

# ALEXANDRA V. "LEXI" SCHUBERT

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## Education

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08/19 - 06/25 (expected) **University of Zurich, Department of Economics**, Zurich, Switzerland  
*Ph.D. Candidate in Economics*  
Committee: Profs. David Yanagizawa-Drott, Lorenzo Casaburi, Roberto Weber

01/23 - 12/23 **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**, Cambridge, MA, U.S.A.  
*Visiting Student, Department of Economics*  
Host: Prof. Frank Schilbach

09/18 - 07/19 **University of Zurich, Department of Economics**, Zurich, Switzerland  
*M.Sc. in Economics, summa cum laude (degree conferral in 2022)*  
Predoctoral Master's Year ("Fast Track", pre-admitted to 6 year PhD program)

08/13 - 05/17 **University of Virginia, College of Arts & Sciences**, Charlottesville, VA, U.S.A.  
*B.A. with Highest Distinction*  
Double Major in Economics and Cognitive Science, Minor in Mathematics

## References

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David Yanagizawa-Drott, University of Zurich [david.yanagizawa-drott@econ.uzh.ch](mailto:david.yanagizawa-drott@econ.uzh.ch)  
Lorenzo Casaburi, University of Zurich [lorenzo.casaburi@econ.uzh.ch](mailto:lorenzo.casaburi@econ.uzh.ch)  
Roberto Weber, University of Zurich [roberto.weber@econ.uzh.ch](mailto:roberto.weber@econ.uzh.ch)  
Frank Schilbach, Massachusetts Institute of Technology [fschilb@mit.edu](mailto:fschilb@mit.edu)

## Fields

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Primary: Development Economics, Behavioral Economics  
Secondary: Health, Psychology of Poverty;

## Job Market Paper

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### [Self-Detrimental Avoidance of Rest](#) (with Jenny Wang)

Across many cultures, resting instead of working is viewed as a barrier to higher earnings. This belief is also reflected in many canonical economic models. Recent empirical evidence highlighting the productivity benefits of rest challenges this belief. Yet, existing work tends to ignore individuals' demand for restful activities and whether it aligns with their returns. In the context of an online labor market experiment in South Africa, we explore whether workers capitalize on the returns to short rest periods. After eliciting demand for rest, we estimate returns to rest for the same individuals and find that mandated rest boosts productivity by 0.3 standard deviations, thus making up for forgone earnings from resting. At the same time, only 19% of workers voluntarily choose to rest. Contrary to the notion of selection on returns, workers with high financial returns to rest do not select into rest. We provide suggestive evidence that misperceived financial returns are driving the disconnect between demand for and returns to rest. Our results provide proof-of-concept evidence that individuals may be misallocating effort between resting and working and could reach higher overall utility by working less. This highlights the importance of understanding misperceptions around rest, especially in light of the economic burden of long-term costs of overworking such as burnout.

## Publications

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Bohr, Clement E., Charles A. Holt, and **Alexandra V. Schubert**. "[Assisted Savings for Retirement: An Experimental Analysis](#)." *European Economic Review* 119 (2019): 42-54.

## Working Papers

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Bohr, Clement E., Charles A. Holt, and **Alexandra V. Schubert**. "[A Behavioral Study of Retirement Savings Accounts: Roth versus Traditional](#)" Working Paper 440, University of Zurich.

## Work in Progress

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Pain, Pain, Go Away? Implications of Chronic Pain Relief for Decision-Making in Rural Uganda  
Learning By Breaks: Experiential Learning in the Context of Rest Practices (with Jenny Wang)  
"Break" the Norm: Signaling at the Workplace and Adoption of Rest Practices (with Jenny Wang)

## Grants

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06/24	Swiss Re Full Grant for Research in Development Economics, UZH (internal)
04/24	ZGSE Director's Grant, UZH (internal)
06/23	Swiss Re Pilot Grant for Research in Development Economics, UZH (internal)
10/22	George and Obie Shultz Fund, MIT (with Jenny Wang; internal)
09/22	UBS Center for Economics in Society, Scholarship Budget, UZH (internal)
06/22	Swiss Re Pilot Grant for Research in Development Economics, UZH (internal)
06/22	ZGSE Director's Grant, UZH (internal)
05/22	Doc.Mobility Grant, UZH (university-wide)
01/17	Marshall Jevons Grant for Undergraduate Economics Research, UVA (internal)

## Research-related Work Experience

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09/18 - 07/19	Graduate RA to Profs. Ernst Fehr, Michel Maréchal, Roberto Weber (UZH)
07/18 - 08/18	Research Intern; Bayrisches Staatsinstitut für Hochschulforschung (IHF, TU Munich)
06/15 - 06/18	RA to Prof. Charles Holt; Experimental Economics (Vecon Lab, UVA)
05/17 - 09/17	Research Intern; Virginia Retirement System
10/15 - 08/17	RA to Prof. Sarah Turner; Economics of Education (UVA)
08/14 - 05/16	RA to Prof. Lee Coppock; Macroeconomic Education (UVA)

## Teaching Experience

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<i>University of Zurich</i>	
Fall 2020, 2021, 2022	Empirical Methods (MA level) TA and Head TA (for Prof. Gregory Crawford)
Fall 2022	Psychology of Poverty (MA level) Instructor (designed & taught new seminar)
Spring 2021, 2022	Econometrics for Policy Analysts (MA level) TA (for Prof. David Yanagizawa-Drott)
Summer 2021	Programming Practices for Research Students (PhD level) TA (for Drs. Lachlan Deer, Julian Langer)
<i>Vail Ski &amp; Snowboard Academy (Athletic Charter School)</i>	
AY 2017/18	Geometry, Statistics, Calculus BC (7 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> grade) Academic Coach (equiv. assistant math teacher)
<i>Colorado Mountain College</i>	
AY 2017/18	Multivariate Calculus, Differential Equations (Associate's level) TA (for Prof. Stacy Yarnell)

University of Virginia

Spring 2016, 2017

Principles of Macroeconomics (BA level)

Undergraduate Teaching Fellow (for Prof. Lee Coppock)

Fall 2015, 2016

Principles of Microeconomics (BA level)

Undergraduate Teaching Fellow (for Prof. Kenneth Elzinga)

## Honors, Awards, and Scholarships

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09/22 - 06/25	UBS Center for Economics in Society, Doctoral Scholarship, UZH
06/22	Finalist, Impact Award for Special Commitment, University of Zurich
05/17	Economics Outstanding Major Award & Commencement Speaker, UVA
05/17	Best Economics Thesis Prize, University of Virginia
05/17	International Student of the Year Award, University of Virginia
04/17	Duncan Clark Hyde Academic Achievement Award, University of Virginia
08/16 - 05/17	Kenneth G. Elzinga Scholarship for Academic Excellence, UVA
08/16 - 05/17	William M. Hill Jr. Award for Service, University of Virginia
04/16	Phi Beta Kappa (junior year inductee)
10/15	Raven Honor Society, University of Virginia
08/14 - 05/17	Echols Scholar, University of Virginia

## Conferences, Presentations, and Participations

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2024	UCSD-NHH Spring School (participant), MIT Grad Student Behavioral Lunch, AFE, ESA Europe, SEA Meeting (scheduled)
2023	MIT Grad Student Behavioral Lunch, MIT Grad Student Applied Micro Lunch, NEEEW (participant), MIT Grad Student Labor Lunch, UMass Amherst, ESA North America, University of Virginia, SEA Meeting, Williams College
2022	Sloan-Nomis Cognitive Foundations Summer School (participant), CSWEP mentoring program (participant)

## Academic Service

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UZH PhD Women in Econ (Founder, 2024-present), UZH Econ Student Life and Well-Being Committee (2023), UZH Econ Mental Health Committee (2022-2023), UZH Gender Norms Reading Group (Co-Organizer, 2022), UZH Econ PhD Representative (2021-2022), UZH Econ PhD Wiki (Founder, 2021-2022), Econ PhD Agenda (Co-Founder, 2021-2022), UZH Econ Research Slam (Co-Organizer, 2019-2022), Second & Third Year PhD Seminar (Co-Organizer, 2020-2022), Econ Club at UVA (Marketing, President; 2015-2017), Alfred Marshall Society at UVA (Co-Founder and President; 2016), Flash Seminars at UVA (Organizer, Co-Chair; 2013-2017), UVA Global Greeters International Student Orientation (Co-Chair; 2013-2016), University Women's Forum at UVA (Vice President; 2013-2015)

## Miscellaneous

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Languages	German (native), English (bilingual), French (fluent), Spanish (elementary)
Citizenship	German
Coding	STATA, Python, R
Sports	Trail running, Rowing, Cycling, Triathlon, Skiing (certified instructor)