

# Iлона Lahdelma

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Post-doctoral fellow in political science and political methodology at the Juan March Institute at the Carlos III University, Madrid, Spain.

## Education

- 2016 - 2020 **DPhil (PhD) in Political Science**, *Department of Politics and International Relations*, University of Oxford, UK.  
A paper-based thesis in Political Sociology.
- 2012–2014 **Erasmus Mundus Master's degree in Regional Development**, *École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales*, Paris, France.
- 2011–2013 **Master's degree in History**, *University of Tampere*, Finland.
- 2008–2012 **Bachelor's degree in International Relations, minoring in Political Science**, *University of Tampere*, Finland.
- 2007–2011 **Bachelor's degree in History**, *University of Tampere*, Finland.
- Visiting scholarships
- Spring 2019 **Visiting student**, *European University Institute*, Florence, Italy.
- 2010–2011 **Erasmus exchange**, *Sciences Po*, Paris, France.

## PhD Papers

*To take or not to take: How experience of asylum seekers affects refugee policies in rural and urban areas.*

This paper implements a difference-in-differences design to estimate the impact of housing asylum seekers on refugee policies at the local level. In the preparation of this manuscript I created a novel panel data set of politicians' pre-election pledges in Finland combined with personal vote shares and municipality-specific characteristics.

*Does it pay off at the polls to be anti-immigration?*

This paper evaluates the assumption that public responses to immigration shocks result in an increased vote share for anti-immigration parties. I introduce three different ways to estimate how votes cast for immigration *policies* differ from votes cast for *parties* and conclude that previous results are prone to inaccuracies due to aggregation and fail to take into account that parties are not necessarily the best proxies for immigration attitudes.

*After the arrivals: How rural and urban citizens differ in their responses to asylum seekers.*

This paper makes use of a survey relying on the as-if-random allocation of asylum seekers in different Finnish municipalities to measure what citizens report about their experiences and how it affected their immigration preferences.

## Additional Projects

*The inter-generational effects of forced displacement.* Project under design together with Elias Dinas, Dominik Hangartner, and Matti Sarvimäki.

This project aims to discover the effect that forced war-time displacement has had on survivors and their offspring in two generations. I designed and obtained partial funding for a large-scale survey experiment with WW2 evacuees in Finland, their children and their grandchildren. Through this survey we are able to see how war-time displacement and having to leave one's home permanently affects political preferences and how this possibly changes across generations.

*How local economic gains affect preferences for asylum seekers' right to work.* Manuscript in preparation with Spyros Kosmidis.

This project investigates with a survey experiment how people's willingness to grant a right to work to asylum seekers is shaped by the perceived economic contributions of asylum seekers in the UK.

## Grants Awarded

- 2020 **Emil Aaltonen Foundation** EUR 5,000 towards running a survey.
- 2019 **The Association for the Enhancement of Karelian Culture** EUR 13,000 towards a survey.
- 2018 **The Ella and Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation** EUR 26,000 towards my PhD project.
- 2018 **The Finnish Konkordia League** EUR 8,000 towards my PhD project.
- 2018 **The Karelian Culture Foundation** EUR 10,000 towards a survey.
- 2018 **The Karelian League** EUR 2,000 towards a survey.
- 2017 **The Ella and Georg Ehrnrooth Foundation** EUR 24,000 towards my PhD project.

## Scholarships

- 2019 Oxford Scatcherd European Scholarship, GBP 1,500 towards a term at the EUI.
- 2018 Oxford Q-Step Graduate Scholarship, GBP 6,000.
- 2017–2019 Brasenose College Senior Hulme Scholarship, GBP 250/annum + dining rights.

## Teaching Experience

### Graduate teaching experience

- Fall 2019 **Teaching assistant: Introduction to Statistics, University of Oxford.**  
Assisting Dr Nelson Ruiz by teaching and preparing the lab sessions for the course.
- Fall 2018 **Teaching assistant: Introduction to Statistics, University of Oxford.**  
Assisting Dr Nelson Ruiz and Professor Robin Harding by teaching and preparing the lab sessions for the course. Teaching involved private tutorials for a visually impaired student.
- August 2018 **ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques, Budapest, Hungary.**  
Teaching assistant to Professor Elias Dinas for the course *Causal Inference in the Social Sciences II: Difference in Difference, Regression Discontinuity and Instruments*, course assistance and grading.

### Undergraduate teaching experience

- 2018–present **Tutor in Political Sociology, University of Oxford.**

- Tutorials for both visiting and matriculated undergraduates.
- 2017–2019 **Tutor in Comparative Government, University of Oxford.**  
Teaching undergraduates both tutorials and revision classes in comparative politics.
- Spring 2019 **Tutor in Political Methodology, University of Oxford.**  
Teaching and designing theoretical tutorials and applied lab-sessions for a visiting undergraduate student.

## Conference Presentations

- December 2019 *To take or not to take? Pre-election pledges about refugee intake in rural and urban areas*, presented at the **Conference on Comparative Research on Political Elites**, Hertie School of Government (with a travel grant by organizers), Berlin, Germany.
- June 2019 *To take or not to take? Explaining the formation of politicians' stances on refugee intake*, presented at the **2019 European Political Science Association's (EPSA)** annual conference, Belfast, UK.
- June 2018 *Asylum seekers and political representation*, presented at the **2018 European Political Science Association's (EPSA)** annual conference, Vienna, Austria.
- April 2018 *Asylum seekers and political representation*, presented at the **2018 European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)** joint sessions (with ECPR grant), Nicosia, Cyprus.

## Publications

- 2016 *Radicalism in Hungarian Civil Society, in Eternal Return? The Specter of Radicalism among Young People in Europe and Hungary*. L'Harmattan, Budapest.

## Impact

- 2020 Invited expert to participate in the **Finnish Broadcasting Company's** documentary *Finland is rural* to discuss rural areas willingness to accommodate refugees.
- 2018–2019 **European Commission, Enlightenment 2.0 Project:** Writing a state-of-the-art literature review on immigration attitudes to better understand European political behavior.
- November 2019 **The Finnish Social Democratic Party's** annual memorial lecture of late President Mauno Koivisto, keynote speech titled *Is populism good for democracy?*

## Technical Skills

- Statistical software STATA, R

## Languages

- Finnish Native  
Hungarian Native  
English Excellent  
French Excellent  
Swedish Good  
German Basic