

Hikaru Kawarazaki

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University College London

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References

Professor **Imran Rasul**
Department of Economics
University College London
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Professor **Áureo de Paula**
Department of Economics
University College London
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Professor **Monica Costa-Dias**
School of Economics
University of Bristol
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Professor **Emily Owens**
Department of Criminology, Law, and Society
University of California, Irvine
egowens@uci.edu

EDUCATION AND ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Institute for Fiscal Studies Postdoctoral Fellow	London, UK 2025 –current
University College London PhD in Economics	London, UK 2021 –2025
University College London MRes in Economics	London, UK 2020 –2021
University of Tokyo M.A. Economics	Tokyo, Japan 2017 –2019
University of Tokyo B.A. Economics	Tokyo, Japan 2013 –2017

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Economics of Education, Economics of Crime, and Labor Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

When Trouble Travels: Peer Effects of Criminal Exposure in Schools

First contact with the criminal justice system peaks in early adolescence, when children spend much of their time with peers at school. While a large literature documents that peers shape children's development and behavior, little is known about the consequences of exposure to peers with a criminal

record. Using administrative data linking criminal justice and education records for nearly all students in England, I study whether and to what extent criminal behavior spreads within schools through exposure to juvenile offenders. Exploiting the plausibly exogenous timing of school transfers by students with a known criminal record, I find that exposure increases a student's probability of starting a criminal career by 12.9% within four months, with effects persisting for at least three years. Exposure also lowers educational achievement, with most of the decline operating through exposed students' subsequent criminal behavior. These peer effects account for 5% of the total social cost of youth crime in England. Because the effects vary substantially with school characteristics, reassigning transferring offenders to other schools could reduce peer-induced crime by 36% under reasonable assumptions.

PUBLICATION

Sawada, Y., Mahmud, M., Seki, M., & Kawarazaki, H. (2024). Fighting the learning crisis in developing countries: A randomized experiment of self-learning at the right level. *Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 72(4), 1893–1921.

Kawarazaki, H. (2023). Early childhood education and care: Effects after half a century and their mechanisms. *Journal of Population Economics*, 36(4), 2725–2797.

Kawarazaki, H., Mahmud, M., Sawada, Y., & Seki, M. (2023). Haste makes no waste: Positive peer effects of classroom speed competition on learning. *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 85(4), 755–772.

RESEARCH PAPERS

Prolific Juvenile Offenders
with Sarah Cattán, Monica Costa-Dias, and Imran Rasul

The Schooling System and Teen Crime: New Evidence on Gender Difference from Administrative Data from England
with Sarah Cattán, Monica Costa-Dias, and Imran Rasul

Youth Crime in the Era of School Takeovers. Evidence from London Secondary School Academies
with Emma Duchini, Stephen Machin, and Victor Lavy

POLICY REPORTS

Fighting the learning crisis with self-learning at the right level (2026), VoxDev
with Minhaj Mahmud, Mai Seki, Yasuyuki Sawada, and Kazuma Takakura

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

International Monetary Fund
Intern

Washington, D.C., USA
2024

Asian Development Bank
Consultant

Manila, Philippines
2020

Asian Development Bank
Intern

Manila, Philippines
2019

TEACHING

Teaching Assistant at University College London

- Topics in Household Economics 2023–2025
Professor: Valérie Lechene
- Quantitative Economics and Econometrics 2021–2023
Professors: Kirill Borusyak, Dennis Kristensen, Daniel Lewis, and Áureo de Paula

Teaching Assistant at University of Tokyo

- Econometrics (Graduate) 2019–2020
Professors: Hidehiko Ichimura and Katsumi Shimotsu
- Development Economics (Graduate) 2019
Professor: Yasuyuki Sawada
- Econometrics (Undergraduate) 2018–2019
Professor: Katsumi Shimotsu
- Computational Methods for Econometrics 2018–2019
Instructor
- Math Camp 2018
Instructor
- Development Economics (Undergraduate) 2017–2019
Professors: Yasuyuki Sawada, Takeshi Aida, Hiroyuki Yamada
- Seminar (Development Economics) 2016–2017
Professor: Yasuyuki Sawada

RESEARCH GRANTS

- The Japan Center for Economic Research (JPY 700,000) 2026–2027
- Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education (JPY 600,000) 2026–2027
- Shiho Kyokai (JPY 300,000) 2025–2026
- Shiho Kyokai (JPY 400,000) 2024–2025
- Uehiro Foundation on Ethics and Education (JPY 600,000) 2024–2025
- Suntory Foundation (JPY 1,000,000) 2024–2025
- Economic and Social Research Council Studentship (GBP 2,250) 2021–2024

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Best Paper Award at Essen Health Conference 2026
- Economic and Social Research Council Studentship (MPhil/PhD) 2021–2024
- Japan-IMF Scholarship Program for Advanced Studies 2020–2022
- Japan Student Services Organization, Graduate Scholarship for Degree Seeking Students (MRes) 2020–2021
- Research Fellow (DC2), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JPSP) 2020
- CREPE Trainee (Scholarship Student) at Center for Research and Education in Program Evaluation (CREPE), the University of Tokyo 2017–2020

PRESENTATIONS

- **2026:** National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Institute for Fiscal Studies, European Association of Young Economists, Centre for Economic Performance-Becker Friedman Institute for Economics at the University of Chicago Conference on the Economics of Crime and Justice, Essen Health Conference, European Society for Population Economics, Workshop on the Economics of Crime for Junior Scholars, Workshop on Labour and Family Economics, Kyoto Summer Workshop on Applied Economics, Royal Economic Society, Workshop on the Economics of Risky Behavior, European Association of Labour Economists Conference, Newcastle University, The Network Science and Economics Conference, University College London, Applied Econometrics Conference, Institute for Social and Economic Research at the University of Essex
- **2025:** Sophia University, Workshop on Education Economics and Policy, World Congress of the Econometric Society, Otaru University of Commerce, Royal Economic Society, University College London, Institute for Fiscal Studies
- **2024:** University of Tokyo, IZA/ECONtribute, International Monetary Fund, University College London, Institute for Fiscal Studies
- **2023:** University of Tokyo, Econometric Society European Winter Meeting, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, University College London, University of Mannheim
- **2022:** Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics Conference, Institute for Fiscal Studies
- **2021:** HCEO-NES-CREC Virtual Summer School on Socioeconomic Inequality, Japanese Association of Development Economics
- **2020:** Otaru University of Commerce
- **2019:** Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics 2019 Conference, Asian Development Bank, University of the Philippines, Japanese Association of Development Economics, Otaru University of Commerce, Hitotsubashi University, Japan Economic Association, University of Tokyo
- **2015:** Korea-Japan Inter University Conference

OTHER

- **Service:** Referee for Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Economics
- **Software:** Stata, R, Python, Matlab, Fortran, LaTeX
- **Languages:** Japanese (native), English (fluent), and Italian (intermediate)

Updated on October 20, 2026