Alexander Willén

Norwegian School of Economics

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Employment

Professor, Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics	2021-present
Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Norwegian School of Economics	2018 - 2021

Appointments and Affiliations

Appointments

Guest Professor, Uppsala University	2026–present

Affiliations

Research Associate, ZEW – Leibniz Centre for European Economic Research	2026–present
Research Associate, Rockwool Foundation Berlin	2025–present
Research Affiliate, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)	2023–present
Distinguished CESifo Affiliate, CESifo Research Network	2021–present
Research Fellow, Uppsala Center for Labor Studies (UCLS)	2018–present
Researcher, FAIR Centre of Excellence	2018–present
Researcher, Center for Applied Research, SNF	2018–present
Foreign Research Fellow, Bolivian Academy of Economic Sciences, ABCE	2017–present
Affiliated Researcher, Uppsala University	2024–2026
Affiliated Researcher, Statistics Norway	2019–2022

Fields

Labor Economics, Public Economics, Economics of Education

Education

Ph.D. Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University	2018
M.S. Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University	2016
M.P.P. McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University	2013
B.A. Politics, Philosophy, and Economics, Durham University	2011

Editorial Activities

Joint Managing Editor, *The Economic Journal*	2026–present
Editorial Board, *Review of Economic Studies*	2025–present

Working Papers

The Dynamics of Power in Labor Markets: Monopolistic Unions versus Monopsonistic Employers (with S. Dodini and K. Salvanes).
Revise and Resubmit (2nd round) ***Review of Economic Studies***
Also published as CESifo Discussion Paper No. 9495 (2022)

The Fatal Consequences of Brain Drain (with S. Dodini, K. Loken, and P. Lundborg).
Revise and Resubmit ***Review of Economic Studies***
Also published as IZA Discussion Paper No. 17819 (2025)

The Timing of Parental Displacement, Child Development and Family Adjustment (with P. Carneiro, K. Salvanes, and B. Willage).
Conditionally Accepted ***The Economic Journal***
Also published as CESifo Discussion Paper (2022)

Beyond training: Worker agency, informal learning, and competition (with M. Silliman).
Reject and Resubmit ***The Review of Economic Studies***

Also published as IZA Discussion Paper No. 18109 (2025)

Course-Taking Incentives, College Admissions, and the Human Capital Allocations of Students (with D. Duque, S. Hirshman, and K. Salvanes).
Revise and Resubmit ***American Economic Journal: Economic Policy***

The Career Effects of Union Membership (with S. Dodini, K. Salvanes, and J. Zhu).
Revise and Resubmit ***Journal of Labor Economics***
Also published as IZA Discussion Paper 16185 (2023)

Worker Power, Immigrant Sorting, and Firm Dynamics (with M. Silliman).
Also published as IZA Discussion Paper 17208 (2024)

The Power To Discriminate (with S. Dodini).
Also published as IZA Discussion Paper No. 17830 (2025)

Dynastic Capital and the Inheritance of Social Advantage (with M. Lovenheim and E. van Egeraat)
Also published as NHH Working Paper No. 9 (2026)

The Effect of Labor Market Competition on Firms, Workers, and Communities (with S. Dodini and K. Loken).
Also published as NHH Discussion Paper 17 (2022)

Meetings (with D. Deming, K. Loken, and Y. Xu).
Also published as NBER Working Paper No. 35706 (2026)

The Division of Labor: Productivity, Coordination, and Learning (with K. Loken, M. Silliman, and Y. Xu).
Also published as NHH Discussion Paper No. 16/2026 (2026)

Published Papers

Dodini, Willen, and Zhu (2026). "Union Membership and Native-Immigrant Labor Market Gaps"
The Economic Journal

Dodini, Stansbury, and Willen (2026). "Who Pays For Unions?"
Quarterly Journal of Economics.

Landaud, Maurin, Willage, and Willen (2026). "The Value of A High School GPA"
Review of Economics and Statistics.

Karadakic, Butikofer, Willen (2025). "Parenthood and the Gender Gap in Commuting."
Journal of Public Economics.

Ginja, Riise, Willage, and Willen (2025). "Does Your Doctor Matter? Doctor Quality and Patient Outcomes"
Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics.

Riise, Willage, Willen (2025). "Intergenerational Effects of Sick Leave on Child Human Capital"
Journal of Health Economics.

Butikofer, Loken and Willen (2024). "Building Bridges and Widening Gaps"
The Review of Economics and Statistics.

Hirshman and Willen (2024). "Does Increasing Risk Widen Gender Gaps?"
Management Science.

Dodini, Lovenheim, and Willen (2024). "The Changing Skill Content of Private-Sector Union Coverage"
The ILR Review.

Dodini, Lovenheim, Salvanes, and Willen (2024). "Monopsony, Job Tasks, and Labor Market Concentration"
The Economic Journal.

Salvanes, Willage, and Willen (2024). "The Effect of Labor Market Shocks Across the Life Cycle"
Journal of Labor Economics.

Tungodden and Willen (2023). "When Parents Decide: Gender Differences in Competitiveness"
Journal of Political Economy.

Willage and Willen (2022). "Postpartum Job Loss: Transitory Effect on Mothers, Long-Run Damage on Children"
European Economic Review.

Riise, Willage and Willen (2022). "Can Female Doctors Cure the Gender STEMM Gap? Evidence from

Randomly Assigned General Practitioners"
The Review of Economics and Statistics.

Johnsen and Willen (2022). "The Effect of Negative Income Shocks on Pensioners"
Labour Economics.

Johnsen, Vaage, and Willen (2022). "Interactions in Public Policies: Spousal Responses and Program Spillovers of Welfare Reforms"
The Economic Journal.

Jaume and Willen (2021). "The Effect of Teacher Strikes on Parents"
Journal of Development Economics.

Willen (2021). "Decentralization of Wage Determination: Evidence From A National Teacher Reform"
Journal of Public Economics.

Blau, Comey, Eng, Kahn, Meyerhofer and Willen (2020). "Culture and gender allocation of tasks: source country characteristics and the division of non-market work among US immigrants"
The Review of Economics of the Household.

Homonoff, Willage and Willen (2020). "Rebates as Incentives: The Effects of a Gym Membership Reimbursement Program"
Journal of Health Economics.

Bohlmark and Willen (2020). "Tipping and the Effects of Segregation"
American Economic Journal: Applied Economics.

Lovenheim and Willen (2019). "The Long-run Effects of Teacher Collective Bargaining"
American Economic Journal: Economic Policy.

Jaume and Willen (2019). "The Long-run Effects of Teacher Strikes"
Journal of Labor Economics.

Select Work in Progress

Firm Location Choice and Dynamic Agglomeration
(with M. Silliman and S. Dodini)

Social Assistance, Work Incentives, and Economic Hardship
(with J. Cook, A. Reiremo, and C. East)

Major Grants

"Foundations of Labor Market Productivity"
European Research Council, Starting Grant, PI ($1.5m) 2026-2030

"Labor Market Power, Institutional Structures, and Social Consequence"
Norwegian Research Council, FRIPRO, Co-PI ($1.2m) 2026-2030

"Determinants of Demand and Supply of Elder Care"
Nordforsk, participant ($1.2m) 2025-2029

"Skills and Firms"
Norwegian Research Council, Top International Researcher, Co-PI ($600k) 2025-2027

"Firm Power, Worker Power, and the Structure of Labor Markets"
Norwegian Research Council, Young Research Talent, PI ($800k) 2023-2028

Select Professional Service and Leadership

Elected Member, EALE Executive Committee 2026-present
Expert, Swedish National Audit Office 2025-2026
Academic Director, MSc Economics and Business Administration, NHH 2025-present
Member, Norwegian Council for Higher Education 2025-present
Elected Member, FAIR Board 2024-present
Chair, Junior Faculty Development Program 2021-2026
Elected Member, Board of the Norwegian School of Economics 2020-2021

Program Committees

The European Economics Association, co-lead (labor) 2026

The World Labor Conference (SOLE, EALE, and AASLE), member 2025
The European Economics Association, co-lead (labor) 2025
The Econometric Society Winter Meeting, member 2024
The European Association of Labour Economists, member 2024
The Society of Labor Economists, member 2024
The European Economics Association, member 2024
Nordic Summer Institute in Labor Economics, co-lead 2022
NHH Spring Conference, member 2021 - 2024

Fellowships, Honors and Awards

Excellence in Refereeing Award, Review of Economic Studies 2023
Excellence in Refereeing Award, Review of Economic Studies 2022
Distinguished CESifo Affiliate Award 2021
IPUMS Time-use Research Award 2021
Best Paper Award, "The Long-run Effects of Teacher Strikes", ABCE 2017
Einaudi Center International Research Award 2016
Dr. Markus Wallenberg Fellowship 2013, 2014, 2015

Teaching

Modern Labor Markets: Technology, Skills, Power, and Immigration (Undergraduate) 2025-2026
Advanced Econometrics II (PhD) 2019-2026
Introduction to Economics (Undergraduate) 2019-2023
Personnel Economics (MSc) 2019-2020

PhD Students

Marianne Godoy (Committee Chair) 2029 (exp.)
Eppie J. Van Egeraat (Committee Chair) 2027 (exp.)
Daniel Duque (Committee Chair) 2025
- Placement: Postdoctoral Fellow at Masaryk University in Brno

Rene Karadakic (Committee Member) 2023
- Placement: Postdoctoral Fellow at Harvard School of Public Health

Invited Seminars, Conference Presentations, and Workshops (since 2018)

2026 Centre for European Economic Research (ZEW)*, University of Zurich*, Center for Monetary and Financial Studies (CEMFI), Uppsala University*, Aarhus University, Bocconi-Cornell Gathering*, IWH (Leibniz Association)*, ETH Zurich*

2025 University of Glasgow, Erasmus School of Economics Rotterdam, University of Nebraska, Trinity College Dublin, Uppsala University, EEA (invited session), IMF, Berlin, Copenhagen, CESifo (Keynote), SOLE/EALE/AASLE (invited session), Bocconi, IIES Stockholm, Cophenhagen

2024 Institute for Fiscal Studies, LERA/ASSA, University of Rochester, Syracuse University, Cornell University, Duke University, BFI Health Economics Initiative (University of Chicago), BECCLE, Lund University, IWH (Leibniz Association), UCLS Annual Meeting, 2nd Oslo Labor Workshop, Bocconi-Cornell Gathering, EALE , Opportunity Insights, Brown University

2023 University of Gothenburg, Cornell University, Tinbergen Institute, IAB, European Association of Labour Economists, NBER Summer Institute (Children), Inaugural Nordic Urban Institute

2022 The Frisch Centre for Economic Research, OsloMet, CESifo Area Conference on Labor Economics, Society of Labor Economists, Arne Ryde Workshop on Gender and Family Wellbeing (Lund), Paris Saclay, Swedish Institute for Social Research, UCLS Spring Meeting, FAIR Midway Conference, IZA Workshop: Labor Market Institutions, the 44th Meeting of the Norwegian Association for Economists

2021 Cornell University, University of Copenhagen (CEBI), Society of Labor Economists, Association for Education Finance and Policy, VATT Institute for Economic Research, University of Pittsburgh, University of Texas at Austin, Northeast Labor Synopsis for Early Career Economists, European Economics Association, Utrecht School of Economics, CESifo

2020 ASSA Annual Meeting, SOLE/EALE, Econometrics World Conference, European Economics Association, Central Bank of Lithuania, FAIR NHH

2019 University of Copenhagen, Stockholm University, Uppsala University, Paris School of Economics, Society of Labor Economics, International Health Economics Association, 14th Nordic Summer Institute in Labor Economics, Statistics Norway, Finance Department of Norway, Aarhus University

2018 Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Austin-Bergen Applied Micro Workshop, Association for Education Finance and Policy, Bank of Mexico, Stockholm School of Economics, University of Bergen, Swedish Institute for Evaluation of Labor Market and Education Policy, Louisiana State University, Norwegian School of Economics, University of Oslo

* Scheduled

Referee Services

Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Review, AEJ: Economic Policy, AEJ: Applied Economics, the Economic Journal, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of the European Economics Association, European Economic Review, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Health Economics, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, ILR Review, Labour Economics, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Economic Inquiry, Economics of Education Review, Journal of Economic Geography, IZA Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Human Capital, American Educational Research Journal, International Tax and Public Finance, AERA Open, International Journal of Comparative Labor Law and IR, The American Journal of Education, Contemporary Economic Policy, Economica

Career Breaks

Parental leave, 4 months 2026

Parental leave, 6 months 2023

Parental leave, 6 months 2021

- October 2026 -