Urša Krenk

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Employment

University of Zurich *Jan. 2025 – Present*
Postdoctoral Researcher

Education

University of Zurich, *Ph.D. in Economics* *Oct. 2018 – Feb. 2025*
Defended September 2024; degree awarded February 2025
Advisor: David Yanagizawa-Drott
Dissertation: *Essays at the Intersection of Labor and Development Economics*

Barcelona Graduate School of Economics, *M.Sc. in Economics* *Sep. 2014 – Jul. 2015*

University of Warwick, *B.Sc. in Economics* *Sep. 2009 – Jun. 2013*

Fields

Labor Economics, Personnel Economics, Behavioral Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics

Publications

"How do Firms Respond to Parental Leave Absences?" (with A. Brenøe, A. Steinhauer, and J. Zweimüller), *Journal of Public Economics*, 263 (2026), 105803

Working Papers

"Augment or Automate? An Early Field Experiment with Generative AI in Hiring" (with K. Awuah and D. Yanagizawa-Drott) (revise and resubmit at *Journal of the European Economic Association*)

"Career vs. Social Impact: Gendered Responses in Teacher Recruitment in Ghana" (with K. Awuah)

Research in Progress

"Is Social Learning Gendered?" (with K. Awuah, S. Helmke, S. Rabino, R. Hernandez, D. Santos, and D. Yanagizawa-Drott)

"Adoption of an AI Business Advisor in Kenya" (with D. Yanagizawa-Drott)

"Incentives and Adoption of a Digital Lending Assistant" (with D. Yanagizawa-Drott)

"Lottery Participation and Credit Markets"

"Strategic Motives for Lottery Participation"

"Does Ethnic Bias Prevent People from Accessing Economic Opportunities? Evidence from Ghana" (with D. Yanagizawa-Drott)

Teaching Experience and Seminar Organization

Guest lecture, *Impact Evaluation for Business Economists* (BSc): using AI in research *Spring 2026*

TA for Gender Economics at UZH (BA), incl. guest lecture on social norms and development *Spring 2021, 2022*

TA for Quantitative Methods (BA), Macroeconomics 1 (BA) at BGSE *Fall 2014 – Spring 2015*

Co-Supervision of Bachelor (3x) and Master (6x) Students *Spring 2019 – present*

Organized the Development Economics Seminar *Fall 2021 – Fall 2022*

Research Grants

Swiss Re pilot grant, CHF 7,500 *2023*

Fellowships and Awards

PhD Thesis nominated for the SDG Impact and Engagement Award 2025 *Spring 2025*

UBS Center Scholarship *Fall 2018 – Fall 2023*

UZH Doc.Mobility Fellowship *Spring 2023*

Selected Conference Presentations

Colloquium on Personnel Economics 2024, Economic Science Association Meeting Helsinki 2024, Advances in Field Experiments Chicago 2025, Scandinavian Jobs & Development Workshop (Oct 2025), Swiss Young Economists Meeting (2026)

Refereeing Service

Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Public Economics, AEJ: Applied, Journal of the European Economic Association, Quarterly Journal of Economics

Research-Related Work Experience

University of Zurich, Managing Director, Social Catalyst Lab *Jan. 2025 – Present*

Princeton University, Research Assistant, Johannes Haushofer *Oct. 2016 – Jun. 2018*

Busara Center for Behavioral Economics, Independent Consultant *Jun. 2016 – Oct. 2016*

IPA Uganda, Intern, Evaluation of Community Health Promoter Model *Mar. 2016 – Jun. 2016*

DG Competition, EU Commission, Trainee, Chief Economist Team *Oct. 2015 – Mar. 2016*

Administrative Experience

Managed research-group operations at Social Catalyst Lab, University of Zurich; helped write and submit multiple SNSF grant applications; organized the Development Economics Seminar (2021–2022); helped organize conferences.

Additional Information

Programming: Stata, R, Python

Sports: *Dog Agility:* National Champion (2008, 2012); three-time World Championships medalist (2009, 2010, 2011) with dog Lu, *Rhythmic Gymnastics:* National champion (2002, 2004), *Rock Climbing & Mountaineering*

Languages: Slovenian (Native), English (C2), German (C1), Spanish (C1), Portuguese (B2), French (B2)