

# Mikko Isak Silliman

mikko.silliman@gmail.com | <https://sites.google.com/site/mikkosilliman>  
USA: +1-857-701-6305 | FIN: +358-41-365-9906  
September 2023

## Research interests

Education Policy, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics

## Positions/Affiliations

---

- 2024- Aalto University School of Business and the Helsinki Graduate School of Economics  
*Assistant Professor, Department of Economics*
- 2023-25 Norwegian School of Economics (2nd year 20%)  
*Post-doctoral Fellow in Labor Economics*
- 2016- VATT Institute for Economic Research  
*Researcher (- 2017)/Research visits (2017-)*
- 2023- IZA  
*Research Affiliate*
- 2022- CESifo  
*Research Affiliate*

## Education

---

- 2023 Harvard University  
Ph.D., A.M., M.Ed. *Education Policy & Program Evaluation*
- 2017 University of Helsinki  
M.Soc.Sci. *Research Master's in Social Science*
- 2014 Tufts University  
B.A. *Economics, Philosophy, summa cum laude*
- 2012-13 University of Oxford  
Visiting Student *Philosophy, Politics, & Economics*

## Publications

---

Hard and soft skills in vocational training (with Felipe Barrera-Osorio and Adriana Kugler)  
*World Bank Economic Review*, (2023) 37 (3): 409-436.

Labor market returns to vocational secondary education (with Hanna Virtanen)  
*American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, (2022) 14 (1): 197-224.

## Working papers

---

Informal social interactions, academic achievement, and behavior (with Matt Lenard)  
Revise and resubmit at *The Economic Journal*

Childcare, social skills, and the labor market (with Juuso Mäkinen)  
Under revision

Job training through turmoil (with Felipe Barrera-Osorio and Adriana Kugler)  
NBER working paper 12/2021.

Targeted funding, immigrant background, and educational outcomes  
VATT working paper 8/2017. Adapted from master's thesis at the University of Helsinki. Pre-PhD.

## Teaching

---

### Instructor

2020 *Causal Inference*, Department of Social and Public Policy, University of Helsinki (January term) (4.6/5)

### Teaching fellow

2021 *Quantitative Methods for Improving Causal Inference*, Harvard University (Eric Taylor)

2021 *Program Evaluation*, Harvard University (Virginia Lovison)

2019, 2020 *Using Big Data to Solve Economic and Social Problems*, Harvard University (Raj Chetty) (4.6/5)

2018, 2019 *Microeconomics: A Policy Tool for Education*, Harvard University (Felipe Barrera-Osorio) (4.4/5)

2020 *Intermediate and Advanced Statistical Methods*, Harvard University (Andrew Ho)

2019 *Introductory and Intermediate Statistics*, Harvard University (Joseph McIntyre)

### **Grants and funding**

---

2022 Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

2021, 2019 Yrjö Jansson Foundation Doctoral Grant (24,000 euros x 2)

2021 Krupp Foundation Dissertation Research Fellowship, Harvard University CES (15,000 dollars)

2020 ECMC Doctoral Student Fellowship (12,000 dollars)

2019 J-PAL ESII project grant (350,000 euros, Co-PI w/ Michela Carlana, Matti Sarvimäki, and Marco Tabellini)

2019 IQSS Travel Grant, Harvard University

2018 Jens Aubrey Westengard Summer Research and Travel Grant, Harvard University

### **Selected honors and awards**

---

2022 Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Award

2019 Society of Labor Economists, Fellows Best Poster Award

2016 City of Helsinki Master's Thesis Prize

2015 Finlandia Foundation National Scholarship Award, 1st place

2014 The Helen Morris Cartwright Memorial Prize in Philosophy, Tufts University

### **Presentations (year marks end of academic year)**

---

2024 Rockwool Foundation

2023 Aalto/Helsinki Graduate School of Economics, Brown, Norwegian School of Economics, Stockholm School of Economics, Stockholm University (IIES and SOFI), IFAU, APPAM, CESifo Economics of Education

2022 CESifo Workshop on Econometrics of School Reforms, Helsinki Graduate School of Economics, IZA Summer School in Labor Economics, Labore, Nordic Summer Institute in Labor Economics, Paris School of Economics, Turku School of Economics, University of Helsinki (Faculty of Education and Department of Social and Public Policy), World Bank

2021 American Economic Association, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Research Institute for the Finnish Economy, Harvard Economics

2020 IZA Economics of Education Workshop, Harvard Kennedy School, VATT Institute for Economic Research

2019 Association for Public Policy and Management (+ discussant), European Economics Association/Econometric Society, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Nordic Summer Institute in Labor Economics, Georgia State University (CTEx)

2018 Helsinki Center for Economic Research, Association for the Economics of Education

Policy OECD (2021); Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture (2023, 2020, 2017); Parliamentary Committee on Education and Culture (2018)

## Refereeing

---

Journals: *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*, *Economic Journal*, *Economics of Education Review*, *Educational Research Review*, *IZA World of Labor*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Human Capital*, *Journal of Labor Economics*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Review of Economic Studies*, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*

Grants: Inter-American Development Bank

## Past positions/Affiliations

---

2018-2023 *Graduate Student Affiliate*, IQSS and CES, Harvard University

2015 *Research trainee*, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

2012,2014 *Teaching fellow*, Breakthrough Collaborative

## Computers & languages

---

Stata, R, LaTeX

English (*native*), Finnish (*native*), Spanish (*fluent*), French (*proficient*), Swedish (*very bad*)

Citizenship: United States, Finland, India (OCI)

Birth: Cambridge, MA | United States