JESSE LASTUNEN

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EXPERIENCE

2020–present	**UNU-WIDER, THE UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY WORLD INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS RESEARCH** HELSINKI, FINLAND
	Research Associate • Collaborative research addressing policy challenges in developing countries, tax-benefit microsimulation modelling, training and capacity building *(2020–);* planning and oversight of activities in the SOUTHMOD programme, including research, contracts and events *(2022–23)*
2015–2020	**RAND CORPORATION** SANTA MONICA, CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES
	Assistant Policy Researcher • Policy-oriented, interdisciplinary research for public sector clients
2017–18 *(7 months)*	**INTERNET ASSOCIATION** WASHINGTON D.C., UNITED STATES
	Internet Economy Research Fellow • Research on the economic impact of autonomous vehicles
2016 *(6 months)*	**OECD, DIRECTORATE FOR SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION** PARIS, FRANCE
	External Consultant • Research on the welfare gains of digital innovations for vulnerable groups
2014–15 *(6 months)*	**TECHNOPOLIS GROUP** TALLINN, ESTONIA
	Consultant • Policy evaluation, data collection and analysis, funding proposals
2013 *(6 months)*	**PROJECT POLICY LTD** CAMBRIDGE, UNITED KINGDOM
	Policy Researcher • Compiling, manipulating and analysing public socioeconomic data
2012 *(9 months)*	**BGATOR LTD** TAMPERE, FINLAND
	Consultant • Ramping up international R&D projects, funding proposals, market research
2011 *(3 months)*	**CERN, THE EUROPEAN ORGANIZATION FOR NUCLEAR RESEARCH** GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
	Researcher • Technology and market research, project funding, industry-science relations

EDUCATION

2015–20	**PARDEE RAND GRADUATE SCHOOL**
	Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in **Policy Analysis**
	Analytical concentrations in Economics and Quantitative Methods
	Dissertation: "Technological Change and the Skill Premium: 21st Century Evidence"
2014–15	**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**
	Doctoral Student, Fulbright Scholar in **Public Policy** (Political Economy and Statistics)
2013–14	**BARCELONA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS**
	Master's Degree in **Specialized Economic Analysis** (Int'l Trade, Finance and Development)
2012–13	**UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE**
	Master of Philosophy (M.Phil.) in **Technology Policy** • Graduated *with Distinction*
2011–12	**MASDAR INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY** IN COLLABORATION WITH **MIT**
	Graduate Student in **Engineering Systems and Management** • *Certificate of Excellence*
2009–11	**TAMPERE UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY** & **UNIVERSITY OF TAMPERE**
	Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.) in **Industrial Engineering and Management** • *Distinction*
	Undergraduate Student in **International Relations**
Other	Courses and workshops in: R, Python, STATA and Excel; data visualization; quantitative research methods; scientific presentations; effective writing; economic inequality; R&D evaluation, competency based interviewing (CBI)

ACTIVITIES

Professional service	**UNU-WIDER Working Group on Artificial Intelligence**, *Chair, 2023–*
	UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab, *Expert, 2023–*
	International Tax and Public Finance, *Referee, 2023*
Teaching and mentoring	**UNU-WIDER**, *PhD Fellowship Programme, Mentor for Trang Thi Pham, Shakeba Foster, Kwamivi Gomado, and Abdoul-Akim Wandaogo,* 2021–23
	Pardee RAND Graduate School, *Teaching Assistant, Operations Research I,* 2017
Media and blogs	Toppari, A. & **Lastunen, J.**, *SOUTHMOD family extended: Welcome to the three new Latin American teams,* WIDER*Angle*, UNU-WIDER, 2023.
	Lastunen, J., Rattenhuber, B. & Oliveira, R.C., *The pandemic and Africa's social safety net,* Project Syndicate, 2021.
	Oliveira, R.C., Rattenhuber, B. & **Lastunen, J.**, *Efforts to protect the poor during COVID: How five African countries fared*, The Conversation, 2021.
	Remes, M., *Pandemia paljasti aukot turvaverkoissa,* commentary in Kehitys-Utveckling, a quarterly magazine produced by the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, no. 4/2021.
	Rattenhuber, B., Oliveira, R.C. & **Lastunen, J.**, *Working together to better understand how COVID-19 affects poverty and inequality*, WIDER*Angle*, UNU-WIDER, 2021.
	Lastunen, J. & Rattenhuber, B., *Studying COVID-19 through the lens of microsimulation: The role of tax and benefit policies in alleviating poverty and inequality*, WIDER*Angle*, UNU-WIDER, 2020.
	Lastunen, J., *Politiikan tutkimuksen tulisi tarjota välineitä päättäjille*, Vieraskynä (op-ed), Helsingin Sanomat, 2014.
Short-term consulting	**Czech Republic Technology Agency**, evaluation methodology for an R&D funding program, 2013
	Microsoft Research Ltd, business implications of changes in European privacy policy, 2013
Selected presentations	Practical session on *'Using AI for research'* at the WIDER research retreat (May 2023) • WIDER Development Conference (Sep 2023) • *'Celebrating tax-benefit modelling: 50 years with LOTTE'* conference (Jun 2023) • IARIW-TNBS Conference on *'Measuring Income, Wealth and Well-being in Africa'* (Nov 2022) • Global Development Conference (Nov 2022) • Delivered microsimulation training events in Rwanda, Uganda and Vietnam (all countries in both 2022 and 2023) • *'Futures of Global Social Policy'* Workshop (May 2022) • 6th Zurich Conference on Public Finance in Developing Countries (Dec 2021) • 8th World Congress of the International Microsimulation Association (Dec 2021) • International Centre for Economic Analysis Inequality conference (Nov 2021) • UNU-WIDER Development Conference (Sep 2021) • *'Assessing Presumptive Tax Policy in Uganda'* online seminar (Aug 2021) • Online microsimulation training workshops for participants in Rwanda (Aug 2021) and Vietnam (Jan 2021) • Development Studies Association's *'Unsettling Development'* conference (July 2021) • 9th Meeting of the Society for the Study of Economic Inequality (July 2021) • Annual Conference of the East Asian Social Policy Research Network and the Foundation for International Studies on Social Security (July 2021) • 6th Joint Nordic Development Research Conference (June 2021) • Institute for Employment Research online seminar (May 2021) • UNU-WIDER online conference on *'Development challenges in Africa in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic'* (Feb 2021) • African Tax Research Network's Webinar Series (Nov 2020)

SCHOLARSHIPS & AWARDS

Dissertation support	**Emil Aaltonen Foundation Scholarship** (2019)
	Anne and James Rothenberg Dissertation Award (2018)
	Alfred Kordelin Foundation Scholarship (2017)
	American Scandinavian Foundation Scholarship (2016)
	Finnish Foundation for Economic Education Scholarship (2015)
	Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation Scholarship (2014)
Other academic scholarships	**Fulbright Scholarship, University of Chicago** (2013)
	British Council Scholarship, University of Cambridge (2012)
Academic honours	**Distinction, ranked first in class of 33 students, University of Cambridge** (2013)
	Certificate of Excellence for Outstanding Academic Performance, Masdar Institute (2012)

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Lastunen, J. & Richiardi, M. *Forecasting Recovery from COVID-19 Using Financial Data: An Application to Viet Nam*, World Development Perspectives, Vol. 30, June 2023.

Miller, B., Metz, D., Smith, T.D., Landree, E., **Lastunen, J.** & Nelson, C. *Understanding the Economic Benefit Associated with Research and Services at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: An Approach and Three Case Studies*, RAND Health Quarterly, Vol. 8(1), August 2018.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Lastunen, J., Nyyssölä, M., Heimo, L., Karjanlahti, K. & Tiililä, N. *Talousshokit hyvinvoinnin haasteena – sosiaali- ja talouspolitiikkatoimet kehittyvissä maissa* (Johdatus Globaaliin Sosiaalipolitiikkaan, edited by Heimo, L. & Lambin, R.), Vastapaino, 2024, forthcoming.

Lastunen, J., Shahir, A.A., Rattenhuber, P., Adu-Ababio, K. & Oliveira, R.C. *Performance of Tax-benefit Systems during the COVID-19 Pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Comparative Perspective* (Cushioning against Crises: The Role of Tax-Benefit Systems in the Developing World, edited by Jouste, J., Kanbur, R., Pirttilä, J. & Rattenhuber, P.), Oxford University Press, 2024, forthcoming.

de Mahieu, A. & **Lastunen, J.** *The Cushioning Effects of Tax-benefit Policies in Viet Nam during the COVID-19 Pandemic* (Cushioning against Crises: The Role of Tax-Benefit Systems in the Developing World, edited by Jouste, J., Kanbur, R., Pirttilä, J. & Rattenhuber, P.), Oxford University Press, 2024, forthcoming.

Oliveira, R., **Lastunen, J.**, Rattenhuber, P., Samarin, M. & Shahir, A.A. *The Role of Social Protection and Tax Policies in Cushioning Crisis Impacts on Income and Poverty in Low- and Middle-income Countries: A Rapid Scoping Review* (Cushioning against Crises: The Role of Tax-Benefit Systems in the Developing World, edited by Jouste, J., Kanbur, R., Pirttilä, J. & Rattenhuber, P.), Oxford University Press, 2024, forthcoming.

PEER-REVIEWED REPORTS

Andrew, M., Marler, T. & **Lastunen, J.**, Acheson-Field, H. & Popper, S. *An Analysis of Education and Training Programs in Advanced Manufacturing Using Robotics*, RAND Corporation, 2020.

Miller, B., Metz, D., Smith, T.D. & **Lastunen, J.** *Selecting and Evaluating Case Studies of the Economic Benefits of Research and Services at the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health: Case Studies on Personal Dust Monitors for Coal Miners, Improved Ambulance Design, and Amputation Surveillance*, RAND Corporation, 2020.

Gehlhaus Carew, D., Martin, N., Blumenthal, M., Armour, P. & **Lastunen, J.** *The Potential Economic Value of Unlicensed Spectrum in the 5.9 GHz Frequency Band: Insights for Future Spectrum Allocation Policy*, RAND Corporation, 2018.

Miller, B., Camm, F., Blumenthal, M., **Lastunen, J.** & Miller, K.W. *Inching Toward Reform: Trump's Deregulation and Its Implementation*, RAND Corporation, 2017.

Silberglitt, R., **Lastunen, J.**, Lauland, A., Watson, M. & Eusebi, C.A. *Wearable Technologies for Law Enforcement: Multi-functional Vest System Options*, RAND Corporation, Justice Policy Program, National Institute of Justice, 2017.

Melin, G., Zuijdam, F., Good, B., Angelis, J., Enberg, J., Fikkers, D.J., Puukka, J., Swenning, A., Kosk, K., **Lastunen, J.** & Zege, S. *Towards a Future Proof System for Higher Education and Research in Finland*, Publications of the Ministry of Education and Culture, 2015.

OTHER RESEARCH

Lastunen, J., Shahir, A.A., Rattenhuber, P., Adu-Ababio, K. & Oliveira, R.C. *Performance of Tax-benefit Systems amid COVID-19 Crises in Sub-Saharan Africa: A Comparative Perspective*, WIDER Working Paper 2023/130, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2023.

de Mahieu, A. & **Lastunen, J.** *Addressing Poverty and Inequality in Viet Nam during the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Examination of the Alleviating Impact of Tax and Benefit Measures*, WIDER Working Paper 2023/120, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2023.

Oliveira, R., **Lastunen, J.**, Rattenhuber, P., Samarin, M. & Shahir, A.A. *The Role of Social Protection and Tax Policies in Cushioning Crisis Impacts on Income and Poverty in Low- and Middle-income Countries: A Rapid Scoping Review*, WIDER Working Paper 2023/6. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER.

de Mahieu, A., **Lastunen, J.**, Mukangango, J. & Harerimana, T. *Evaluating the Impact of the 2023−2024 Personal Income Tax Reform in Rwanda: An Analysis using Tax-benefit Microsimulation Modelling*, WIDER Working Paper 2023/73, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2023

de Mahieu, A., Mukangango, J., Harerimana, T., **Lastunen, J.**, Hakizimana, N., Karangwa, J., Nsabimana, A., Niyigena, L., Noble, M., Wright, G. *SOUTHMOD Country Report Rwanda: RWAMOD v1.0, 2017−22*, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2023.

Hakizimana, N., Karangwa, J., **Lastunen, J.,** Nsabimana, A., Murasi, I., Niyigena, L., Noble, M. & Wright, G. *Tax-Benefit Microsimulation Model in Rwanda: A Feasibility Study*, WIDER Working Paper 2022/72, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2022**.**

Wandaogo, A.-A., Sawadogo, F. & **Lastunen, J.** *Does the Adoption of Peer-to-government Mobile Payments Improve Tax Revenue Mobilization in Developing Countries?*, WIDER Working Paper 2022/18, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2022**.**

Waiswa, R., **Lastunen, J.**, Wright, G., Noble, M., Okello Ayo, J., Isingoma, N.M., Kaidu, T., Kavuma, S., Arinaitwe, I., Mwesigye, M., Asiimwe, W. & Rattenhuber, P. *An Assessment of Presumptive Tax in Uganda*, WIDER Working Paper 2021/163; *New Directions for Presumptive Tax in Uganda*, WIDER Policy Brief 2021/8, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2021.

Lastunen, J., Rattenhuber, P., Adu-Ababio, K., Gasior, K., Jara, X.H., Jouste, M., McLennan, D., Nichelatti, E., Oliveira, R.C., Pirttilä, J., Richiardi, M. & Wright, G. *The Mitigating Role of Tax and Benefit Rescue Packages for Poverty and Inequality in Africa amid the COVID-19 Pandemic*, WIDER Working Paper 2021/148, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2021**.**

Lastunen, J., Wright, G., Noble, M., Waiswa, R., Okello Ayo, J. & Isingoma, N.M. *Distributional Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Uganda*, WIDER Policy Brief 2021/5, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2021.

Lastunen, J. *Technological Change and the Skill Premium: 21st Century Evidence*, doctoral dissertation, Pardee RAND Graduate School, 2020. Published by the RAND Corporation (RGSDA1167-1), 2021.

Lastunen, J. *Scenarios of the Role of Autonomous Vehicles in Society: Estimating the Net Impact on Professional Driving Jobs*, research report and invited talk, Internet Association, 2018.

TECHNICAL NOTES

Noble, M. & **Lastunen, J.** *Dealing with the Oversimulation of Taxes and Benefits in SOUTHMOD Microsimulation Models: The Case of Girinka in Rwanda*, WIDER Technical Note 2023/2, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2023.

Lastunen, J. *On-model Adjustment of Incomes During COVID-19 in SOUTHMOD Tax-benefit Microsimulation Models*, WIDER Technical Note 2022/4, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2022**.**

Oliveira, R.C., **Lastunen, J.**, Nichelatti, E. & Rattenhuber, P. *Imputation Methods for Adjusting SOUTHMOD Input Data to Income Losses Due to the COVID-19 Crisis*, WIDER Technical Note 2021/19, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2021.

Gasior, K., Barnes, H., Jouste, M., **Lastunen, J.**, McLennan, D., Noble, M., Oliveira, R.C., Rattenhuber, P. & Wright, G. *Full-Year Adjustment for Modelling COVID-19 Policies in SOUTHMOD Tax-Benefit Microsimulation Models*, WIDER Technical Note 2021/18, Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2021.

Lastunen, J. *Deriving Shocks to Household Consumption Expenditures from the Associated Income Shocks Resulting From COVID-19*, WIDER Technical Note 2021/16. Helsinki: UNU-WIDER, 2021.

Chen, J., Kumar, K.B., **Lastunen, J.**, Nataraj, S., Nowak, S. & Carter, P. *Modeling Outcomes Based on Inequality in Labor Earnings: Model Overview and Policy Experiments*, a report describing a general equilibrium model on the U.S. labour market, RAND Corporation, 2017.

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, *Advancing Automated and Connected Vehicles: Policy and Planning Strategies for State and Local Transportation Agencies*, Research Report 845, Washington, DC: The National Academies, 2017.

OECD, *Making Innovation Benefit All: Policies for Inclusive Growth*, OECD Publishing, Paris, 2017.