Economic Development in the Global Network of Air Links (with Filipe Campante)
Quarterly Journal of Economics, August 133:3, 2018

Lemon Technologies and Adoption: Measurement, Theory and Evidence from Agricultural Markets in Uganda (with T. Bold, K. Kaizzi, and J. Svensson)
Quarterly Journal of Economics, August 132:3, 2017

Government Distortion in Independently Owned Media: Evidence from U.S. Cold War News Coverage of Human Rights (with Nancy Qian)
Journal of the European Economic Association, Vol.15:2, 2017

Media Persuasion, Ethnic Hatred and Mass Violence: A Brief Overview of Recent Advances (with Maria Petrova) *Economic Aspects of Genocides, Other Mass Atrocities, and Their Preventions*. July 2016, Handbook editors C.H. Anderton and J. Brauer, Oxford University Press

Does Religion Affect Economic Growth and Happiness? Evidence from Ramadan (with Filipe Campante)
Quarterly Journal of Economics, May 130:2, 2015 [Editor's Choice]

Propaganda and Conflict: Evidence from the Rwandan Genocide
Quarterly Journal of Economics, November 129:4, 2014

Do Political Protests Matter? Evidence from the Tea Party Movement (with A. Madestam, D. Shoag, and S. Veuger)
Quarterly Journal of Economics, November 128:4, 2013

Propaganda vs. Education: A Case Study From Rwanda *Oxford Handbook of Propaganda Studies*, December 2013, Handbook editors J. Auerbach and R. Castronovo, Oxford University Press

The Strategic Determinants of U.S. Human Rights Reporting: Evidence from the Cold War (with Nancy Qian)
Journal of the European Economic Association P&P, April-May 8:2-3, 2009

Getting Prices Right: The Impact of the Market Information Service in Uganda (with Jakob Svensson) *Journal of the European Economic Association P&P*, April-May 8:2-3, 2009

Social Capital vs. Institutions in the Growth Process (with Pelle Ahlerup and Ola Olsson)
European Journal of Political Economy, 25:1, 2009

POLICY REPORTS

“[Growth and Poverty Reduction: Evaluating Rwanda’s First PRS](#)”, (with A. Bigsten), Country Economic Report December 2005:9, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency ([Sida](#))

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Empirical Political Economy, PhD Level, University of Zurich, 2017-2019
Econometrics, Master Level, University of Zurich, 2017-ongoing
Empirical Methods II (API-202), MPP, Harvard University, Spring 2011/12/13/15/16
Using Data to Understand Good Governance, Harvard University, Spring 2016
Game Theory and Contract Theory (API-110), MPA/ID, Harvard University, Spring 2013
Microeconomic Theory (API-101), MPP, Harvard University, Fall 2011

PREVIOUS ENGAGEMENTS

Consultancy for Asian Development Bank, Evidence-Based Policy Design Workshop Lecturer, Sep 2013.
Consultancy for Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), Rwanda, 2005 Feb.
Lead Operator (Spaningsledare) of signals intelligence, Försvarets Radio Anstalt/Swedish Armed Forces, promoted to 2nd lieutenant (löjtnant), Each summer 2000-03.
President, Graduate Students’ Council, Dept. of Economics, Stockholm University, 2006 Fall.
Board Member, Department Board, Dept. of Economics, Stockholm University, 2005-06.
President, The Society of International Affairs, Göteborg, 2003.