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Research Interests

Behavioral & Experimental Economics, Development Economics, Gender Economics

References

Ole Jann (Chair)
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Rebecca Dizon-Ross
University of Chicago
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Michal Bauer
CERGE-EI
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Enkelejda Havari
IÉSEG School of Management (Paris)
e.havari@ieseg.fr

Education

Ph.D. in Economics, CERGE-EI, thesis topic: *Essays in Experimental Economics*, Expected defense in 2026.

Research stay at the University of Chicago: Joined [John List](#)'s team, September-December 2023.

Research stay at IÉSEG School of Management, Paris: invited by [Enkelejda Havari](#), June 2025.

MA in Economics, CERGE-EI, Prague, Czech Republic, 2020.

MA in Applied Economics, CERGE-EI (Prague/New York), 2017.

BSc in Economics, University of Tirana, Faculty of Economics, 2016.

Job Market Paper

Let Me Choose What I'm Best at: A Natural Field Experiment with Volunteers

Abstract: I explore the mechanics of autonomy in a large-scale natural field experiment of effort provision with volunteers. I show that allowing volunteers to choose tasks rather than randomly assigning them increases effort by 33% and significantly improves effort quality. While this autonomy effect is unlikely to persist, the results suggest that it is cost-effective to motivate effort through autonomy rather than ex-post, competitive, and performance-contingent monetary rewards. Lastly, I provide causal evidence that the increase in effort occurs because volunteers match their abilities with the tasks and not because they value choice, care more about certain tasks, or feel a greater commitment to perform well when the choice is theirs.

Working Papers and Selected Work in Progress

Allocation Choice in Charitable Giving: A Natural Field Experiment [Link to the paper](#)

Desirable Ideal or Achievable Reality? A Field Experiment on Parental Aspirations (with [Enkelejda Havari](#), [Rebecca Dizon-Ross](#) and [Esmeralda Shehaj Zhabjaku](#)) (*Funding, partnership with the Albanian government, and administrative data secured; Pilot data collected; Main intervention in progress.*)

From West to East: The Impact of Training Teachers on Students' Achievement, Aspirations, Critical Thinking, and Values (with Clara Sievert) (*Established partnership with several universities and secured funding from the WEISS Fund, UChicago. Data collection starting Fall 2025;*)

Coding Skills, Academic Performance, Critical Thinking, and Emotional Well-Being in Middle Childhood (with Enkelejda Havari and Ariel Kalil) (*Early stage project: established partnership with the Albanian government and funding from Lille Economie Management (LEM) secured*)

Gender Identity, Household Production, and Career Investment (with J. Michelle Brock) (*Early stage project*)

Teaching

Instructor of Field Experiments in Behavioral & Development Economics, Fall Semester 2025 (**Academic Experience in Prague**)

Graduate Teaching Fellow: Instructor of Microeconomics, Undergraduate, Spring Semester 2024 ("Barleti" University, Albania) **Evaluation: 4.92/5**

Teaching Assistant in Preparatory Macroeconomics, Graduate, Summer semester 2020/Spring Semester 2021 (CERGE-EI) **Evaluation: 4.63/5 & 4.92/5**

Teaching Assistant in Applied Macroeconomic Policy Analysis, Graduate, Fall semester 2019/Fall semester 2021 (CERGE-EI) **Evaluation: 5/5 & 4/5**

Teaching Assistant in Policy Evaluation, Graduate, Spring Semester 2020 (CERGE-EI) **Evaluation: 4.8/5**

Experience

Junior Researcher, Economics Institute (EI), 2021-present (financed by OP JAK)

Research Assistant for **Martina Miotto** (field of Economic History), CERGE-EI, 2022

Research Assistant for **Ole Jann** (Testing, incentives, information: How to mobilize society's resources against the pandemic), CERGE-EI, 2020

Field Assistant at the United Nations Development Programme in Albania for the UNDP Youth Employment Project, 2014-2015

Conferences & Talks

2025

Conference talks: Young Economist Meeting at Masaryk University (Czechia); European Meeting of the Economics Science Association at Masaryk University (Czechia); Brown Bag Seminar at CERGE-EI; Spanish Economic Association (SAEe) at the Autonomia University of Barcelona (Spain) (*scheduled*); **Seminar talks:** University of Oxford, Department of Economics (UK), Micro Theory Workshop, CERGE-EI.

2024

Conference talks: EWMES at the University of the Balearic Islands (Spain), EEA-ESEM at Erasmus School of Economics (Netherlands), Advances with Field Experiments (AFE) by the University of Chicago and co-hosted by London School of Economics (UK), Workshop in Experimental Sociology at University College London (UK); **Seminar talks:** Humboldt University (Germany), Central European University (Austria), Job Market Practice Talk at CERGE-EI.

2023

Conference talks: Economic Science Association (ESA) World Meeting at the University of Lyon (France), Advances with Field Experiments (AFE) at the University of Chicago (US); **Attended conferences:** Science of Philanthropy Initiative (SPI) at the University of Chicago (US), Rohit and Harvanit Kumar Conference on Early Childhood Development: Parenting - Measurement, Impact and Behavior Change at the University of Chicago (US); **Seminar talks:** Behavioral Insights and Parenting (BIP) Lab

at Harris School of Public Policy (US), Behavioral Economics Lab at Booth School of Business (US), Seminar in Applied Microeconomics Lunch at Kenneth Griffin Department of Economics (US), Experimental Economics Brown Bag Seminar at Kenneth Griffin Department of Economics (US), General Assembly of the Czech Economic Association.

2022

Conferences: Young Economists' Meeting (YEM) at Masaryk University (Czechia), Slovak Economic Association Meeting (SEAM) at the University of Bratislava (Slovakia), The Biennial Conference of the Czech Economic Society at Prague School of Economics (Czechia); **Talks:** Dissertation Workshop at CERGE-EI, Brown Bag Seminar at CERGE-EI.

Grants, Fellowships and Awards

Research Grant (by the WEISS Fund of UChicago): \$ 10,000	2025
Research Grant (by Lille Economie Management, LEM): 18,000 €	2025
Research Grant (by the Albanian National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation): 25,000 €	2024
Young Economist of Czech Republic: 1 st Prize 35,000 CZK	2023
Marie Skłodowska-Curie research mobility support, grant no.870245 (project GEOCEP): € 7,560	2023
Teaching Fellow (CERGE-EI Foundation in US): \$ 3,000	2023
Supported by "Junior Star", GA UK Grant & PRIMUS Programme of Charles University	2022-2024
GA UK Grant, Charles University: 156,000 CZK	2021-2023
Performance Stipend, CERGE-EI	2022-2023
Impact for Society Fellowship, CERGE-EI (US): \$ 6,500 in the form of tuition discount	2017
Applied Learning Program Fellowship, CERGE-EI (US): \$ 1000 in the form of tuition discount	2017
The Fund for American Studies: \$ 3,250 for the "Economic and Political Systems" Summer School	2015

Professional and Volunteering Experience

Member of the Econometric Society	(2024-)
Member of the European Economic Association	(2024-)
Member of the Economic Science Association	(2023-)
Former volunteer of UNICEF, Junior Achievement, UNDP, Red Cross, Down Syndrome Albania Foundation, and CERGE-EI, among others.	

Skills

Software skills: Stata, R, Latex

Skills in Field Experiments: Managing various field assistants, securing research grants, and forming long-term partnerships with charities, large organizations, e.g., UNICEF partners, education foundations, and government institutions, e.g., ministries and administrative data agencies.

Languages

Aromanian (native), Greek (native), Albanian (native), English (fully proficient), Spanish (fluent), Italian (intermediate), French (intermediate).