Asher Dvir-Djerassi

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Research Interests

Wealth & Income Inequality; Retirement Policy; Tax & Transfer Policies; Fiscal Sociology; Historical Institutionalism; Political Economy; Simulation Methods

Education

University of Michigan — Ann Arbor, MI
Ph.D., Sociology & Public Policy – GPA 4.0 — 2019 – Present

Dissertation: *The Wealth Inequality of Pensions*

Committee: Fabian Pfeffer & Greta Krippner (co-chairs), Luke Shaefer, Robert Manduca, & Pablo Mitnik

Co-Investigator, Wealth and Mobility Study (WAM)
Fellow, Stone Center for Inequality Dynamics (CID)
Trainee, Population Studies Center (PSC)

City University of New York, SPS — New York, NY
M.S., Data Science – GPA 4.0 — 2018 – 2019

L'École doctorale de Sciences Po-Paris — Paris, FR
Graduate courses in economics — 2016 – 2017

Hampshire College — Amherst, MA
B.A., Economics and Public Policy — 2010–2014
Thesis: *The Economics of a Guaranteed Minimum Income* [PDF]

University of Copenhagen, Sociology Faculty — Copenhagen, DK
Graduate courses in criminology, sociology, and social policy — Fall 2012

Technical Skills

Advanced proficiency: Stata, LaTeX, Vi/Vim, Excel
Intermediate proficiency: R, R Shiny, SQL
Elementary knowledge: CSS/HTML, Python

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Dvir-Djerassi, Asher and Fabian T. Pfeffer. 2025. "Wealth Inequality: A Relational Perspective." In *The Oxford Handbook of Social Stratification*, ed. Markus Gangl et al. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Article] [PDF]

Dvir-Djerassi, Asher. 2024. "An End to Racial Wealth Inequality? A Counterfactual Historical Simulation of Universal Inheritance Proposals." *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences*. [PDF]

Pfeffer, Fabian T. and **Asher Dvir-Djerassi**. 2022. "The U.S. Wealth Distribution: Off the Charts." *Socius*. [Article] [Viz]

Working Papers

Dvir-Djerassi, Asher. 2026. "The Growth Process of Individual Retirement Accounts: Evidence from Administrative Data." *Internal Revenue Service, Statistics of Income (SOI) Working Papers.* [PDF]

Media mentions:

- CNBC, "401(k) Rollovers Can Be Costly—and Irreversible. What to Know Before Moving Your Money," August 24, 2026. [Article]
- International Business Times, "Rolling Over 401(k) to an IRA? This 'Irreversible' Move Could Cost Retirees $30,000," August 25, 2026. [Article]

Dvir-Djerassi, Asher. 2021. "Can an unconditional cash transfer decrease poverty without decreasing labor supply for SSI and SSDI recipients? Evidence from the Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend, 1988-2019." *Social Security Administration: Disability Research.*

Manuscripts Under Review

Dvir-Djerassi, Asher. "Reversing the Great Divergence: Would Wealth Taxation Be Sufficient?"

Manuscripts in Progress

Dvir-Djerassi, Asher. "From Risk Shift to Return Shift: How Individualized Retirement Accounts Increased the Wealth Share of the Top 1%."

Dvir-Djerassi, Asher. "The Illegibility of Income: Retirement Accruals, Unrealized Gains, and the Limits of U.S. Income Tax Progressivity."

Dvir-Djerassi, Asher. "Exorbitant Tax Privilege: The Cost and Concentration of U.S. Retirement Tax Subsidies."

Mitnik, Pablo, **Asher Dvir-Djerassi**, and Victoria Bryant. "The Intergenerational Transmission of Relative-Income Advantages in the United States: Reassessing the Current View."

Dvir-Djerassi, Asher and Fabian Pfeffer. "Affluence Dynamics: Evidence from Full-Population IRS Data on Changing Access to the Top of the Income Distribution."

Other Contributions

Pfeffer, Fabian T., Kathy Velikov, and **Asher Dvir-Djerassi**. 2023. "Wealth Inequality and Redistribution." Data construction and estimation for short video visualization/documentary. [YouTube]

Sweger, Becky, Jasmine Tucker, and **Asher Dvir-Djerassi**. 2014. "The Big Money in Tax Breaks Continues." National Priorities Project. [Report]

Selected Coursework

Graduate: Bayesian Statistics; Computational Mathematics; Econometrics I and II; Programming for Economics; Political Economy; Stratification; Statistics in R

Undergraduate: Calculus I, II, and III; Linear Algebra; Econometrics I and II; Introductory and Advanced Micro/Macroeconomics; The Economics of Education; Senior Seminar: Evaluating Social Policy; Senior Seminar: Public Finance

Fellowships & Awards

Wealth and Mobility Study GSRA
Institute for Social Research. ($29,192 + tuition) 2025 – 2026

F. Thomas Juster Economic Behavior Research Award
Institute for Social Research. ($5,500) 2024

National Institutes of Health Predoctoral Fellowship x 3
University of Michigan's Pop Studies Center. ($26,352 + tuition) 2020 – 2025

Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship: University of Michigan
Highly competitive doctoral fellowship. ($36,084 + tuition) 2023 – 2024

Summer Foreign Language & Area Studies x 4
Department of Education Bulgarian language instruction funding. 2020 – 2023

Social Security Administration: ARDRAW x 3
Funded research on asset poverty of SSDI recipients. ($10,000) 2020 – 2022

Center for Inequality Dyanmics: Summer GSRA
Funding for work on the Wealth and Mobility Study. ($12,000) 2022

Academic Year Foreign Language & Area Studies
Department of Education language fellowship. ($26,352 + tuition) 2021 – 2022

Poverty Solutions: Summer GSRA
Funding for research on wealth inequality & poverty. ($5,600) 2021

Population Studies Center's Small Grant Program
Support for interactive visualization consultant. ($2,300) 2021

Bobbe and Jon Bridge Award for Engaged Scholarship
Support for travel and research expenses. ($5,000) 2020

Sciences Po Europe Bursary
Full scholarship & stipend to study at Sciences Po-Paris. (€22,000) 2016 – 2017

J. William Fulbright Fellowship: Bulgaria
Highly competitive U.S. State Department Fellowship. 2014 – 2015

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship
Competitive scholarship for Pell Grant recipients to study abroad. 2012

Relevant Experience

IRS Statistics of Income — Ann Arbor, MI
Student Volunteer, Joint Statistical Research Program — 2022–present

New York City Department of Education — New York, NY
High school social science substitute teacher. — 2017 – 2018

Boston Public Schools — Boston, MA
High school social science substitute teacher. — 2016

Office of Congressman Jim McGovern — Northampton, MA
Assistant to the Congressman's Aide. — 2015 – 2016

Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission — Vidin, Bulgaria
Fulbright funded public school teacher and debate coach. — 2014 – 2015

National Priorities Project — Northampton, MA
RA on Ford Foundation-funded project on inequality in tax expenditures. Results publicized in *The Nation* & *USA Today*. — 2013 – 2014

Hampshire College, Department of Social Sciences — Amherst, MA
Teacher's assistant for 3 economics courses. — 2012 – 2014

Presentations and Workshops

American Political Economy eXchange (APEX) Taxing Capital in the 21st Century	Yale February 2026
Economic Sociology & Organizations (ESO) Seminar The Wealth Inequality of Pensions	University of Michigan November 2025
ISI Wealth Conference 2025 The State Construction of Heterogeneous Returns: The Individualized Retirement System and the Rise of the 1%	LMU Munich, Germany October 2025
Data & Analytics Community of Practice, IRS The Growth Process of Individual Retirement Accounts: Evidence from Administrative Data	Online July 2025
Data & Analytics Community of Practice, IRS Determining the U.S. Adult Population Using Administrative Data (w/ Pablo Mitnik and Carrie Jankowski)	Online March 2025
Wealth & Mobility Study - Annual Board Meeting Wealth Estimation using Full Population IRS Data	University of Michigan September 2024
Statistics of Income Division, IRS Identifying Spouses in Full Population IRS Data (w/ Pablo Mitnik and Carrie Jankowski)	Online March 2024
RC28: International Sociological Association Intergenerational Transmission of Relative-Income Advantage (w/ Pablo Mitnik and Victoria Bryant)	University of Michigan August 2023
Population Association of America (PAA) Intergenerational Transmission of Relative-Income Advantage (w/ Pablo Mitnik and Victoria Bryant)	New Orleans, Louisiana April 2023
Policy Research Inc. Locked-Out of Tax Subsidies: The Impact of Social Security Disability Insurance on Retirement Assets and Asset Poverty	Virtual August 2023
Black Reparations: Insights from the Social Sciences An End to Racial Wealth Inequality? A Counterfactual Historical Simulation of Wealth Redistribution Proposals	Russell Sage Foundation April 2023
Longitudinal Research of Income Inequality Would Wealth Taxation Be Sufficient? Evidence from a Dynamic Counterfactual Historical Simulation	University of Haifa March 2023
Longitudinal Research of Income Inequality Intergenerational Transmission of Relative-Income Advantage (w/ Pablo Mitnik and Victoria Bryant)	University of Haifa March 2023
Policy Research Inc. The Income and Wealth of Social Security Disability Recipients: Preliminary Estimates Using Internal Revenue Service Data	Virtual August 2022
SASE Wealth Taxation and Redistribution	University of Amsterdam July 2022

	Policy Research Inc. An Unconditional Cash Transfer on Poverty & Employment of SSDI Recipients? The Effects of the Alaska Permanent Fund	Virtual August 2021
	Ford School of Public Policy A Counterfactual Historical Simulation of Wealth Taxation	University of Michigan April 2021
	Envisioning Real Utopias Organized book club on Erik Olin Wright's Real Utopias Project	University of Michigan August 2021
	Covib/20 The Case for Counterfactual Simulation using Administrative Data	Virtual/LSE/PSE October 2020
	Inequality Lab Visualizing a Universal Capital Endowment	University of Michigan April 2020
	North American Basic Income Guarantee Congress Basic Income as an Alternative Progressive Labor Market Program	McGill University June 2014
	Center for Popular Economics Conference A Guaranteed Minimum Income as a True Third Way	Hampshire College 2013

Service

2021–2022 Associate Editor
Michigan Journal of Law & Society

2021 Admission Committee
University of Michigan's Joint PhD program in Public Policy & Sociology

Languages

English (Native) | Bulgarian (B2)