

FRANK SCHILBACH

MIT, Department of Economics
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EMPLOYMENT

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Ford Foundation International Associate Professor of Economics, 2026-

Associate Professor of Economics (with tenure), 2023-2026

Gary Loveman Career Development Associate Professor of Economics, 2020-2023

Gary Loveman Career Development Assistant Professor of Economics, 2018-2020

Assistant Professor of Economics, 2015-2018

University of Zurich; Visiting Professor of Economics, 2026-2027

University of Chicago; Visiting Scholar, Becker Friedman Institute, Fall-Winter, 2018-2019; Spring 2022

Stanford University; Visiting Professor of Economics, Spring 2019

AFFILIATIONS

Research Associate (DEV, HEALTH), National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER) (2016-present)

Affiliate, Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) (2016-present)

Research Affiliate, Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) (2020-present)

Fellow, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD) (2021-present)

EDUCATION

Harvard University; Ph.D., Economics, 2015

Dissertation: *Essays in Development and Behavioral Economics*

Committee: Sendhil Mullainathan, Esther Duflo, Michael Kremer, David Laibson

University of California, Berkeley; M.A., Economics, 2009

Mannheim University; Diplom (M.A.), Economics, 2008

PUBLICATIONS

Not Learning from Others (with John J. Conlon, Malavika Mani, Gautam Rao, and Matthew Ridley),
Forthcoming, *Journal of Political Economy*, December 2026

Lives vs. Livelihoods: The Impact of the Great Recession on Mortality and Welfare (with Amy Finkelstein, Matthew J. Notowidigdo, and Jonathan Zhang), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 140 (3), 2269-2328, August 2025.

Do Financial Concerns Make Workers Less Productive? (with Supreet Kaur, Sendhil Mullainathan, and Suanna Oh), *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 140 (1): 635-689, February 2025.

Effects of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Cash Transfers on Older Persons Living Alone in India: A Randomized Trial (with Madeline McKelway, Abhijit Banerjee, Erin Grela, Miriam Sequeira, Garima Sharma, Girija Vaidyanathan, and Esther Duflo), *Annals of Internal Medicine*, 176 (5): 632-641, 2023.

Depression and Loneliness among the Elderly in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (with Abhijit Banerjee, Esther Duflo, Erin Grela, Madeline McKelway, Garima Sharma, and Girija Vaidyanathan), *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 37 (2): 179-202, 2023.

The Economic Consequences of Increasing Sleep among the Urban Poor (with Pedro Bessone, Gautam Rao, Heather Schofield, and Mattie Toma). *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 136 (3): 1887-1941, 2021.

Informing Policy Through Field Experiments on Sleep Around the World (with Gautam Rao, Susan Redline, Heather Schofield, and Mattie Toma), *Science*, 374 (6567), 2021.

Poverty, Depression, and Anxiety: Causal Evidence and Mechanisms (with Matthew Ridley, Gautam Rao, and Vikram Patel), *Science*, 370 (6522), 2020.

Alcohol and Self-Control: A Field Experiment in India, *American Economic Review*, 109 (4): 1290-1322, 2019.

Realizing the Potential of Digital Development: The Case of Agricultural Advice (with Raissa Fabregas and Michael Kremer), *Science*, 366 (6471), 2019.

Behavioral Development Economics (with Michael Kremer and Gautam Rao), Chapter 5 of *Handbook of Behavioral Economics: Foundations and Applications 2, Volume 2*, B. Douglas Bernheim, Stefano DellaVigna, and David Laibson (eds.), Amsterdam: North-Holland, pp. 345-458, 2019.

Poverty and Cognitive Function (with Emma Boswell Dean and Heather Schofield), Chapter 2 of *The Economics of Poverty Traps*, Christopher B. Barrett, Michael R. Carter, and Jean-Paul Chavas (eds.), Chicago: University of Chicago Press/NBER, 2018.

The Psychological Lives of the Poor (with Heather Schofield and Sendhil Mullainathan), *American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings*, 106 (5): 435-440, May 2016.

WORKING PAPERS

Financial Incentives, Health Screening, and Selection into Mental Health Care: Experimental Evidence from College Students in India (with Emily Breza, Kevin Carney, Vijaya Raghavan, Kailash Rajah, Thara Rangaswamy, Gautam Rao, Sobia Shadbar, and James Stratton); Revise and Resubmit, *Journal of the European Economic Association*

Learning in the Household (with John J. Conlon, Malavika Mani, Gautam Rao, and Matthew Ridley)

The Long-Run Impacts of Psychotherapy on Depression, Beliefs, and Economic Outcomes (with Bhargav Bhat, Jonathan de Quidt, Johannes Haushofer, Vikram Patel, Gautam Rao, and Pierre-Luc Vautrey)

Blue Spoons: Sparking Communication about Appropriate Technology Use (with Arun G. Chandrasekhar, Esther Duflo, Michael Kremer, João Pugliese, and Jonathan Robinson)

AI-Enhanced Handheld ECGs to Screen for Prior Myocardial Infarction in Rural India (with Jenny Wang, Alexander Schubert, Nikhil Kanakamedala, Madeline McKelway, Luke Messac, Cyrus Reginald, T.S. Selvavinayagam, Girija Vaidyantha, Esther Duflo, and Ziad Obermeyer)

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

San Diego, Santa Barbara, Wisconsin, CMU, World Bank Research Group, Cambridge, Oxford, Harvard, Berkeley, Stanford, Bonn/Briq, Zurich, Heidelberg, UConn, Florida International University, Princeton, SITE, Yale, Northwestern, IFPRI, Edinburgh, Columbia, Namur, Toulouse, Paris School of Economics, Grinnell College, Munich, Inter-American Development Bank, ESA Conference Plenary Session, UConn, AEA Meeting, USC CESR, NYU, UCL, LSE, Stockholm IIES, MIT, Chicago, Cornell, SJDM, UPenn, UPitt, Essen, Amsterdam, Utrecht, Rotterdam, Tilburg

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

- Senior Fellow, Collegium Helveticum, ETH Zurich (2026-2027)
- MacVicar Faculty Fellowship for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching at MIT (2025)
- Excellence in Refereeing Award, *American Economic Review: Insights* (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022)
- MIT Graduate Economics Association, Best Advisor Award (2022)
- MIT Undergraduate Teacher of the Year Award (2022)
- Frank E. Perkins Award for Excellence in Graduate Advising at MIT (2022)
- Kiel Institute Excellence Award in Global Economic Affairs (Horst Siebert Fellowship) (2021)
- *Economic Journal* Referee Prize (2020)
- Excellence in Refereeing Award, *American Economic Review* (2018, 2019, 2021)
- MIT Graduate Economics Association, Best Advisor Award (2018)
- National Science Foundation Research Grant, SES-1658931 (2017-2019)
- MIT SHASS Research Fund Award (2016)
- Harvard Mind Brain Behavior Interfaculty Initiative (2016)
- Weiss Family Program for Research in Development Economics Grant (2013, '14, '16, '19, '20)
- Foundations for Human Behavior Grant, Harvard (2014, 2015, 2016)
- 3ie Agricultural Innovation Thematic Window Grant (2014)
- PEDL Special Exploratory Grant (2014)
- CHIBE Grant, University of Pennsylvania (2014)
- Grant from Lab for Economic Applications and Policy, Harvard (2013)
- Grant from Warburg Funds, Harvard (2013, 2014)
- PGDA Grant, Harvard (2013, 2016)
- Grant from Center for Decision Research, University of Chicago (2013)
- ATAI Grant (2011, 2012)
- USAID DIV Grant (2011)
- Doctoral Fellow, Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy (2011-2015)
- Harvard University Graduate Fellowship (2009-2011)
- Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes/German National Academic Foundation (2006-2008)

REFEREEING AND REVIEWING

Associate Editor, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* (2024-present)

Referee for *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *American Economic Review*, *PNAS*, *Science*, *Nature*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *American Economic Journal: Applied*, *Journal of the European Economic Association*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Management Science*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *World Development Science*, *Review of Financial Studies*, *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Economic Inquiry*, *AER Insights*, *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, *Economic Journal*, *Journal of Political Economy*, *World Bank Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, *Advances in Cognitive Psychology*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *BMJ Global Health*, *Labour Economics*

Reviewer for *National Science Foundation*, *UK Medical Research Council*, *Israel Science Foundation*, *J-PAL HCDI*, *J-PAL/CEGA ATAI*, *French National Agency for Research (ANR)*

TEACHING

MIT

- Economics and Psychology (14.13), Fall 2016 to Spring 2026
- Behavioral Economics (14.160), Fall 2015 to Spring 2026
- Challenges of World Poverty (14.73), Spring 2016 to Fall 2022

Harvard

- Behavioral Economics of Scarcity (Econ 1032), TF for Professor Mullainathan, Fall 2012.
- Macroeconomic Issues in Development (Econ 2390c), TF for Professors Kremer, Aghion, and Cole, Spring 2010, Spring 2011.

ADVISING

PhD student advised (year of graduation, first job)

Josh Dean (2018, Chicago Booth Behavioral Science)

Gabriel Kreindler (2018, Harvard Economics)

Matt Lowe (2018, University of British Columbia Economics)

Sourav Sarkar (2019, Ahmedabad University)

Aicha Ben Dhia (2020, “2050” Venture Capital Fund)

Maddie McKelway (2020, Dartmouth College)

Pedro Bessone (2021, Uber)

Olivia Kim (2022, HBS Entrepreneurial Management)

Matthew Ridley (2022, Warwick Economics)

Pierre-Luc Vautrey (2022, Meta)

Lisa Ho (2024, Columbia Economics)

Carlos Molina (2024, University of South Carolina Economics)

Lucy Page (2024, University of Pittsburgh Economics)

Charlie Rafkin (2024, University of British Columbia Economics)

Hannah Ruebeck (2024, Hamilton College)

Duncan Webb (2024, NovaSBE Economics)

Lexi Schubert (2025, Wesleyan University)
Advik Shreekumar (2025, UC Berkeley postdoc)
Nagisa Tadjfar (2026, University of British Columbia Economics)
Kartik Vira (2026, Institute for Fiscal Studies)
Kailash Rajah (2026, Singapore Management University)
Salome Aguilar (2026, ifo Institute, Munich)

Current PhD advisees: Jenny Wang, Nancy Wang, Whitney Zhang, Shakked Noy, Pedro Sant'Anna, Rebecca Cai, Christoph Ziegler, Julia Gilman

PhD program placements of undergraduate students and RAs

Phoebe Cai, Yihong Huang, Fiona Chen, Simon Schröder, Maya Roy, Lauren Rice (all Harvard), Advait Rajagopal Aiyer (Wharton), Zhili Liu, João Pugliese (both Stanford), Gabriel Jardimovski (Northwestern), Ziqing Yan (Yale), Jiemin Xu (U Wisconsin), Stephanie Chan (LBS), Qingyuan Chai (BU), Sifan Xue, Dexin Li (both Princeton), Nick Swanson (Berkeley), Jeremy Lebow, Henry Ma (both Duke), Suhas Vijaykumar, Nancy Wang, Isadora Frankenthal (MIT), Vidya Bharathi, Hongyuan Xia (both Cornell), Yanzun Yang (Toronto), Anahita Karandikar (UBC), Varun Chati (UMD AREC), Malavika Mani (Warwick), Gailius Praninskas (LSE)

Master's program placements of undergraduate students and RAs

Kate Sturla (Harvard Kennedy School), Jane Marlen von Rabenau (Harvard Kennedy School), Siddhant Gokhale (Harvard Kennedy School), Sangeetha Ramanathan (Columbia SIPA)