

JAAKKO PEKKA MERILÄINEN
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OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

Sveavägen 65, 11383 Stockholm, Sweden

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, Department of Economics, Stockholm School of Economics, November 2025-present

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Stockholm School of Economics, July 2023–November 2025

- Affiliate at the House of Governance and Public Policy and KAB Center for Governance

EDUCATION

PhD, Economics, Institute for International Economic Studies, Stockholm University, May 2019

- Visiting Student Researcher at the Department of Political Science, Stanford University, Fall 2016

Master of Social Sciences, Economics, University of Helsinki, June 2013

- Visiting Student at the Department of Economics, University of California-Berkeley, Spring 2013

Bachelor of Social Sciences, Economics, University of Helsinki, September 2011

VISITING POSITIONS

Visiting Professor at the Master in Institutions and Political Economy program, University of Barcelona, Spring 2024

PAST EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Centro de Investigación Económica and Department of Economics, ITAM, August 2019–July 2023

PUBLICATIONS

1. Meriläinen, Jaakko and Matti Mitrunen. 2025. “[The Loser’s Long Curse: Electoral Consequences of a Class Conflict](#).” *Comparative Political Studies* 58(14), 3029-3064.
2. Jokela, Markus, Jaakko Meriläinen, Janne Tukiainen, and Åsa von Schoultz. 2025. “[Personality Traits and Cognitive Ability in Political Selection](#).” *Journal of the European Economic Association* 23(5), 1908-1949.

3. De Magalhães, Leandro Dominik Hangartner, Salomo Hirvonen, Jaakko Meriläinen, Nelson Ruiz Guarín, and Janne Tukiainen. 2025. [“When Can We Trust Regression Discontinuity Design Estimates from Close Elections? Evidence from Experimental Benchmarks.”](#) *Political Analysis* 33(3), 258-265.
4. Kuosmanen, Isa and Jaakko Meriläinen. 2025. [“Labor Market Effects of Open Borders: Evidence from the Finnish Construction Sector after EU Enlargement.”](#) *Journal of Human Resources* 60(2), 434-468.
5. Emilio Gutiérrez, Jaakko Meriläinen, and Maximo Ponce de León. 2024. [“Worth a Shot? The Political Economy of Government Responsiveness in Times of Crisis.”](#) *World Development* 184, 106762.
6. Armando Araico Cordero, Antonella Bandiera, Esteban A. González Luna, and Jaakko Meriläinen. 2024. [“When Fortune Favors Women: Do Marginal Increases in Female Representation Persist?”](#) *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* 226, 106680.
7. Hortala-Vallve, Rafael, Jaakko Meriläinen, and Janne Tukiainen. 2024. [“Pre-Electoral Coalitions and the Distribution of Political Power.”](#) *Public Choice* 198(1-2), 47-67.
8. Johansson, Christian, Anders Kärnä, and Jaakko Meriläinen. 2023. [“Vox Populi, Vox Dei? Tacit Collusion in Politics.”](#) *Economics & Politics* 35(3), 752-772.
9. Meriläinen, Jaakko, Matti Mitrunen, and Tuomo Virkola. 2023. [“Famine, Inequality, and Conflict.”](#) *Journal of the European Economic Association* 21(4), 1478-1509.
10. Meriläinen, Jaakko and Janne Tukiainen. 2022. [“The Advantage of Incumbents in Coalitional Bargaining.”](#) *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 47(4), 921-957.
11. Meriläinen, Jaakko. 2022. [“Political Selection and Economic Policy.”](#) *Economic Journal* 132(648), 3020-3046.
12. Gutiérrez, Emilio, Jaakko Meriläinen, and Adrián Rubli. 2022. [“Electoral Repercussions of a Pandemic: Evidence from the 2009 H1N1 Outbreak.”](#) *Journal of Politics* 84(4), 1899-1912.
13. Dehdari, Sirus, Konstantinos Matakos, Jaakko Meriläinen, and Janne Tukiainen. 2022. [“A Pink Slip for the Blue Reform: Is Selection, Experience, or Ideology the Elixir of Populists’ Survival?”](#) *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* 3(1), 1-21.
14. Dehdari, Sirus, Jaakko Meriläinen, and Sven Oskarsson. 2021. [“Selective Abstention in Simultaneous Elections: Understanding the Turnout Gap.”](#) *Electoral Studies* 71, 102302.
15. Dewan, Torun, Jaakko Meriläinen, and Janne Tukiainen. 2020. [“Victorian Voting: Party Orientation and Class Alignment Revisited.”](#) *American Journal of Political Science* 64(4), 869-886.
16. Meriläinen, Jaakko. 2019. [“Single-Party Rule, Public Spending, and Political Rents: Evidence from Finnish Municipalities.”](#) *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* 121(2), 736-762.

17. Meriläinen, Jaakko and Janne Tukiainen. 2019. “[Public Procurement versus Laissez-Faire: Evidence from Household Waste Collection.](#)” *CESifo Economic Studies* 65(4), 446-463.
18. Hyytinen, Ari, Jaakko Meriläinen, Tuukka Saarimaa, Otto Toivanen, and Janne Tukiainen. 2018. “[Public Employees as Politicians: Evidence from Close Elections.](#)” *American Political Science Review* 112(1), 68-81.
19. Hyytinen, Ari, Jaakko Meriläinen, Tuukka Saarimaa, Otto Toivanen, and Janne Tukiainen. 2018. “[When does regression discontinuity design work? Evidence from random election outcomes.](#)” *Quantitative Economics* 9(2), 1019-1051.
20. Meriläinen, Jaakko, and Janne Tukiainen. 2018. “[Rank effects in political promotions.](#)” *Public Choice* 177(1), 87-109.

WORKING PAPERS AND SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

- [Candidate Exit and Voter Loyalty During Early Democratization](#) (with Torun Dewan, Christopher Kam, and Janne Tukiainen)
- [Networks of Nation-Building: Evidence from the Fennoman Movement](#) (with Teppo Lindfors and Matti Mitrunen)
- [Fairness without Equality: Effect of Election System Proportionality on Female Representation](#) (with Salomo Hirvonen, Konstantinos Matakos, and Janne Tukiainen)
- [Communism in the Classroom: Long-Run Effects of an Experiment](#) (with Matti Mitrunen)
- [Engines of Empowerment: Cattle Tending, the Milking Machine, and Women in Politics](#) (with Eva Forslund and Céline Zipfel)
- [The Price of Exclusion: Coalition Formation in the Shadow of Rising Radical Right](#) (R&R at *Economica*; with Anders Kärnä and John Norell)
- Class, Social Mobility, and Voting in Democratizing and Industrializing England (with Torun Dewan, Christopher Kam, and Janne Tukiainen)
- Volcanic Protests (with Matti Mitrunen, Alessandro Pizzigolotto, and Jósef Sigurdsson)
- Electoral Performance Associated with Politicians’ Cognitive Ability and Personality: Registry Data from Finnish Municipality Elections 1996-2017 (with Markus Jokela, Janne Tukiainen, and Åsa von Schoultz)
- Becoming an Elected Official Shapes Reproductive Choices (with Tuukka Saarimaa, Dawn L. Teele, and Janne Tukiainen)
- The Allocation of Talent across and within Public and Private Sectors (with Salomo Hirvonen, Terhi Maczulskij, Janne Tukiainen, and Jutta Viinikainen)

BOOK CHAPTERS, MONOGRAPHS, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. Meriläinen, Jaakko, Matti Mitrunen, and Tuomo Virkola. 2025. “Conflict and Inequality: A Survey and Empirical Applications to Finland.” In *Routledge Handbook on Economic History of War*.

2. Lindfors, Teppo, Jaakko Meriläinen, and Matti Mitrinen. 2024. “Kriisit ja yhteiskunnallinen muutos – luotiinko sisällissodan vuosina tasa-arvoisemman yhteiskunnan edellytykset?” In *Ankarat ajat: Suomalaisten talouskriisien pitkä historia*. [In Finnish.]
3. Johansson, Christian, Anders Kärnä, and Jaakko Meriläinen. 2022. “Politisk kartellbildning som förklaring till Sverigedemokraternas framgång.” In *Folkviljans förverkligare*, eds. Patrik Öhberg, Henrik Oscarsson, and Jakob Ahlholm, 117-133. Gothenburg: Department of Political Science, University of Gothenburg. [In Swedish.]
4. David A. Jaeger, Jaime Arellano-Bover, Krzysztof Karbownik, Marta Martínez-Matute, John Nunley, R. Alan Seals, and others. 2021. “The Global COVID-19 Student Survey: First Wave Results” *Covid Economics* 79, 152-217.
5. Meriläinen, Jaakko. 2019. *Essays in Political Economics*. PhD thesis.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

F2025	Econometrics (MSc), Stockholm School of Economics
F2024	Econometrics (MSc), Stockholm School of Economics
S2024	Political Economy of Public Policies (MSc), University of Barcelona
F2023	Econometrics (MSc), Stockholm School of Economics
S2023	Political Economics and Research Seminar (undergraduate), ITAM
F2022	Political Economics and Research Seminar (undergraduate), ITAM
S2022	Political Economics (undergraduate) and Topics in Microeconomics* (graduate), ITAM
F2021	Political Economics* and Research Seminar* (undergraduate), ITAM
S2021	Political Economics* (undergraduate/graduate), ITAM
F2020	Political Economics* and Research Seminar* (undergraduate), ITAM
S2020	Political Economics* and Research Seminar* (undergraduate), ITAM
F2019	Political Economics (undergraduate), ITAM
S2018	Teaching Assistant for Political Economics II (PhD), Stockholm University
S2017	Teaching Assistant for Political Economics II (PhD), Stockholm University
S2016	Teaching Assistant for Political Economics II (PhD) Stockholm University
F2012	Preparation Course for Mathematical Analysis (undergraduate), University of Helsinki
F2012	Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Economics (undergraduate), University of Helsinki
S2012	Teaching Assistant for Introduction to Statistics II (undergraduate), University of Helsinki

*My teaching evaluations are available on my website. Classes denoted with * were taught (at least partially) online or in hybrid format. I have also participated in the supervision of more than 60 undergraduate and master's theses at ITAM and Stockholm School of Economics.*

PHD SUPERVISION

Eva Forslund (secondary supervisor), Stockholm School of Economics (expected 2028)

Mélitine Malezieux (primary supervisor), Stockholm School of Economics (expected 2029)

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

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| 2026 | SITE (scheduled), Center for Statecraft and Strategic Communication (scheduled), Catholic University of Milan (scheduled), SSE-Turku School of Economics Cruise Workshop on Political Economy (scheduled) |
| 2025 | ifo Institute for Economic Research, Prague University of Economics and Business, Swedish Institute for European Policy Studies, University of Turku, Hanken School of Economics/Helsinki GSE, Swedish Confederation of Enterprise |
| 2024 | BI Norwegian Business School, Central European University, Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN), University of Barcelona, Stockholm Uppsala Education Economics Workshop, Economic History Workshop at Uppsala University, EPSA, NBER SI Political Economy, Political Economy of Ideas & Ideology Conference at Kellogg/Northwestern |
| 2023 | Stockholm School of Economics, University of Bergen, Aalto University/Helsinki GSE, Conference on Democratic backsliding and electoral autocracies/SITE-Stockholm School of Economics |
| 2022 | University of Geneva, Swansea University, Workshop on Institutional Legacies of Violent Conflict/UNU-WIDER, EPSA |
| 2021 | RIDGE Workshop on Economic History, EPSA, Online Political Economy Seminar Series, LANE HOPE, Joint Empirical Political Science & Political Economy Workshop/University of Helsinki, University of Turku |
| 2020 | Helsinki GSE, Zurich Political Economy Seminar, University of Oslo, IIES-Stockholm University, Virtual Workshop in Historical Political Economy, EPSA (canceled due to COVID-19), LSE-NYU Political Economy Conference (canceled due to COVID-19), MPSA (canceled due to COVID-19) |
| 2019 | LACEA-LAMES, MPSA, EPSA, Bocconi University, CIE-ITAM, Trinity College Dublin, University of Nottingham, University of Exeter, Uppsala University |
| 2018 | APSA, IIPF, EPSA, NICEP Conference, LSE, ZEW, ENTER Conference, Empirical Political Economics and Political Science Workshop at VATT Institute for Economic Research |
| 2017 | SUDSWED Workshop, IIPF, EPSA, EPCS |
| 2016 | VATT Institute for Economic Research, EPCS |

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee for American Economic Review; American Economic Journal: Applied Economics; American Economic Journal: Economic Policy; American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; Comparative Political Studies; Economics of Governance; Electoral Studies; European Journal of Law and Economics; European Journal of Political Economy; European Sociological Review; Finnish Economic Journal; German Economic Review; Italian Political Science Review; Journal of Comments and Replications in Economics; Journal of Comparative Economics; Journal of Development Economics; Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization; Journal of Economic Inequality; Journal of Law, Economics and Organization; Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics; Journal of Politics; Journal of Public Economics; Journal of Women, Policy & Politics; Party Politics; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences; Political Analysis; Political Science Research & Methods; Public Choice; Review of Economics and Statistics; World Development

Application reviewer for Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada and Turku Institute for Advanced Studies

Manuscript reviewer for Gaudeamus (Helsinki University Press)

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

- 2024- Placement coordinator, Department of Economics, Stockholm School of Economics
- 2024 Co-organizer of the “Scaling up Societal Impact” symposium at the House of Governance and Public Policy, Stockholm School of Economics
- 2023- Co-organizer of weekly seminars and brown bag seminars, Department of Economics, Stockholm School of Economics

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Research grant (3.9M SEK, with Jay Euijung Lee and Céline Zipfel), Ragnar Söderbergs Stiftelse
- 2025 Research grant (600,000 SEK, with Eva Forslund and Céline Zipfel), Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- 2025 Research grant (7,000 EUR, with Teppo Lindfors and Matti Mitrunen), Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation
- 2024 SSE Corporate Partners’ Research Award
- 2023 Research grant (18,000 EUR, with Matti Mitrunen and Teppo Lindfors), Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation
- 2023 Research grant (33,000 EUR, with Horacio Larreguy and Mateo Montenegro), Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation

- 2023 Excellence in Undergraduate Supervision Award, Department of Economics, ITAM
- 2023 Title of Docent (Economics), Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki
Docent (sometimes also Associate or Adjunct Professor; dosentti in Finnish) is an academic title awarded in recognition of scientific and teaching merits.
- 2022 Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of Economics, ITAM
- 2021 Research grant (6,000 EUR, with Matti Mitrunen), UNU-WIDER
- 2021 Research grant (12,500 EUR, with Matti Mitrunen and Teppo Lindfors), Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation
- 2020 Research grant (10,000 EUR, with Janne Tukiainen and Markus Jokela), Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation
- 2015 Hedelius Scholarship, Handelsbanken Research Foundations
- 2013 Best Thesis Award, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Helsinki
- 2011 Väinö Linna Scholarship, University of Helsinki

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), Finnish (native), Spanish (advanced), Swedish (advanced), German (intermediate), Russian (basic), Ukrainian (basic)

Last updated: March 17, 2026