

Matthew Shaikh

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Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)
Institute for Political Economy of Public Policy
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Research Interests

I am a quantitative researcher specialising in the intersection of socioeconomic inequality, social mobility, and public policy. Current research includes evaluating the long-term evolution of social mobility in Colombia and investigating the health consequences of economic inequality and industrial policy in England and Wales.

Education

PhD in Economic and Social Sciences, Grade 1 Excellent (Summa Cum Laude) (2020 – 02/2026)
Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), Institute for Political Economy of Public Policy

- Supervisor – Thomas Plümper (WU)
- PhD committee – Eric Neumayer (LSE), Despina Alexiadou (University of Strathclyde), Jürgen Essletzbichler (WU)

MSc Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy (2020), Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)

Graduate Diploma in Social Sciences (2017), Economics and Development, University of London

Master of Physics with Study in Europe, 2:1 Hons (2003), The University of Manchester

Positions

Teaching and Research Associate (2020 – present)
Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), Institute for Political Economy of Public Policy

Conference Manager, European Political Science Association (Vienna, 2023 – present)

Freelance Consultant, Fundraising and Development Strategy and Analysis (Vienna, 2017 – 2021)

Head of Global Strategy and Analysis, Fund Development (Vienna, 2013 – 2017)
SOS Children's Villages International

Other

- Fundraising Analyst, UNICEF Spain (Madrid, 2010 – 2013)
- Supporter Development Analyst, Greenpeace UK (London, 2008 – 2010)
- Consultant, The pH Group (London, 2005 – 2008)
- English Teacher, Inter-com Language Agency (Madrid, 2003 – 2004)

Research Visits

Universidad de los Andes (Bogotá), Economy Faculty, TREES institute (Teaching and Researching Equitable Economics from the South), Feb – Apr 2025, Supervisor Leopoldo Fergusson

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Published Papers

“The health legacy of coal mining: analysis of mortality rates over time in England and Wales (1981-2019)”, 2024, *SSM: Population Health* (<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ssmph.2024.101706>)

“The Logics of Covid-19 Travel Restrictions between European Countries” (with Eric Neumayer and Thomas Plümper), 2021, *Social Science Quarterly*, 102: 2134–2154. (<https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.13016>)

Works in Progress

“Deprivation, Economic Inequality and Cancer Mortality: A Study of Extrinsic vs. Intrinsic Cancers in England and Wales” (with Thomas Plümper), under review, *International Journal of Social Determinants of Health and Health Services*

“Inequality of opportunity and social mobility in Colombia: Assessing the impact of family background on adult incomes 1997-2023” (with Sofia Gomez Tamayo), [click for current version](#)

“Family background and high school test scores: The moderating effect of a university scholarship programme in Colombia” (with Sofia Gomez Tamayo)

“Equality of opportunity for whom? Sociotropic versus egotropic reactions to declining social mobility” (with Anna Clemente)

Grants and Awards

Small-scale projects, Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), 2025, €5,700

- “Equality of opportunity for whom? Sociotropic versus egotropic reactions to declining social mobility”

International Research Funding, Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), 2024, €3,500

- “Inequality of Opportunity in Colombia”

Teaching

Courses

- Empirical Social Research Methods, Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), 2021 – present

Supervision - Bachelor theses

- Julian Haas, 2026 – “Enhancing Social Mobility in Austria: Policy Interventions and Approaches”
- Jana Matea Grandits, 2025 – “Social mobility and education”
- Haniya Habeeb, 2023 – “The framework, contemporary aspects and policy developments of gender pay gap”

Skills and languages

Languages – English (mother tongue), Spanish (fluent) and German (intermediate)

Coding languages – R, Stata, SQL

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Refereeing

SSM: Population Health.

Conferences and Workshops

“The III at 10 - 'New Directions in Inequality Research” conference, 2025, London School of Economics – paper presentation

ECINEQ PhD Workshop, 2025, online – paper presentation

European Political Science Association conference, 2025, Madrid

- Conference organisation
- 2 paper presentations

“Inequalities and Opportunities: Insights into wealth, income and education disparities” workshop, 2025, University of Bari – paper presentation

“Inequality and Social Welfare Theory” winter school, 2025, University of Verona – poster presentation

“Poverty, Inequality and Intergenerational Mobility: Measurement Issues, Empirical Evidence and Policies” workshop, 2024, Sapienza University of Rome – paper presentation

European Political Science Association conference, 2024, Cologne

- Conference organisation
- Paper presentation

“The long-term political effects of the closure of coalmines in the UK and Germany” workshop, 2023, University of Strathclyde

- ESRC grant proposal discussant
- Paper presentation

European Political Science Association conference, 2021, online – paper presentation