

Curriculum Vitae — Davide Cantoni

Department of Economics
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
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Email: davide.cantoni@econ.lmu.de
Born: 1981 (Milan, Italy)
Nationality: Italian, German

Academic Positions

CURRENT POSITION

- 2015– Professor of Economics, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich
- 2020– Ordinary Member, Bavarian Academy of Sciences and Humanities, Munich
- 2012– Research Affiliate, CEPR, London
- 2012– Member, CESifo Research Network, Munich
- 2024– Director, Review of Economic Studies
- 2023– Associate Editor, American Economic Review
- 2017– Editorial Board member, Review of Economic Studies
- 2026– At-large Member of the Administrative Board, European Economic Association
- 2022– Council member, European Economic Association
- 2019– Council member, *Verein für Socialpolitik* (German-speaking economic association)

PAST APPOINTMENTS

- 2011–2015 Professor of Economics (W3 tenure-track), Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich
- 2010–2011 Assistant Professor, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona

Education

- 2005–2010 Ph.D. in Economics, Harvard University
- 2003–2004 Visiting graduate student in Economics, University of California, Berkeley
- 2000–2005 *Diplom* in Economics, Universität Mannheim (with distinction)

Publications and working papers

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2025 Davide Cantoni, Noam Yuchtman
Acemoglu, Johnson, and Robinson: The Identification of Historically Contingent Causal Effects
Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Vol. 127, N. 3 (July): pp. 495–510
- 2024 Davide Cantoni, Cathrin Mohr, Matthias Weigand
The Rise of Fiscal Capacity: Administration and State Consolidation in the Holy Roman Empire
Econometrica, Vol. 92, N. 5 (September): pp. 1439–1472

- 2024 Davide Cantoni, Andrew Kao, David Y. Yang, Noam Yuchtman
Protests
Annual Review of Economics, Vol. 16: pp. 519–543
- 2024 Leonardo Bursztyn, Davide Cantoni, Patricia Funk, Felix Schönenberger, Noam Yuchtman
Identifying the Effect of Election Closeness on Voter Turnout: Evidence from Swiss Referenda
Journal of the European Economic Association, Vol. 22, N. 2 (April): pp. 876–914
- 2022 Davide Cantoni, Louis-Jonas Heizlsperger, David Y. Yang, Noam Yuchtman, and Y. Jane Zhang
The Fundamental Determinants of Protest Participation: Evidence from Hong Kong's Antiauthoritarian Movement
Journal of Public Economics, Vol. 211 (July): 104667
- 2020 Leonardo Bursztyn, Davide Cantoni, David Y. Yang, Noam Yuchtman, Y. Jane Zhang
Persistent Political Engagement: Social Interactions and the Dynamics of Protest Movements
American Economic Review: Insights, Vol. 3, N. 2 (June): pp. 233–250
- 2019 Davide Cantoni, David Y. Yang, Noam Yuchtman, Y. Jane Zhang
Protests as Strategic Games: Experimental Evidence from Hong Kong's Democracy Movement
Quarterly Journal of Economics, Vol. 134, N. 2 (May): pp. 1021–1077
- 2018 Davide Cantoni, Jeremiah Dittmar, Noam Yuchtman
Religious Competition and Reallocation: The Political Economy of Secularization in the Protestant Reformation
Quarterly Journal of Economics, Vol. 133, N. 4 (November): pp. 2037–2096
- 2017 Davide Cantoni, Yuyu Chen, David Y. Yang, Noam Yuchtman, Y. Jane Zhang
Curriculum and Ideology
Journal of Political Economy, Vol. 125, N. 2 (April): pp. 338–392.
- 2016 Leonardo Bursztyn, Davide Cantoni
A Tear in the Iron Curtain: The Impact of Western Television on Consumption Behavior
Review of Economics and Statistics, Vol. 98, N. 1 (March): pp. 25–41.
- 2015 Davide Cantoni
The Economic Effects of the Protestant Reformation: Testing the Weber Hypothesis in the German Lands
Journal of the European Economic Association, Vol. 13, N. 4 (August): pp. 561–598.
- 2014 Davide Cantoni, Noam Yuchtman
Medieval Universities, Legal Institutions, and the Commercial Revolution
Quarterly Journal of Economics, Vol. 129, N. 2 (May): pp. 823–887
- 2013 Davide Cantoni, Noam Yuchtman
The Political Economy of Educational Content and Development: Lessons from History
Journal of Development Economics, Vol. 104 (September): pp. 233–244
- 2012 Davide Cantoni
Adopting a New Religion: The Case of Protestantism in 16th Century Germany
Economic Journal, Vol. 122, N. 560 (May): pp. 502–531
- 2011 Daron Acemoglu, Davide Cantoni, Simon Johnson, James A. Robinson
The Consequences of Radical Reform: The French Revolution
American Economic Review, Vol. 101, N. 7 (December): pp. 3286–3307

WORKING PAPERS

- 2026 Davide Cantoni, Felix Hagemeister, Leon Haziraj, Mark Westcott
Persistence and Activation of Right-Wing Political Ideology

- 2026 Lara Andermann, Mathias Bühler, Davide Cantoni, Pascal Henschke, Matthias Weigand
City Directories as a Source of Historical Microdata: Progress Report
- 2026 Mathias Bühler, Davide Cantoni, Pascal Henschke
Accurate and Unbiased? Vision-Language Models for Historical Data
- 2024 Davide Cantoni, Cathrin Mohr, Matthias Weigand
Individualism, Identity, and Institutional Stability: Evidence from First Names in Germany, 1700–1850

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Water, Fertility, Mortality, and Social Sorting: Evidence from 19th-Century Munich (joint with Mathias Bühler, Pascal Henschke, Kalle Kappner, Matthias Weigand)
- From the Shtetl to the Capital: The Social and Occupational Rise of Jews (joint with Mathias Bühler, Pascal Henschke, Matthias Weigand, and Noam Yuchtman)
- Historical Contingencies, Econometric Problems: The Analysis of Natural Experiments in Economic History (joint with Noam Yuchtman)
- Epidemics and the Birth of the Leviathan (joint with Maria Waldinger and Matthias Weigand)

BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2023 Davide Cantoni, David Y. Yang, Noam Yuchtman
“Curriculum and ideology: Evidence from China”
in: *Nation Building: Big Lessons from Successes and Failures*, edited by Dominic Rohner and Ekaterina Zhuravskaya, 131–139 (ch. 11). London: CEPR Press.
- 2021 Davide Cantoni, Noam Yuchtman
“Historical Natural Experiments: Bridging Economics and Economic History”
in: *Handbook of Historical Economics*, edited by Alberto Bisin and Giovanni Federico, 213–241 (ch. 8). Cambridge, Mass.: Academic Press.
- 2018 Davide Cantoni, Felix Hagemeister, Mark Westcott
“Voting for the far right in Germany”
in: *Explaining Germany’s Exceptional Recovery*, edited by Dalia Marin. London: CEPR Press (VoxEU.org Books).
- 2010 Daron Acemoglu, Davide Cantoni, Simon Johnson, James A. Robinson
“From Ancien Regime to Capitalism: The Spread of the French Revolution as a Natural Experiment”
in: *Natural Experiments of History*, edited by Jared Diamond and James A. Robinson, 221–256 (ch. 7). Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press.

POLICY AND OTHER ARTICLES

- 2020 “China und Hongkong am Scheideweg,” **Perspektiven der Wirtschaftspolitik**
Vol. 21, N. 2: pp. 185–196
- 2017 “The religious roots of the secular West: The Protestant Reformation and the allocation of resources in Europe” (joint with Jeremiah Dittmar, Noam Yuchtman), on voxeu.org

- 2017 "Power to the people? China's policy trilemma in Hong Kong" (joint with David Y. Yang, Noam Yuchtman), LSE Department of Management Blog
- 2017 "Explaining the Alternative für Deutschland party's electoral success: The shadow of Nazi voting" (joint with Felix Hagemeister, Mark Westcott), on *vox.eu.org*
- 2014 "Curriculum and Ideology" (joint with Yuyu Chen, David Y. Yang, Noam Yuchtman, Y. Jane Zhang), on *vox.eu.org*
- 2012 "How universities helped transform the medieval world" (joint with Noam Yuchtman), on *vox.eu.org*
- 2010 "Godly Business: The end of the Protestant work ethic," **Foreign Policy** 178 (March/April)
- 2009 "The consequences of external reform: Lessons from the French Revolution" (joint with Daron Acemoglu, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson), on *vox.eu.com*

Grants, awards, stipends

GRANTS

- 2023–2028 ERC Consolidator Grant 101044546 "The City Rising" (EUR 1,956,434)
- 2021 Investitionsfonds LMUexcellent, LMU Munich (EUR 50,000)
- 2017–2022 ERC Starting Grant 716837 "Demand for Democracy" (EUR 1,494,000)
- 2016–2017 Nachwuchsförderungsfonds LMUexcellent, LMU Munich (EUR 50,000)
- 2013–2015 Nachwuchsförderungsfonds LMUexcellent, LMU Munich (EUR 56,788)
- 2012–2016 Marie Curie Career Integration Grant (EUR 100,000)
- 2010 Programa Comença, UPF (EUR 3,000)
- 2009 Paul Warburg Fund, Harvard University (US\$ 4,500)
- 2008 Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Opportunity Grant (US\$ 500)
- 2007 Paul Warburg Fund, Harvard University (US\$ 2,500)
- 2007 Economic History Association, Exploratory Data and Travel Award (US\$ 2,500)
- 2007 Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Summer Travel Grant (US\$ 3,000)

AWARDS

- 2021 Excellence in Refereeing Award, *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*
- 2021 Schmölders Prize (best economic history article of the last three years)
- 2019 Gossen Prize (best economist under 45 in German-speaking countries)
- 2016 *Preis für gute Lehre des Freistaats Bayern* (State of Bavaria, best teaching award)
- 2015 Excellence in Refereeing Award, *Journal of the European Economic Association*
- 2009 Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University

STIPENDS

- 2009–2010 Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies, Dissertation Completion Fellowship
- 2007–2009 Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, Dissertation Fellowship
- 2005–2007 Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes, ERP Grant
- 2005–2007 Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Fellowship
- 2000–2005 Fellow, Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes (German Merit Foundation)

Seminar and conference presentations

- 2027 (scheduled:) Toulouse, UAB Barcelona
- 2026 CEPR Applied Micro-Economic History Conference, NUS Singapore, Bristol, Stanford, UCLA, Cologne, Tübingen, Tilburg, EIEF Rome
- 2025 PSE-Sciences Po, Pompeu Fabra, USI Lugano
- 2024 Oxford, Princeton, Rome Tor Vergata, Bergamo
- 2023 Regensburg, EIEF Rome, European Public Choice Society (Hannover, keynote address), Pavia, ETH Zurich, ASREC (Milan, keynote address)
- 2022 Göttingen[°], IIES Stockholm, Mannheim, CEPR International Macro History Seminar[°], Lisbon (NOVA SBE), Turin (Carlo Alberto), ENS Lyon
- 2021 Kyungpook National University[°], Bocconi, Bonn, Pompeu Fabra, SMYE Bologna (keynote address)[°], Toulouse[°], Brussels (ECARES)[°], Columbia[°], LSE[°], UC Irvine[°], British Columbia[°]
- 2020 Graduate Institute Geneva, UCL[†], Bocconi[†], SMYE Bologna (keynote address)[†], CEPR Populism Workshop[†], IIES Stockholm[†], WZB Berlin[°], Wuppertal[°], MPI for European Legal History Frankfurt[°]
- 2019 Nuremberg, CEU, CERGE-EI, Hebrew, Herzliya, Heidelberg, EUI
- 2018 UC Berkeley-Haas, Stockholm (SU), Fribourg, Harvard, Uppsala, Passau, PSE-Sciences Po, Luxembourg (keynote address)
- 2017 MPI for Collective Goods Bonn, Milan (Catholic U), Queen Mary, Milan (U Statale, Sociology/Polisci), Frankfurt, Conference on The Long Shadow of History (Tel Aviv), Düsseldorf, Trinity College Dublin, Copenhagen, Lund, Zurich
- 2016 Bonn, NYU Stern, Innsbruck, Bozen-Bolzano, Pompeu Fabra, CESifo Area Conference Behavioural Economics, Utrecht, UC Berkeley
- 2015 Cologne, Bayreuth, TU Munich, Mannheim, Becker-Friedman Institute Media and Communications Conference
- 2014 UC Berkeley, UCLA Anderson, Northwestern, Stanford, UC Davis, CESifo Area Conference Economics of Education, CEPR Economic History Symposium, Zurich
- 2013 Hohenheim, Warwick, IIES Stockholm, Bocconi, U Southern Denmark
- 2012 Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Regensburg, Linz, Workshop on Natural Experiments and Controlled Field Studies (Holzhausen), NBER Summer Institute (POL), FU Berlin, Mannheim
- 2011 U Barcelona, Royal Economic Society (Royal Holloway), Oxford, Paris School of Economics, Asian Development Bank Workshop on Human Capital and Economic Development (Boston), LSE
- 2010 Pompeu Fabra, Bocconi, Brown, LMU Munich, IIES Stockholm, Harvard, VfS annual meeting (Kiel), CREI, U Autònoma Barcelona, Cologne
- 2009 Canadian Institute for Advanced Research, LMU Munich, MPI for Collective Goods Bonn, HU Berlin, NBER Summer Institute (POL), EEA annual meeting (Barcelona), Harvard, Yale, Mannheim, Colgate-Hamilton
- 2008 Harvard, Yale, Heidelberg, EHA annual meeting (New Haven)
 - [°] Online presentation
 - [†] Canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Teaching

CURRENT

- Culture and Institutions in Economic History (undergraduate), lecture
- Geography and Technology in Economic History (undergraduate), lecture
- Political Economy and Economic History (Ph.D. field course)
- Very Long-Run Growth (Ph.D. field course)

PAST

- 2016 Natural Experiments in German History (undergraduate), LMU Munich, junior seminar
- 2013 Media Economics (undergraduate), LMU Munich, junior seminar
- 2012 Empirical Economics I (undergraduate), LMU Munich, lecture (in German)
- 2012, 2015 Country Studies in Historical Development (undergraduate), LMU Munich, junior seminar
- 2011–2020 Advanced Economic History (M.Sc.), LMU Munich, lecture/seminar
- 2011 International Economic History (graduate), UPF, lecture
- 2011 International Economic History (undergraduate), UPF, lecture
- 2006–2009 Macroeconomic Theory (graduate), Harvard, teaching fellow
- 2008 Econometrics (undergraduate), Harvard, teaching fellow
- 2005–2006 Macroeconomics III (adv. undergraduate), Mannheim, teaching assistant

Service to the profession

ADMINISTRATIVE AND EDITORIAL POSITIONS

- 2023–2025 Nominating Committee, European Economic Association
- 2023–2025 Audit Committee, European Economic Association
- 2023–2025 Dean of the Faculty of Economics, LMU Munich
- 2021–2023 Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Economics, LMU Munich
- 2021–2023 Director, Junior Faculty Development Program, Faculty of Economics, LMU Munich
- 2017–2022 Associate Editor, Journal of the European Economic Association
- 2017–2019 Associate Editor, Explorations in Economic History
- 2013–2022 Placement Director, Faculty of Economics, LMU Munich

PARTICIPATION IN DEPARTMENT-WIDE GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 2017–2028 DFG Collaborative Research Center “Rationality and Competition” SFB-TRR 190, co-PI and group leader
- 2013–2022 International Graduate Program “Evidence-Based Economics” (Elite Network Bavaria), co-PI
- 2013–2022 DFG Research Training Group “Microeconomic Determinants of Labor Productivity” GRK 1928, co-PI

SUPERVISION OF PH.D. STUDENTS

- 2025– Clemens Scholz, LMU Munich
- 2024– *Tao Chen, LMU Munich
- 2024– *Francesco Biasioni, LMU Munich
- 2023– *Lara Andermann, LMU Munich
- 2023– *Moritz Leitner, LMU Munich
- 2022–2026 Hiroshi Kumanomido, LMU Munich (*first placement: Kwansei Gakuin University*)

2021–2026 Helene Strandt, LMU Munich
 2021–2026 Carla Mirabella, LMU Munich (*first placement: UCSD postdoc*)
 2019–2024 Sebastian Hager, LMU Munich (*first placement: Oxford, Nuffield postdoc*)
 2018–2023 *Leonie Bielefeld, LMU Munich (*public sector placement*)
 2018–2023 *Emilio Esguerra, LMU Munich (*private sector placement*)
 2018–2022 Benjamin Arold, ifo and LMU Munich (*first placement: ETH Zurich, postdoc*)
 2018–2022 Biljana Meiske, Max-Planck-Institute, Munich (*first placement: EUI, postdoc*)
 2017–2022 *Leonhard Vollmer, LMU Munich (*private sector placement*)
 2017–2022 *Johannes Wimmer, LMU Munich (*private sector placement*)
 2017–2021 Brendan Shanks, LMU Munich (*public sector placement*)
 2017–2021 Eleonora Guarnieri, ifo and LMU Munich (*first placement: Exeter*)
 2016–2020 *Felix Hagemeister, LMU Munich (*first placement: TU Munich, postdoc*)
 2016–2023 Lukas Rosenberger, LMU Munich (*first placement: Northwestern, postdoc*)
 2015–2019 *Navid Sabet, LMU Munich (*first placement: Frankfurt*)
 2015–2020 *Daniela Miebling, LMU Munich (*public sector placement*)
 2014–2019 *Cathrin Mohr, LMU Munich (*first placement: Bonn*)
 2014–2018 Marie Lechler, LMU Munich (*private sector placement*)
 2013–2017 Daniel Wissmann, LMU Munich (*public sector placement*)
 2013–2017 *Mark Westcott, LMU Munich (*private sector placement*)
 2013–2017 Anastasia Driva, LMU Munich (*private sector placement*)
 2013–2016 Ruth Schüler, ifo and LMU Munich (*private sector placement*)
 2011–2015 Rhea Molato, Max-Planck-Institute, Munich (*private sector placement*)
 2011–2015 *Daphne Alvarez Villa, LMU Munich (*first placement: Oxford, postdoc*)
 2011–2015 *Alexandra Semrad, LMU Munich (*private sector placement*)
 2010–2015 Andrea Matranga, UPF (*first placement: New Economic School, Moscow*)
 2010–2015 Vicky Fouka, UPF (*first placement: Stanford*)

*: main advisor

PH.D. STUDENTS: EXTERNAL EXAMINER

2026 Joseph Enguehard, ENS Lyon
 2023 Stefan Pauly, SciencesPo
 2021 Camille Urvoy, SciencesPo
 2019 Andreas Stegmann, CEMFI
 2017 Erik Prawitz, IIES Stockholm
 2017 Bálint Ményhert, CEU Budapest
 2016 Christian Skovsgaard, U Southern Denmark

ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

2023 Head of the core conference committee, annual meeting of the *Verein für Socialpolitik* (German-speaking economic association)
 2019 Head of the program committee, annual meeting of the *Verein für Socialpolitik* (German-speaking economic association)
 2018 Organizer of a workshop on “Understanding the Demand for Democracy” at the Center for Advanced Studies, LMU Munich
 2017–2020 Organizer of the department seminar (Hans Möller Seminar), LMU Munich
 2013–2015 Co-organizer of three workshops on “Mechanisms of Persistence” at the Center for Advanced Studies, LMU Munich
 2012– Co-organizer of the Empirical Economics Seminar at LMU Munich
 2012–2016 Local coordinator of EDGE (European Doctoral Group in Economics)
 2010–2011 Organizer of the Economic History Seminar series at UPF

PRESS COVERAGE AND PUBLIC OUTREACH

Ara • Bloomberg View • Boston Globe • Dagens Nyheter • Deutsche Welle • Economist • El País • Foreign Policy • Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung • Handelsblatt • Il Mulino • Il Sole 24 Ore • Der Standard • Süddeutsche Zeitung • The Times (London) • Wirtschaftswoche • Die Zeit

REFEREEING

American Economic Journal: Applied Economics • American Economic Journal: Economic Policy • American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics • American Economic Review • American Economic Review: Insights • American Journal of Political Science • American Political Science Review • China Journal • Constitutional Political Economy • Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Foundation) • Econometrica • Economic History Review • Economic Journal • Economica • Economics of Transition • European Economic Review • European Research Council • European Review of Economic History • Explorations in Economic History • German Israeli Foundation • International Economic Review • Israel Science Foundation • Journal of Applied Econometrics • Journal of Comparative Economics • Journal of Conflict Resolution • Journal of Development Economics • Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization • Journal of Economic Growth • Journal of Economic History • Journal of Finance • Journal of International Economics • Journal of Political Economy • Journal of Political Economy: Microeconomics • Journal of Politics • Journal of Public Economics • Journal of the Economic Science Association • Journal of the European Economic Association • Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (Italy) • Nature Human Behaviour • National Science Foundation • PNAS • Princeton University Press • Public Choice • Quarterly Journal of Economics • Quarterly Journal of Political Science • Review of Economics and Statistics • Review of Economic Studies • Scandinavian Economic History Review • Science • Swiss National Science Foundation