

Robert Mahlstedt

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Contact information

University of Copenhagen
Department of Economics
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Academic positions and affiliations

Associate Professor (tenure)	2025 –
Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen	
Research Fellow	2021 –
Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Bonn	
Assistant Professor (tenure track)	2019 – 2025
Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen	
Postdoctoral Researcher	2017 – 2019
Department of Economics, University of Copenhagen	
Resident Research Affiliate	2012 – 2017
Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Bonn	

Education

Dr. rer. pol. (PhD) in Economics (summa cum laude)	2012 – 2017
University of Potsdam	
Master of Science in Economics	2010 – 2012
University of Bonn	
Bachelor of Science in Economics	2007 – 2010
University of Mannheim	

Research interests

Labor Economics, Behavioral Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Applied Econometrics

Publications

The Intended and Unintended Effects of Promoting Labor Market Mobility (2024), *Review of Economics and Statistics*, forthcoming (with M. Caliendo and S. Künn)

The Disparate Effects of Information Provision: A Field Experiment on the Work Incentives of Social Welfare (2023), *Journal of Public Economics*, 226, 104987 (with S. Cairo)

Side Effects of Labor Market Policies (2023), *Scandinavian Journal of Economics*, 125(2), 339-375, (with M. Caliendo, G. van den Berg and J. Vikström)

The Return to Labor Market Mobility: An Evaluation of Relocation Assistance for the Unemployed (2017), *Journal of Public Economics*, 148, 136-151 (with M. Caliendo and S. Künn).

Unobservable, but Unimportant? The Relevance of Usually Unobserved Variables for the Evaluation of Labor Market Policies (2017), *Labour Economics*, 46, 14-25 (with M. Caliendo and O. Mitnik).

The Gender Wage Gap and the Role of Reservation Wages: New Evidence for Unemployed Workers (2017), *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, 136, 161-173 (with M. Caliendo and W.-S. Lee).

Home-Ownership, Unemployed's Job Search Behavior and Post-Unemployment Outcomes (2015), *Economics Letters*, 137, 218-221 (with M. Caliendo and A. Gielen)

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Work in progress

The Direct and Indirect Effects of Online Job Search Advice (2022), *IZA Discussion Paper No. 15830*, revision requested at **Review of Economic Studies** (with S. Altmann, A. Glenney and A. Sebald)

Do Job Seekers Understand the UI Benefit System (and Does It Matter)? (2022), *IZA Discussion Paper No. 15747*, revision requested at **Journal of the European Economic Association** (with S. Altmann, S. Cairo and A. Sebald)

Job Search, Overoptimism and Statistical Profiling: Can Information Provision Improve Job Search Outcomes? (2024), revision requested at **The Economic Journal**, (with N. Harmon and M. Rasmussen)

Which Occupations do Unemployed Workers Target? Insights from Online Job Search Profiles (2023), *IZA Discussion Paper No. 16696*, (with S. Altmann, M. Rattenborg and A. Sebald)

The Accuracy of Job Seekers' Wage Expectations (2024), *IZA Discussion Paper No. 17198*, (with M. Caliendo, A. Schmeisser and S. Wagner)

Wage Expectations and Job Search, *working paper available*, (with S. Altmann, M. Rattenborg, A. Sebald, S. Settele, J. Wohlfart)

Mental Models of High School Success, *working paper available*, (with T. Hübsch, P. Pinger, S. Settele and H. Willadsen)

Unemployment Narratives, *working paper in preparation*, (with S. Settele and J. Wohlfart)

The more, the better? Online job search advice and job seekers' reemployment prospects, *working paper in preparation*, (with H. Simon and A. Sebald)

Policy reports

Effects of the Statutory Minimum Wage on Individual Employment and Firms' Wage Structure (2022), Report for German Minimum Wage Commission, IZA Research Report 133 (with M. Caliendo, I. Isphording, N. Pestel and C. Zimpelmann)

Evaluation of Job-related German Language Support (2024), Report for the German Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, IZA Research Report 142 (with A. Baderschneider, H. Bonin, B. Boockmann, M. Caliendo, A. Fischer, M. Gensicke, K. Hecker, J. Hartmann, I. Isphording, A. Krause-Pilatus, P. Kugler, C. Pabst, I. Pfeiffer and R. Sackmann)

Teaching and supervision

Behavioral Economics of Organizations M.Sc., University of Copenhagen	2024 –
Applied Labor Economics M.Sc., University of Copenhagen	2018 –
Intermediate Microeconomics B.Sc., University of Copenhagen	2020 –
Incentives and Organizations M.Sc., University of Copenhagen	2020 – 2022
Participation in “Teaching and Learning in Higher Education Program” Faculty of Social Science, University of Copenhagen	2020 – 2021
PhD co-supervision: Malte Jacob Rattenborg	2021 –
Master thesis supervision in Labor and Organizational Economics University of Copenhagen	2018 –

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Research grants and scholarships

“Unemployment Narratives” funded by the Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN), (with S. Settele and J. Wohlfahrt)	2024 – 2026
“Setting the Course for the Future: How do Adolescents Choose School Tracks at Age 15?” funded by the Economic Policy Research Network (EPRN), (with S. Settele and H. Willadsen)	2023 – 2025
“What is keeping unemployed workers from finding employment? The role of information, job characteristics, and behavioral biases” funded by the Rockwool Foundation (with S. Altmann, N. Harmon, A. Sebald, D. Skandalis)	2021 – 2025
IZA Scholarship for Doctoral Students	2012 – 2015

Conference and seminar presentations

L&W Seminar (Maastricht University), EALE Meeting (Bergen), Social Inclusion Lab Workshop (Bocconi University)	2024
25th Anniversary IZA Conference (Berlin), SOLE Meeting (Philadelphia)	2023
CREST Research Seminar (Paris), ESPE (University of Calabria), Verein für Socialpolitik (Basel)	2022
IAAEU Colloquium (Trier), SOLE-EALE World Meeting (Berlin)	2020
CASD/IAB: Advance in Social Sciences (Paris), Danish Center for Social Science Research (Copenhagen), UCPH Workshop: Behavioral Economics and Public Policy (Copenhagen), Melbourne Institute of Applied Economics and Social Research (University of Melbourne), Potsdam Research Seminar in Economics (University of Potsdam)	2019
Matching Workers and Jobs Online (IDSC of IZA Bonn), Evaluation of Labor Market Policies: New Data and New Approaches (IZA Bonn), EALE (Lyon), L&W Seminar (Maastricht University), IZA World Labor Conference (Berlin), IAB Workshop: Unemployment and Well-being (Nuremberg)	2018
MRU Research Seminar (University of Copenhagen), Spring Meeting of Young Economists (Halle, Saale) CAFÉ Workshop (Vejle), Potsdam Research Seminar (University of Potsdam), EALE (Ghent), ESPE (Berlin), IZA-CMR PhD Workshop (Bonn) EEA (Mannheim), IZA Summer School (Buch, Ammersee), IZA@DC Young Scholar Program (Washington D.C.), Verein für Socialpolitik (Hamburg), IAB Workshop: The Spatial Dimension of the Labor Market (Nuremberg), IZA Conference on Labor Market Policy Evaluation (London), EALE (Torino), EEA-ESEM Meeting (Gothenburg), ESPE (Aarhus), COSME-FEDEA Workshop on Gender Economics (Madrid), Potsdam PhD Workshop in Empirical Economics (Potsdam)	2013 – 2017

Professional activities

Refereeing: Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Labour Economics, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, German Economic Review, International Journal of Manpower, Empirical Economics, IZA Journal of Labor Economics

Departmental service: organization of the University of Copenhagen Labor Economics (CoLab) seminar, organization of IZA/UCPH Workshop “Evaluation of Labor Market Policies: New Data and New Approaches”

Last updated: May 2025