

Jonas Hjort

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www.jonashjort.com
Citizen of Denmark, Norway, U.S.
Married, 3 children (2016/-18/-19)

EMPLOYMENT

2021/11 – present University College London, Professor of Economics
2024/01 – present University of Oslo, part-time Professor of Economics

PAST EMPLOYMENT

2022 Columbia University, Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure), Department of Economics and Business School
2018 – 2022 Columbia Business School, Associate Professor of Economics (w/out tenure)
[on leave from 2021/11]
2012 – 2018 Columbia Business School, Assistant Professor of Economics
2022 – 2024 University of Oslo, part-time Associate Professor of Economics

OTHER CURRENT APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

2024 – Lead Academic for J-PAL Jobs and Entrepreneurship in Africa portfolio
2024 – UCL MSc Economics Programme Director
2023 – European Economic Association, Fellow
2020 – J-PAL Affiliate
2017 – Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR), Affiliate (Development)
2016 – International Growth Centre (IGC), Research Affiliate
2022 – Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) Fellow
(Affiliate 2013-2022)
2013 – Center for Economic Studies/Ifo Institute for Economic Research (CESifo), Distinguished Affiliate

OTHER PAST APPOINTMENTS AND AFFILIATIONS

2016 – 2022 National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), Fac. Research Fellow (DEV, PR)
2015 fall Harvard University, Dept. of Economics, Visiting Assistant Professor
2014 – 2022 Lead Academic, Int'l Growth Centre Liberia & Sierra Leone Country Program
2008 fall University of Chicago, Becker Center, Price Theory Scholar

EDITORIAL POSITIONS

2023 – Co-Editor, Journal of the European Economic Association
2020 – 2023 Associate Editor, Journal of Development Economics

EDUCATION

2006 – 2012 PhD Economics, UC Berkeley
2005 – 2006 MA International & Development Economics, Yale University
2002 – 2005 BSc Economics, London School of Economics

RESEARCH ON PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Published and forthcoming papers

“The Missing Middle Managers: Labor Costs, Firm Structure, and Development”,
with Hannes Malmberg and Todd Schoellman, working paper
AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW: INSIGHTS, conditionally accepted
NBER working paper no. 30592

- “Across-Country Wage Compression in Multinationals”,
with Xuan Li and Heather Sarsons
AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW, forthcoming
NBER working paper no. 26788, CEPR DP no. 14465
Coverage: [Chicago Fed](#)
- “Ethnic Investing and the Value of Firms”,
with Changcheng Song and Christopher Yenkey,
MANAGEMENT SCIENCE, forthcoming
CEPR DP no. 16316
- “The Economic Impact of Internet Connectivity in Developing Countries” (an overview of the evidence),
with Lin Tian
ANNUAL REVIEW OF ECONOMICS, vol. 17, 99-124, August 2025
- “Strategic or Confused Firms? Evidence from “Missing” Transactions in Uganda”,
with Miguel Almunia, Justine Knebelmann, and Lin Tian
REVIEW OF ECONOMICS AND STATISTICS, vol. 106, no. 1, pp. 256-265, January 2024
NBER working paper no. 29059, CEPR DP no. 16379
- “Individuals and Organizations as Sources of State Effectiveness”,
with Michael Carlos Best and David Szakonyi
AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW, vol. 113, no. 8, pp. 2121-2167, August 2023
NBER working paper no. 23350, CEPR DP no. 11968, BREAD working paper no. 510
Write-ups: [VoxDev](#), [VoxDev podcast](#)
- “How Research Affects Policy: Experimental Evidence from 2,150 Brazilian Municipalities”,
with Diana Moreira, Gautam Rao, and Juan Francisco Santini
AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW, vol. 111, no. 5, pp. 1442-1480, May 2021
NBER working paper no. 25941
Coverage: [NPR Planet Money](#), [DerStandard](#), [Het Financieele](#), [Exame](#), [Pesquisa](#), [Folha](#), [El Comercio](#),
[LiveMint](#), [Nexo Jornal](#)
- “Vertical Integration, Supplier Behavior, and Quality Upgrading among Exporters”,
with Christopher Hansman, Gianmarco León, and Matthieu Teachout
JOURNAL OF POLITICAL ECONOMY, vol. 128, no. 9, pp. 3570-3625, September 2020
Winner of the Oliver Williamson Award for Best Paper presented at the Society of Institutional and Organizational Economics 2018 annual conference in Montréal
NBER working paper no. 23949, CEPR DP no. 12518, BREAD working paper no. 525
Coverage: [VoxDev](#)
- “Interlinked Firms and the Consequences of Piecemeal Regulation”,
with Christopher Hansman and Gianmarco León
JOURNAL OF THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION, vol. 17, no. 3, pp. 876-916, June 2019
BREAD working paper no. 442 , CEPR DP no. 12584
- “The Arrival of Fast Internet and Employment in Africa”,
with Jonas Poulsen
AMERICAN ECONOMIC REVIEW, vol. 109, no. 3, pp. 1032-1079, March 2019
NBER working paper no. 23582, BREAD working paper no. 519
Coverage: [The Economist](#), [The Economist](#), [VoxDev](#), [CATO](#), [Quartz Africa](#), [National Affairs](#), [Le Monde](#),
[World Bank blog](#), [Le Nouvel Économiste](#), [Brookings](#)

“Ethnic Divisions and Production in Firms”

QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS, vol. 129, no. 4, pp. 1899-1946, November 2014
Winner of the 2013 CESifo Prize for best paper in Applied Microeconomics
CDEP-CGEG working paper 006, CESifo working paper 4449

Working papers and work in progress (somewhat advanced stage)

“Informational Barriers to Market Access: Experimental Evidence from Liberian Firms”,
with Golvine de Rochambeau, Vinayak Iyer, and Fei Ao, working paper
NBER working paper no. 27662, CEPR DP no. 17008

“Input Sourcing in Lopsided Low-income Economies”, with Alan Griffith and Yue Yu

“Bias in the State: Theory and Evidence from Peru”, with Michael C. Best, Leonard Goff, Dafne Murillo, and Gastón Pierrri

OTHER RESEARCH (ON OTHER TOPICS OR IN NON-ECONOMICS JOURNALS)

“Pure-Chance Jobs vs. a Labor Market: the Impact on Careers of a Random Serial Dictatorship for First Job Seekers”,
with Ashna Arora and Leonard Goff
AMERICAN ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION PAPERS & PROCEEDINGS, vol. 111, pp. 470-475, May 2021

“Universal Investment in Infants and Long-run Health: Evidence from Denmark’s 1937 Home Visiting Program”,
with Mikkel Sølvsten and Miriam Wüst
AMERICAN ECONOMIC JOURNAL: APPLIED ECONOMICS, vol. 9, issue 4, pp. 78-104, October 2017

“Ebola, jobs and economic activity in Liberia”,
with Jeremy Bowles, Timothy Melvin, and Eric Werker
BMJ: JOURNAL OF EPIDEMIOLOGY & COMMUNITY HEALTH, vol. 70, pp. 271-277, 2016

“Pre-Colonial Culture, Post-Colonial Economic Success? The Tswana and the African Economic Miracle”
THE ECONOMIC HISTORY REVIEW, vol. 63, no. 3, pp. 688-709, August 2010

SELECTED GRANTS

2022	€1,896,821 from the European Research Council (Consolidator Grant)
2021	\$491,268 from NSF (with Michael C. Best and Gaston Pierrri)
2018	\$55,000 from SSHRC Canada (with Francesco Amodio)
2017	\$45,000 from the IGC (with Miguel Almunia, Alan Griffith, and Lin Tian)
2017	\$45,000 from PEDL (with Francesco Amodio)
2016	\$125,000 from Lemann Fund (with Gautam Rao)
2016	\$75,000 from Weiss Family Fund (with Gautam Rao)
2015	\$160,000 from the IGC
2014	\$69,000 the IGC (with Miguel Almunia and Francois Gerard)
2013	\$53,000 from PEDL (with Tarek Ghani and Sylvan Herskowitz)
2013	\$33,000 from the IGC
2013	\$20,000 from CBS Dean’s Seed Funding
2013	\$20,000 from CIBER (with Gianmarco León)

INVITED KEYNOTES AND THEME PRESENTATIONS

2025 Workshop on the Public Administration and State Capacity, Stuttgart, Germany

2024	Summer Workshop on the Economics of Inter-Group Relations and Integration, London, UK
2024	European Economic Association annual congress, Rotterdam, Netherlands
2024	Asia Meeting of the Econometric Society, Hangzhou, China
2024	Nobel Symposium in Microdevelopment Economics, Stellenbosch, South Africa
2024	Economic History and Economic Policy in South Africa, Stellenbosch, South Africa
2022	EOS Conference on Trade, Globalization, and Development conference, Namur, Belgium
2022	World Bank/IGC third “Infrastructure for Development” conference, framework talk on internet penetration
2021	Danish Graduate Programme in Economics annual conference in Ringsted, Denmark

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2022	American Economic Review: Insights, Excellence in Refereeing Award
2018	Oliver Williamson Award for Best Paper presented at the Society of Institutional and Organizational Economics 2018 annual conference in Montréal
2015	American Economic Review, Excellence in Refereeing Award
2014	Sandmo Junior Visiting Fellowship, Norwegian School of Economics (“for especially promising young researchers under the age of 40”)
2013	CESifo Prize for best paper in Applied Microeconomics
2012	Journal of Development Economics Prize for outstanding dissertation in the area of development economics, UC Berkeley 2012
2009-2011	The Hewlett/IIE Dissertation Fellowship
2009-2010	Spencer Foundation Dissertation Fellowship
2008-2009	The Norway-America Association’s King Olav V Birthday Fund Award
2007-2008	The American-Scandinavian Foundation Graduate Fellowship

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

American Economic Association, BI Norwegian Business School, Bocconi U., Boston U., BREAD, Brown, Cambridge, Central European U., CEPR, CERGE-EI Prague, Columbia, Copenhagen U., Cornell, Dartmouth, Econometric Society, EIEF Rome, Georgetown, Harvard, Helsinki GSE, Hong Kong UST, IGC, IMF, LSE, Manchester U., Marseille School of Economics, McGill, MIT, Namur U., NBER, Northwestern, Norwegian School of Economics, Nottingham U., NYU, Oxford, Paris School of Economics, Penn State, Princeton, PUC-Chile, SIOE, Stanford, Toulouse School of Economics, U. Bergen, U. British Columbia, UCLA, UCSD, U. Chicago, U. Michigan, U. Munich, U. Pompeu Fabra, USC, U. Stockholm, U. Toronto, U. Virginia, U. Zurich, Warwick, World Bank, Yale

TEACHING

UCL

- PhD Development Economics: winter 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- MSc Development Economics: winter 2023, 2024, 2025
- BSc Economics Dissertation module: fall 2022

Columbia University, Graduate School of Business

- Managerial Economics (Microeconomics for MBAs): fall 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
- Global Immersion: New Growth and Business Opportunities in East Africa (MBA): spring 2018, fall 2018, spring 2020
- The Private Sector and International Development (MBA, Executive MBA): spring 2013, spring 2014, fall 2014, spring 2015

OTHER SERVICE

2025	Program Committee for the CEPR Development Economics Annual Symposium/11 th Workshop on Political Economy and Conflict, Barcelona, Spain
2025 –	J-PAL Invited Researcher Selection Committee

2024 – 2025 Program Committee for the Econometric Society World Congress in Seoul, Korea
 2023 – Theme leader (w/ Startz and Verhoogen), “Innovation, Organizations, and Markets”
 program at Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries (PEDL)
 2023 – UCL Weiss Fund Representative

REFEREEING

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Journal of Political Economy, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of the European Economic Association, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Journal of Economic Literature, Journal of Labor Economics, RAND Journal of Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Economic Journal, Journal of African Economies, Economic Development and Cultural Change, Journal of Economic Growth, Nature: Communications, International Economic Review, Journal of Population Economics

PHD STUDENTS ADVISED (FIRST JOB/YEAR OF PHD)

Oscar Ignacio Perelló Perez (Research Economist, Bank of Spain/2025)
 Justine Knebelmann (A.P., Dept. of Economics, Sciences Po/2024)
 Nicolas Cerkez (Dept. Lecturer, Dept. of International Development, University of Oxford/2024)
 Leonard Goff (A.P., Dept. of Economics, University of Georgia/2021)
 Yue Yu (A.P., Rotman School of Management (Econ.)+Dept of Management, U. of Toronto/2020)
 Suanna Oh (Post-doc, briq Bonn & A.P., Dept. of Econ., Paris School of Economics/2020)
 David Alfaro-Serrano (Cornerstone Research/2020)
 Matthieu Teachout (Research Director, International Growth Centre/2019)
 Xuan Li (A.P., Dept. of Economics, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology/2019)
 Golvine de Rochambeau (A.P., Dept. of Economics, Sciences Po/2018)
 Lin Tian, (A.P., Insead/2018)
 Ashna Arora (Research Director, Crime Lab, University of Chicago)
 Maria Micaela Sviatschi (A.P., Dept. of Economics, Princeton University /2017)
 Christopher Hansman (A.P., Imperial College Business School /2017)
 Nicolás de Roux (A.P., Dept. of Economics, Universidad de los Andes /2017)
 David Szakonyi (Post-doc, Harvard Univ. Academy. & A.P., Dept. of Pol. Science, GWU /2016)
 Jonas Poulsen (Lecturer, Dept. of Economics, Harvard University/2015)

RESEARCH ASSISTANTS AND COAUTHORS RECOMMENDED+ADMITTED IN PHD ECON. PROGRAMS:

Emilio Alejandro Guaman Maldonado (UCL/2025)
 Marcia Ruiz Pulgar (U. Michigan/2023)
 Dafne Murillo (Columbia/2021)
 Junyi Que (Princeton/2021)
 Sebastian Sardon (Northwestern/2020)
 David Henning (UCLA/2019)
 Claude Raisaro (U. Zurich/2017)
 Andrea Smurra (UCL/2016)
 Josephine Gantois (Columbia/2015)
 Henrik Sigstad (Harvard/2014)

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES

2022 – 24 Advisory Committee member, IFC flagship report “Digital Opportunities in African Businesses”
 2023 – Advisory board, Building Markets
 2022 – 23 Advisory Committee member, World Bank regional flagship report “Digital Africa: Technological Transformation for Jobs”
 2021 Short-term consultant for EBRD, IMF

2019 – Member, Advisory Committee for the World Bank’s Research Program on Digital
Transformation for Africa
2019 Short-term consultant for CDC Group