Benjamin W. Arold

University of Cambridge

www.benjamin-arold.com Benjamin W. Arold

Research Fields:	Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Economics of Religion, AI & Economics
Research Methods:	Natural Language Processing, ML, Computational Linguistics, Causal Inference

EMPLOYMENT

Sep 2024 –	Assistant Professor (track to Full Professor)	Faculty of Economics, University of Cambridge
Sep 2025 –	Governing Body Fellow	Sidney Sussex College, University of Cambridge
Sept 2022 – Aug 2024	Post-Doctoral Researcher	AI & Economics Lab; Center for Law and Economics, ETH Zürich
Sept 2017 – Aug 2022	Doctoral Student and Junior Economist	Center for the Economics of Education, ifo Institute

AFFILIATIONS

Nov 2026 –	Research Fellow	IZA@LISER
Nov 2025 –	Research Affiliate	Rockwool Foundation Berlin
Apr 2025 –	Fellow	Durham Institute of Research, Development, and Invention
Feb 2025 –	Fellow	German Economic Association (VfS), Section on Economics of Education
Oct 2024 –	Network Affiliate	CESifo
Sep 2024 –	Research Affiliate	AI & Economics Lab, ETH Zuerich

EDUCATION

2017 – 2022	Ph.D. Economics	LMU Munich
2015 – 2016	M.Sc. Environmental Economics	London School of Economics
2014 – 2015	M.Sc. Economics	University College London
2010 – 2013	B.Sc. Economics	LMU Munich

RESEARCH VISITS

Mar 2024	Host: W. Bentley MacLeod	Princeton University
Sep 2019 – Apr 2020	Hosts: Paul E. Peterson, Martin West	Harvard University

PUBLICATIONS

Evolution vs. Creationism in the Classroom: The Lasting Effects of Science Education.
Quarterly Journal of Economics, 139(4), 2024

Can Schools Change Religious Attitudes? Evidence from German State Reforms of Compulsory Religious Education (with Ludger Woessmann, and Larissa Zierow).
Journal of Human Resources, 61(3), 2026

The Unintended Effects of the Common Core State Standards on Non-Targeted Subjects (with M.Danish Shakeel).
Economics of Education Review, 112, 2026

Genetic Endowments, Educational Outcomes and the Moderating Influence of School Quality (with Paul Hufe and Marc Stoeckli).
Forthcoming, Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics

WORKING PAPERS

Worker Rights in Collective Bargaining (with Elliott Ash, W. Bentley MacLeod, and Suresh Naidu).
Revise & Resubmit, Quarterly Journal of Economics

The Long Term Effects of School Prayer (with Afonso Alves Monteiro and Constantine Yannelis).

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

The Opportunities and Challenges of ML-based Targeting for Educational Technologies: Evidence from Brazil in the Aftermath of the Pandemic (with Guilherme Lichand, Elliott Ash, Jairo Gudino, Mario Curiki, Carlos Doria, David Yeager and Eric Bettinger).

Does the timing of income payments matter for households? Experimental Evidence from random within-month variation of child allowance payments (with Larissa Zierow, Sebastian Wichert, Emanuel Renkl).

Religious Language in Political Speech (with Elliott Ash, and Gloria Gennaro).

POLICY- AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CONTRIBUTIONS (SELECTED)

The economic value of worker rights in union contracts, *VoxEu Column* 12/2025.

Langfristige Auswirkungen von Religionsunterricht auf Religiosität und Arbeitsleben (with Ludger Woessmann and Larissa Zierow), *ifo Schnelldienst* 78 (12), 12/2025.

Measuring Student Mindsets at Scale in Resource-constrained Settings: SMS Toolkit with an Application to Brazil during the Pandemic (with Guilherme Lichand, Elliott Ash, Jairo Gudino, Carlos Doria, Ana Trinidade, Eric Bettinger, and David Yeager), *Journal of Research on Adolescence, 35(1)* 03/2025.

Teaching evolution boosts US students' science knowledge and career interest, *LSE USAPP Blog* 10/2024.

Einfluss auf Religiositaet? Auswirkungen der Wahlmoeglichkeit zwischen Ethik- und Religionsunterricht (with Ludger Woessmann and Larissa Zierow), *Zeitschrift für Didaktik der Philosophie und Ethik 46 (4): 82-88* 10/2024.

The teaching of evolution theory shapes students' beliefs and choices, *VoxEu Column* 10/2022.

The Costs of Canceling Darwin: Fewer scientists, more skepticism of science in states that limit evolution instruction, *Education Next* 04/2022.

Religious education in school affects students' lives in the long run (with Ludger Woessmann and Larissa Zierow), *VoxEU Column* 03/2022.

How Are Lower-Income Families Faring in the Coronavirus Crisis? (with Vera Freundl, Katia Werkmeister and Larissa Zierow), *ifo Schnelldienst* 74 (6), 2021.

MEDIA (SELECTED)

Newsweek (09/2026), VoxEU (12/2025), New Scientist (10/2025), The Education Gadfly Show (Podcast) (10/2025), Business Talk India (Podcast) (06/2025), Econimate (Video) (11/2024), GlobeNewswire (04/2022), VoxTalks Economics (Podcast) (03/2022), Spiegel (01/2022), FAZ (01/2022), BR (01/2022), The Education Exchange (Podcast) (11/2021), Forbes (08/2021), Tagesschau.de (06/2021), Neue Osnabrücker Zeitung (06/2021)

GRANTS

2026	SSHRC Canada, 94k CAD
2025	J-Pal Pilot Grant, 150k USD
2025	Keynes Fund, 50k GBP
2024	Spark Research Grant, SNF Switzerland, 100k CHF
2021	ifo Junior Researcher Grant, 15k EUR

HONORS AND PRIZES

2023	Fürther Ludwig-Erhard-Prize 2023
2023	Prize for Best Dissertation in 2021/2022, German Economic Association, Section on Economics of Education
2022	Participant at the 7th Lindau Nobel Meeting on Economic Sciences
2022	Summa cum laude for dissertation "School curricula, educational trajectories, and labor market outcomes"
2019-20	DAAD one-year scholarship for stay at Harvard University
2016	LSE Best Overall Performance Prize in MSc Environmental Economics and Climate Change
2016	LSE Client Earth Best Dissertation Prize in MSc Environmental Economics and Climate Change
2015	LSE Graduate Support Scheme for funding of Master studies
2010-16	German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes)
2010	Prize for best Abitur performance of high school (1.0)

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

Journal Referee:	*American Economic Review, American Economic Review: Insights, CESifo Economic Studies, Economic Journal, Economics of Education Review, European Economic Review, German Economic Review, Israel Science Foundation, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization, Journal of Economic History, Journal of Law & Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of the European Economic Association, Labour Economics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economic Studies: Insights, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics, UK Research and Innovation*
Associate Editor:	Journal of Economics, Management and Religion
Organization or Scientific/Program Committee:	*EEA 2027, EEA 2026, ACL Climate NLP Workshop 2024, ETH AI Policy Summit 2023, Spring Meeting of Young Economists 2020, Royal Economic Society Junior Symposium 2019*
Faculty and College Service:	*Director of Studies for MPhil Economics and Data Science; Member of Graduate Admissions Subcommittee; Empirical Micro Seminar Coordinator; Austin Robinson Economics Society (Fellow's Head), Admission Interview Committee*
Diversity Engagement:	*Chair for Equality and Diversity Committee (Athena Swan) (2026-); President of Munich LGBTQ Society of German National Academic Foundation (2021/2022)*

PRESENTATIONS

2026	ifo Munich, Cambridge (Fellows Talk), Nuremberg U, Chicago U, Birmingham U, Cologne U, DIW Berlin (Keynote), Oxford U (SCORE), University College London
2025	Gothenburg U, St Andrews U, Cologne U (VfS), Barcelona Summer Forum, Lund U, DIW Berlin, ifo Munich, Princeton U, Zurich U
2024	Aalto U, Helsinki U, Salzburg U, Cambridge U, Warwick U, Birkbeck U London, ifo Munich, IAB, Salzburg U, St Gallen U, Trinity College Dublin, Princeton U, Cambridge U, UC Riverside
2023	Jacobs Center, ETH-UZH AI & Economics Workshop, VfS, ASREC, Harvard U, Harvard U, Economics of Education VfS, Zurich Political Economy Seminar, RES/SES
2022	ASSA/AEA, ASREC (Chapman U), UZH Political Economy Seminar, ifo-WZB EffEE, Lindau Nobel Laureate Meeting, International Meeting in Law & Economics, ASREC
2021	AEFP, LMU Empirical PhD Workshop, Harvard U Applied Micro Seminar, AERA, RES, SOLE, ESPE, SMYE, LMU Empirical PhD Workshop, EALE, VfS
2020	Harvard U PEPG, AEFP, ifo Lunchtime Seminar, EALE/SOLE/AASLE, APSA, VfS, ifo-WZB EffEE PhD Workshop, LMU Empirical PhD Workshop
2019	Harvard U Religion & Political Economy Seminar, Harvard U Graduate Political Economy Workshop, IWAEE, SMYE, ESPE, CEPR Economics of Religion, Munich Young Economist Meeting
2018	Chapman U IRES Workshop, IWAEE, Evidence-Based Economics Summer Meeting, EDG Jamboree

TEACHING

2025, 2026	Master's Course *"Economic Analysis of Non-Standard Data"*	Cambridge U
2025, 2026	Master's Course *"Seminar Series and Case Studies"*	Cambridge U
2026	Undergrad Tutorials *"Labour Economics"*	Sidney Sussex College
2023, 2024, 2025, 2026	PhD Course *"Text Data in Business and Economics"*	Basel U
2024	Workshop *"NLP and Computational Linguistics in Economics"*	Princeton U
2019-20	Master's Course *"The Political Economy of the School"*	Harvard U
2019–	(Co-)Supervision of PhD, Master, Bachelor, and Seminar Theses in Economics and ML/NLP	Supervisor at Cambridge, ETH and LMU

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Python, Stata, and LaTeX,

LANGUAGES

German, English, French, and Spanish

Contact

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