

Lauri Luosta

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Trained in applied microeconomics, I conduct quantitative research on policy issues.

EDUCATION

PhD in Consumer Behavior and Family Economics **August 2025**
University of Wisconsin-Madison; Advisor: Dr. J. Michael Collins Madison, WI

- Dissertation: [Spillovers from Risky Behavior on Family and Child Well-being: Quasi-Experimental Evidence from the Legalization of Marijuana and Sports Gambling](#)
- Committee: [Dr. J. Michael Collins](#) (chair), [Dr. Katie Fitzpatrick](#), [Dr. Lawrence Berger](#), and [Dr. Meg Doherty Bea](#)

Master of International Public Affairs **May 2021**
La Follette School of Public Affairs; University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI

Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude Honors **May 2019**
Winona State University; Double major: Political Science and Global Studies; Minor: Economics Winona, MN

WORK EXPERIENCE

Researcher **May 2025 – Present**
VATT Institute for Economic Research Helsinki, Finland

Post-doctoral Scholar **Oct 2025 – Present**
Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences Remote

Affiliate Economist **May 2025 – Present**
Research and Innovation for Social and Economic Inclusion (RISEI) Lab, Northwestern University Remote

Visiting Researcher **Jan 2026 – Feb 2026**
University of Luxembourg Luxembourg

Visiting Research Fellow **Oct 2025 – Dec 2025**
INVEST Fellowship Programme, University of Turku Turku, Finland

Lecturer - Consumer Insights ([CNSR SCI 201](#)) **Jan 2024 – Dec 2024**
Department of Consumer Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI

PhD Student Researcher Summer Intern **June 2024 – Aug 2024**
The Urban Institute Washington DC

Project Assistant to Professor J. Michael Collins **Jun 2021 – Aug 2024**
Center for Financial Security, University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI

Teaching Assistant – Consumer Insights ([CNSR SCI 201](#)) **Aug 2023 – May 2025**
Department of Consumer Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI

Project Assistant to Professor Meg Doherty Bea **May 2022 – May 2023**
School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI

Teaching Assistant – Folklore Studies ([FOLKLORE 100](#)) **Aug 2020 – Dec 2020**
Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+, University of Wisconsin-Madison Madison, WI

Teaching Assistant – Second-year Swedish Language (SCAND ST 211)
Department of German, Nordic, and Slavic+, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Aug 2019 – May 2020
Madison, WI

Summer Intern
General Electric (GE) Healthcare - Finland

May 2019 – Aug 2019
Helsinki, Finland

WORKING PAPERS

The Cross-Border Spillover Effects of Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries on Child Protective Services Reporting ([job market paper](#)) (under review)

Does Increasing the Minimum Wage Reduce Racial Disparities in Access to Local Financial Services?
With Meg Doherty Bea (under review)

The Impact of Sports Gambling Legalization on Alternative Financial Service Use (dissertation chapter)

The Impact of Sports Gambling Legalization on Child Protective Services Reporting (dissertation chapter)

The Impact of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Child Welfare *With Jessica Pac, Christine Durrance, and Manisha Jain*

PRESENTATIONS

INVEST Brown Bag Seminar **Dec 2025**
Presentation: The Cross-Border Spillover Effects of Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries on Child Protective Services Reporting **Turku, Finland**

INVEST Scientific Seminar XI **Dec 2025**
Presentation: The Impact of Recreational Marijuana Legalization on Child Welfare **Helsinki, Finland**

Finnish Health Economics Seminar Series (FINHESS) **Dec 2024**
Presentation: The Cross-Border Spillover Effects of Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries on Child Protective Services Reporting **Online**

Southern Economic Association (SEA) Annual Meeting **Nov 2024**
Presentation: The Impact of Sports Gambling Legalization on Personal Debt **Washington DC**

Virtual Economics of Poverty and Policy Seminar (VEPPS) **Nov 2024**
Presentation: The Cross-Border Spillover Effects of Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries on Child Protective Services Reporting **Online**

Research Showcase to Legislatures at Wisconsin State Capitol **Apr 2024**
Poster: The Cross-Border Spillover Effects of Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries on Child Protective Services Reporting **Madison, WI**

Annual Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) **Nov 2023**
Presentation: Do Minimum Wage Increases Reduce Racial Disparities in Access to Local Financial Services **Atlanta, GA**

Annual Conference of the American Society of Health Economics (ASHECON) **June 2023**
Presentation: Effects of Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries in Illinois and Michigan to Child Welfare System Involvement in Wisconsin **St. Louis, MO**

American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI) 2023 Annual Meeting **May 2023**

Poster: Exploring the Effects of Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries in Illinois and Michigan to Child Welfare System Involvement in Wisconsin

Las Vegas, NV

Population Association of America (PAA) 2023 Annual Meeting

Apr 2023

Poster: Minimum Wage Generosity and Racial Disparities in Geographic Access to Financial Services

New Orleans, LA

Atlanta Workshop on Public Policy and Child Well-Being (PPCW) at Georgia Tech

Mar 2023

Presentation: Exploring the Effects of Recreational Marijuana Dispensaries in Illinois and Michigan to Child Welfare System Involvement in Wisconsin

Atlanta, GA

SKILLS

- **Technical Skills:** Stata (expert), R (proficient), Microsoft Office (proficient), LaTeX (proficient), Python (beginner), SPSS (beginner), Qualtrics (proficient), WordPress (proficient), NVivo (beginner)
- **Analytical Skills:** Quantitative research, statistical and economic modeling (OLS, logistic/probit regression, Poisson models, modern DiD and fixed effects models, panel data methods), econometrics, causal inference, statistical data analysis, data visualization, survey design, design of experiments (DoE), cost-benefit analysis, program evaluation, policy analysis, qualitative research
- **Languages:** English (full professional proficiency), Finnish (native), Swedish (intermediate), French (beginner)

AFFILIATIONS

Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, Polish Academy of Sciences

March 2025 – Present

Affiliate

Warsaw, Poland

Western Economic Association

Aug 2024 – Present

Member

USA

Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)

Aug 2023 – July 2025

Member

USA

American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI)

Jan 2023 – Dec 2024

Member

USA

Southern Economic Association

Aug 2024 – July 2025

Member

USA

Institute for Research on Poverty, University of Wisconsin-Madison

Aug 2022 – May 2025

Graduate Research Fellow

Madison, WI

Center for Demography and Ecology (CDE), University of Wisconsin-Madison

Aug 2023 – May 2025

Student Trainee

Madison, WI

HONORS & AWARDS

- Teaching Assistant Award from the School of Human Ecology at UW-Madison (March 2025)
- American Council on Consumer Interests Young Professional Conference Scholarship Award (Jan 2025)
- American Council on Consumer Interests National Endowment for Financial Education Paper Award (May 2024) for paper Minimum Wage Generosity and Racial Disparities in Geographic Access to Financial Services co-authored with Dr. Meg Doherty Bea
- PhD Dissertation Project Award (Mar 2024) for dissertation project Impact of Sports Gambling Laws on Personal Debt
- Institute of Research on Poverty (IRP) Graduate Research Fellow Conference Travel Award (Nov 2023)

- Summer Time Academic Research (STAR) Award (Mar 2023)
- Conference Travel Scholarship (Jan 2022, and Jan 2023)

SERVICE

School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison Peer mentor to incoming graduate students	Aug 2022 – May 2025 Madison, WI
Center for Financial Security Steering Committee Graduate Student Appointee	Aug 2023 – May 2025 Madison, WI
Annual Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM) Student Ambassador	Nov 2024 Madison, WI
School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison Panelist for Quantitative Research Methods Seminar	Nov 2024 Madison, WI
Consumer Behavior and Family Economics Graduate Program Committee Graduate Student Representative	Aug 2023 – May 2024 Madison, WI
Population Association of America 2024 Annual Meeting Panel Discussant	Apr 2024 Columbus, OH
School of Human Ecology, University of Wisconsin-Madison Panelist on incoming graduate student visit day	Mar 2023 Madison, WI
PEOPLE Program, University of Wisconsin-Madison Graduate Student Facilitator	Mar 2023 Madison, WI

REFERENCES

Dr. J. Michael Collins

Department of Consumer Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Email: jmcollins@wisc.edu

Dr. Katie Fitzpatrick

Department of Consumer Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Email: katie.fitzpatrick@wisc.edu

Dr. Lawrence Berger

School of Social Work
University of Wisconsin-Madison
Email: lmberger@wisc.edu

Dr. Megan Doherty Bea

Department of Consumer Science
University of Wisconsin-Madison
E-mail: mbea@wisc.edu