

STEFAN HUT

<http://www.stefanhut.com>

hutstefa@amazon.com

Office Contact Information

Amazon
12 W 39th St
New York, NY 10018
Cell phone: +1 203-435-0788

Home Contact Information

84 Front St, Apt 8B
Brooklyn, NY 11201

Personal Information:

Born June 22, 1989, Male. Citizen of The Netherlands.

Present Position:

Sr. Economist, Weblab Decision Science & Advanced Experimentation, Amazon, Dec 2022 – present

Past Positions:

Economist II, Weblab Decision Science & Advanced Experimentation, Amazon, April – Dec 2022
Economist II, 3P Seller Fees, Amazon, August 2020 – April 2022
Consultant (part-time), World Bank Human Development Economics Group, June 2014 – June 2018
Consultant (full-time), World Bank Human Development Economics Group, June 2013 – June 2014

Undergraduate Studies:

BA in Economics and Statistics, University College Utrecht (*summa cum laude*), 2010

Graduate Studies:

Ph.D. in Economics, Brown University, 2014-2020
MA in Economics, Brown University, 2014
MA in International and Development Economics, Yale University (*full honors*), 2013
Graduate Diploma in Economics, Cambridge University (*distinction*), 2012

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2016-2018	Brown University, Research Assistant for Prof. Emily Oster
Summer 2015	Brown University, Research Assistant for Prof. Andrew Foster
2013-2014	World Bank, Consultant Human Development Economics in Europe Central Asia Region

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2019-2020	National Bureau for Economics Research (NBER) Fellowship on Economics of an Aging Workforce
2017	Brown University Department of Economics Third Year Paper Prize
2016	Brown University Department of Economics Teaching Award
2014	Stephen R. Ehrlich Fellowship for first-year PhD in Economics

Teaching Experience:

2018	Program Evaluation, MA in Public Administration, Brown University, TA for Prof. Neil Thakral
2017-2018	Introduction to Statistics and Economics, MA in Public Administration, Brown University, TA for Prof. Emily Oster and Prof. John Friedman
2016	Applied Economics Analysis, graduate Ph.D. level Brown University, TA for Prof. Anja Sautmann

2015

Health Hunger and the Household, undergraduate level Brown University, TA for Prof. Andrew Foster.

Research Papers:

Hut, Stefan. “**Cash Constraints and Labor Adjustments: Evidence from a Retirement Policy**” (2020). *Revise & Resubmit (R&R): Journal of Human Resources*.

In this paper I study how cash constraints affect firm response to labor market policies. I use administrative data from the Netherlands to assess firm adjustments to labor and capital in the context of a change in the effective retirement age for individuals born in 1950 or after. Exploiting this sharp cohort boundary, I find that - for each retained older worker - firms on average employ 0.6 fewer younger workers and reduce investments in machines and equipment by 6,000 EUR annually. All of the labor and investment adjustments are concentrated in cash constrained firms, and only these firms experience declines in revenue and profitability. For every 1 EUR increase in wage costs for older workers, such firms reduce their younger workforce by 0.7 EUR in terms of payroll and investments by 0.2 EUR. As a potential policy avenue to alleviate cash constraints, I show that more time to anticipate a policy may help firms smooth adjustments and reduce negative profit effects. Altogether, the results imply that firm response is driven by direct cash flow effects from retaining more older workers rather than the substitutability between older and younger workers. Failing to account for these constraints leads to estimates of the substitutability between different production inputs that are biased by an order of magnitude.

Hut, Stefan. “**Determinants of Dietary Choice in the US: Evidence from Consumer Migration.**” *Journal of Health Economics* (2020): 102327.

I study the evolution of the quality of grocery purchases among migrants to learn how changes in the environment affect dietary choice. Using detailed household level panel data on food purchases I find that healthfulness of grocery purchases is very persistent in the short-run. Three to four decades after moving, however, households have closed about half of the gap in healthfulness between the origin and destination area. The results suggest that dietary habits are highly persistent, but may eventually shift in the face of different local environments.

Hut, Stefan and Oster, Emily. “**Changes in Household Diet: Determinants and Predictability.**” *NBER Working Paper No. w24892, Available at SSRN: <https://ssrn.com/abstract=3236694> Journal of Public Economics* (2022) vol. 208, issue C.

We use grocery purchase data to analyze dietary changes. We show that households – including those with more income or education - do not improve diet in response to disease diagnosis or changes in household circumstances. We then identify households who show large improvements in diet quality. We use machine learning to predict these households and find (1) concentration of baseline diet in a small number of foods is a predictor of improvement and (2) dietary changes are concentrated in a small number of foods. We argue these patterns may be well fit by a model which incorporates attention costs.

Hut, Stefan; Nas Ozen, Efsan; Levin, Victoria; Munoz Boudet, Ana Maria. “**The Roles of Gender and Socioemotional Skill Signals in the Labor Market**” *World Bank Policy Research Working Paper: 9154 (February 2020)* *IZA Conference Working Paper* (2019)

This study investigates the importance of socioemotional skills in the hiring process for male and female job candidates. Using a large-scale randomized audit study in Turkey – in which we send fictitious CVs to real job openings - we find that socioemotional skills are valued positively only when an employer specifically asks for

them in the vacancy ad. When not asked for, candidates can face a penalty in the form of lower callback rates. A significant penalty for unsolicited socioemotional skills is only observed for women. We do not find evidence of other gender differences in the hiring process.

Link to [Google Scholar page](#) with additional research papers. Subset of additional publications includes:

- Mohamed Ihsan Ajwad, Ilhom Abdulloev, Robin Audy, Stefan Hut, Joost de Laat, Igor Kheyfets, Jennica Larrison, Zlatko Nikoloski, Federico Torracchi. (2014) “**The skills road: skills for employability in Uzbekistan**” World Bank, Washington, DC.
- Mohamed Ihsan Ajwad, Stefan Hut, Ilhom Abdulloev, Robin Audy, Joost de Laat, Sachiko Kataoka, Jennica Larrison, Zlatko Nikoloski, Federico Torracchi. (2014) “**The skills road: skills for employability in Tajikistan**” World Bank, Washington, DC.
- Mohamed Ihsan Ajwad, Stefan Hut, Ilhom Abdulloev, Robin Audy, Joost de Laat, Sachiko Kataoka, Jennica Larrison, Zlatko Nikoloski, Federico Torracchi. (2014) “**The skills road: skills for employability in the Kyrgyz Republic**” World Bank, Washington, DC.

Reviewer for:

Journals:

American Economic Review, Insights
American Economic Journal, Economic Policy
American Economic Journal, Applied Economics
Journal of the European Economic Association
Journal of Health Economics
Journal of the European Economic Association
Transportation Research Part A: Policy and Practice

Conferences:

Amazon Machine Learning Conference (AMLC) – Economics Session Referee, 2021, 2022
Amazon Economist Summit, Submission Selection Committee, 2021

References:

Amazon:

Mahnaz Islam
Principal Economist, Weblab
Amazon, Seattle, WA
Email: maislam@amazon.com

Roger Castillo
Director, Weblab
Amazon, Seattle, WA
Email: rhc@amazon.com

Aurelien Vidal
Director, Fees Research Science
Amazon, Seattle, WA
Email: aurelv@amazon.com

James McQueen
Principal Applied Scientist, Weblab
Amazon, Seattle, WA
Email: jmcq@amazon.com

Brown University:

Professor Emily Oster
Department of Economics
Brown University
Phone: 401-863-2170
Email: emily_oster@brown.edu

Professor John Friedman
Department of Economics
Brown University
Phone: 401-863-9590
Email: john_friedman@brown.edu

Professor Jesse Shapiro
Department of Economics
Brown University
Phone: 401-863-2970
Email: jesse_shapiro_1@brown.edu

Professor Neil Thakral
Department of Economics
Brown University
Phone: 401-863-1000
Email: neil_thakral@brown.edu

World Bank:

Victoria Levin
Senior Economist
World Bank Group
Email: vlevin@worldbank.org

Ana Maria Munoz Boudet
Senior Social Scientist
World Bank Group
Email: amunozboudet@worldbank.org

Efsan Nas Ozen
Economist
World Bank Group
Email: snasozen@worldbank.org