

Curriculum Vitae (February 2025)

General information:

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Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=AoRdW8wAAAAJ&hl=en&oi=ao>

Current projects:

Worker specialization and the consequences of occupational decline: Are workers with poor outside opportunities less responsive and more susceptible to negative demand shifts in routine occupations? To answer this, I create and estimate an occupation specialization index (OSI) using Swedish register data and machine learning tools. It measures the expected utility difference between a worker's occupation and his best outside option. This determines the loss he is willing to tolerate to avoid switching. Low-OSI generalists disproportionately left routine work. Their future wage growth was akin to comparable workers initially in non-routine occupations. By contrast, routine specialists largely stayed put and experienced lower wage growth than generalists and non-routine specialists. [Link](#)

Outside options and the sharing of match-specific rents (with [Peter Fredriksson](#), [Lena Hensvik](#) & [Oskar Nordström Skans](#)): We provide direct evidence on how the transmission from idiosyncratic match quality to workers' wages change with aggregate labor market conditions. Our empirical approach relies on a direct measure of the idiosyncratic quality of matches between workers' multidimensional skills and the skill requirements of the employer. In contrast to standard sharing-rule models, we show that the transmission from idiosyncratic match quality to workers' wages is much more pronounced when market conditions are favorable. Further results show that the returns to match quality rise with tenure, and that this process is faster when the market is tighter. Overall, our results are consistent with a framework where workers can use counteroffers to extract rents from idiosyncratic productivity. [Link](#)

Understanding occupational wage growth (with [Adrian Adermon](#), [Georg Graetz](#) & [Yaroslav Yakymovych](#)): Using a new identification strategy, we jointly estimate the growth in occupational wage premia as well as time-varying occupation-specific life cycle profiles for

Swedish workers 1996–2013. We document a substantial increase in between-occupation wage inequality due to differential growth in premia as well as due to shifts in life-cycle profiles. However, this increase is not apparent in raw wage data, because of strong sorting responses. The association of wage premium growth and employment growth is positive, suggesting that premium growth is predominantly driven by demand side factors. At the same time, there appears to be a strong life-cycle component to shifts in the occupational wage structure, often favoring young workers. Our results are robust to allowing for occupation-level changes in returns to cognitive and psycho-social skills. [Link](#)

The Importance of the Public Employment Service’s Local Presence (with Josefine Andersson & Jonas Cederlöf): This project investigates how important the presence of local Public Employment Service (PES) offices is for the support that job seekers receive from the PES and, ultimately, how successful they are in their job search. We exploit time variation in local office presence stemming from the extensive closure of local offices carried out by the Public Employment Service between 2014 and 2020. Understanding the consequences of these closures is important in its own right, but it can also provide important perspectives on the Public Employment Service’s ongoing efforts to strengthen its local presence.

Publications:

Ek, S., M. Hammarstedt & P. Skedinger (2024), “Low-skilled jobs, language proficiency, and job opportunities for refugees: an experimental study”, *Scandinavian Journal of Economics* 126(2), 355-386. [Link](#)

Ek, S. (2023), *Structural Change, Match Quality, and Integration in the Labor Market*, Doktorsavhandling, Nationalekonomiska institutionen, Uppsala universitet. [Link](#)

Ek, S., M. Hammarstedt & P. Skedinger (2020), *Enkla jobb och kunskaper i svenska–nycklar till integration?*, SNS Förlag, Stockholm. [Link](#)

Ek, S. & M. Henrekson (2019), “The Geography and Concentration of Authorship in the Top-Five: Implications for European Economics”, *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, 66(2), 215-245. [Link](#)

Ek, S. & P. Skedinger (2019), “Wage Policies and the Integration of Immigrants”, i Calmfors, L. & Sánchez Gassen, N., *Integrating Immigrants into the Nordic Labour Markets*, Nordregio, Nordiska ministerrådet, Stockholm. [Link](#)

Ek, S. & M. Henrekson (2019), “Vem publicerar i topp-5 och vad betyder det för europeisk nationalekonomi?”, *Ekonomisk Debatt*, Nr 5, Årg 47. [Link](#)

Calmfors, L., S. Ek, A.-S. Kolm, & P. Skedinger (2019), *Kollektivavtal och lönebildning i en ny*

tid, Dialogos Förlag, Stockholm.

Calmfors, L., P. Danielsson, S. Ek, A.-S. Kolm, T. Pekkarinen & P. Skedinger (2018), *Hur ska fler komma in på arbetsmarknaden?*, Dialogos Förlag, Stockholm.

Ek, S. (2018), "Vart leder lågkvalificerade jobb?", *Ekonomisk Debatt*, Nr 5, Årg 46. [Link](#)

Calmfors, L., S. Ek, A.-S. Kolm, T. Pekkarinen & P. Skedinger (2018), *Olika vägar till jobb*, Rapport 2018:2, Arbetsmarknadsekonomiska rådet, Stockholm. [Link](#)

Calmfors, L., S. Ek, A.-S. Kolm, T. Pekkarinen & P. Skedinger (2018), *Hur fungerar kollektivavtalen?*, Rapport 2018:1, Arbetsmarknadsekonomiska rådet, Stockholm. [Link](#)

Ek, S. & M. Henrekson (2018), "Citeringar – att mäta och att mäta rätt", *Ekonomisk Debatt*, Nr 1, Årg 46. [Link](#)

Ek, S. & R. Svensson (2017), "Immateriella tillgångar, innovationer och ekonomisk tillväxt/välstånd på makronivå" i *Samband mellan immateriella tillgångar, innovation och ekonomisk tillväxt: två kunskapsöversikter*, Vinnova, Stockholm.

Education:

PhD programme in economics, Uppsala University (2018-2023)

Master's programme in economics, Uppsala University (2014-2016)

Bachelor programme in business and economics, Uppsala University (2011-2014)

Employment history:

Researcher, The Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy (IFAU) (October 2024-ongoing)

Analyst, unit for programme evaluation, analysis department, Swedish Public Employment Service (April 2023-October 2024)

Affiliation, Uppsala Centre for Labor Studies (UCLS) (2022-ongoing)

Secretary, Swedish Labour Policy Council (*Arbetsmarknadsekonomiska rådet*), Stockholm (March 2017-June 2018)

Research Assistant, Research Institute of Industrial Economics (IFN) (October 2016-May 2017)

Research Assistant, The Institute for Evaluation of Labour Market and Education Policy (IFAU) (June 2016-September 2016)

Assistant to SNS Economic Policy Council 2017, Center for Business and Policy Studies (SNS)

(June 2016-September 2016)

Lecturer, Ekonomifakta, Confederation of Swedish Enterprise (August 2015-May 2016)

Presentations (selected)

Swedish Public Employment Service 2023, 2024; Linnaeus University 2023; Ratio 2023; IFAU 2021, 2023; IFN 2022, 2023; Swedish National Conference in Economics 2022; SOLE Minneapolis 2022; London School of Economics 2022; UCLS doctoral workshop 2021; EALE Padua 2021; Uppsala University 2019-2022; Confederation of Swedish Enterprise 2018; Swedish Labour Policy Council seminars 2018

Teaching

Teaching Assistant, Labor economics (Bachelor's programme), autumn 2019-spring 2020

Teaching Assistant, Topics in economics (Master's programme), autumn 2019-spring 2020

Teaching Assistant, Econometric theory (Master's programme), spring 2020

Refereeing:

Labour Economics; Nordregio

Academic Visits:

Centre For Economic Performance (CEP), London School of Economics (February 2022-June 2022)

Miscellaneous:

Programming: Stata; Python; R; SQL; Latex; Qlik

Voluntary work: Treasurer, Economics Association at Uppsala University; Accountant, PhD Association at the Department of Economics, Uppsala University; Chair, *Västmanlands-Dalarna* student orchestra in Uppsala

Languages: Swedish (native); English (professional); German (basic)

Interests: gravel biking; cross-country skiing; tennis; the clarinette