

Saku Aura

Contact

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Personal

Gender: Male. Citizenship: Finland. Permanent Resident of the United States.

Academic

- 9/1997–9/2001** Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Ph.D. in Economics. Thesis title: Essays in the Economics of Retirement Income Security and Household Decision-Making. Thesis Committee: Peter Diamond and Jonathan Gruber.
- 9/1996–5/1997** University of Helsinki. M.A. in Economics.
- 9/1992–5/1996** University of Helsinki. B.A. in Economics.
- Research Fields** Public Economics, Household Decision-Making, Urban Economics.

Current Affiliations

- From 9/2002** University of Missouri. Associate Professor of Economics (from 9/2009). Assistant Professor of Economics (9/2003–8/2009). Visiting Assistant Professor of Economics (9/2002–8/2003).
- From 7/2002** CESifo. Research Fellow (from 2019). Research Affiliate (2002-2019).

Past Affiliations

- 10/2003-6/2017** University of Missouri. Faculty Fellow, Center of Excellence in Aging.
- 6/2015–8/2015** VATT Institute for Economic Research. Visiting Research Professor.
- 9/2012–8/2015** University of Missouri - Economic & Policy Analysis Center (EPARC). Associate Director.
- 7/2010–12/2010** Aalto University. Visiting Professor of Economics.

- 8/2006–12/2006** Joe Shoong Visiting Professor of Business, Haas School of Business, University of California-Berkeley.
- 4/2004–4/2006** Finnish Business and Policy Forum EVA. Junior Fellow.
- 9/2001–7/2002** L'università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi. Assistant Professor of Economics.
- 6/1998–8/1998** Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Research Assistant to Professor Peter Diamond.
- 10/1996–8/1997** University of Helsinki. Researcher at the Research Unit for Economic Structures and Growth.
- 3/1996–9/1996** Government Institute for Economic Research. Researcher.
- 5/1995–8/1995** Government Institute for Economic Research. Researcher.

--- **Refereed Publications**

- 2023** “A Chinese Mayor Problem” Joint with William A. Brock and Shawn Ni. *Journal of Government and Economics*, Volume 9, Spring 2023.
- 2016** “Why Doesn’t the Hong Kong Government Sell More Public Land” Joint with Francis Cheung and Shawn Ni. *Frontiers of Economics in China* 11:3, p. 367-389.
- 2012** “An Analysis of Constrained Property Taxes in a Simple Optimal Tax Model” Joint with Thomas Davidoff. *CESifo Economic Studies* 58:3, p. 525–543.
- 2010** “Costs of Living for US Veterinarians in Food Animal Practice Compared to other Practice Categories and the Effect on Adjusted Income” Joint with Jeff W. Tyler (lead author) and Loren G. Schultz, *The Bovine Practitioner*, 44:1, p. 77–82.
- 2010** “What’s in a Name?” Joint with Gregory Hess, *Economic Inquiry* 48:1, p. 214–227.
- 2008** “Supply Constraints and Housing Prices” Joint with Thomas Davidoff, *Economics Letters* 99:2, p. 275–277.
- 2005** “Does the Balance of Power Within a Family Matter? The Case of the Retirement Equity Act” *Journal of Public Economics* 89:9–10, p. 1699–1717.
- 2002** “Savings and Portfolio Choice in a Two-Period Two-Asset Model” Joint with Peter Diamond and John Geanakoplos, *American Economic Review* 92:4, p. 1185–1191.
- 2000** “Statistical Inference for Lorenz Curves Using Simulated Critical Values” *Journal of Income Distribution* 9:2, p. 199–213.

--- **Scholarships, Fellowships, Awards and Honors**

- 2010** University of Missouri - Provost’s Award for Leadership in International Education.

2000–2001	Boston College Center for Retirement Research Dissertation Fellowship.
1997–2001	Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation Fellowship.
1997–2000	Emil Aaltonen Foundation Fellowship.
1997–2001	Finnish Cultural Foundation Fellowship.
1996	Yrjö Jahnsson Foundation Award for Excellent Undergraduate Thesis.
1996	Faculty of Social Sciences Award for Excellent Undergraduate Thesis

--- **Seminars and Presentations**

2015	Finnish Economics Summer Meeting (University of Jyväskylä); VATT Institute for Economic Research.
2012	Taxing Cross-Border Commuters Workshop
•	Uppsala.
2010	University Bank of Finland; Finnish Doctoral Program in Economics Public Economics Workshop; CESifo Conference on Public Economics; University of Turku; Government Research Institute for Economic Research, Helsinki; Labour Research Institute, Helsinki; University of Jyväskylä; HECER Workshop, Helsinki; University of British Columbia - Urban Economics and Real Estate Summer Symposium; CESifo Conference on Public Economics, Munich.
2009	Oberlin College; University of Nebraska.
2008	CESifo Conference on Public Economics, Munich; University of Ottawa.
2007	University of Kentucky; University of St. Andrews; American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association (AREUEA), Annual Meeting, Chicago; Haas School of Business (UC Berkeley).
2006	University of Helsinki; UC Berkeley (Economics).
2005	NBER Summer Institute; University of Kansas.
2004	Haas School of Business (UC Berkeley); Clemson University; Missouri Economics Conference, Columbia; Midwest Economics Association, Chicago.
2003	Missouri Economics Conference, Columbia; Midwest Economics Association, St Louis; University of Wisconsin-Madison; American Economic Association, Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
2002	University of Missouri-Columbia; Illinois State University; European Society for Population Economics, Bilbao; CESifo Conference on Public Economics, Munich.

- 2001** HEC Lausanne; University of Bologna; University of Helsinki; Texas A&M; Syracuse University; Bocconi University; Université Catholique de Louvain; University of Toronto.
- 2000** Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Graduate Student Advising

- 2014** Nguyen Doan, PhD (Main Advisor).
- 2007** Myung Woon Kim, PhD (Main Advisor).
- 2007** Hyunggun Kim, PhD (Main Advisor).
- 2006** Yau-jr (Tristan) Liu, PhD (Main Advisor).
- 2003-Present** Chair of several MA committees and a member of several MA and PhD Committees.

Other Professional Activities

Finnish Economic Papers: Associate Editor, 2003-2020.

Journal of Consumer Affairs: Editorial Review Board Member, 2024-Present.

Referee for B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, CESifo Economic Studies, Economic Journal, Economica, Economics Bulletin, Economics of Education Review, Finnish Economic Papers, International Tax and Public Finance, Journal of Consumer Affairs, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Housing Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Pension Economics and Finance, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Public Economic Theory, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Risk and Insurance, Journal of Systems Science and Systems Engineering, Journal of Urban Economics, Ministry of Finance (Finland), National Science Foundation, National Tax Journal, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Economics and Statistics, Review of Economics of the Household, Review of Income and Wealth, Review of Law and Economics, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (Canada) and University of Missouri Research Board.

State of Missouri - Consensus Revenue Estimate Panel Member (2024-).

University of Missouri - Tuition Policy Subcommittee: Member (2017-2018), College of Arts & Science Grants Committee: Member (2017-2018) & Chair (2018-2020), College of Arts & Science Study Abroad Committee: Member (2016-2017), Campus Writing Board: Member (2011-2014) & Subcommittee Chair (AY 2013/14), Research Council: Member (2011-2014).

University of Missouri - Department of Economics: Master's Programs Director (from 2020).

Teaching Experience

University of Missouri Intermediate Microeconomics: Fall 2002, Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 – Graduate Public Economics: Spring 2003, Spring 2004, Spring 2005, Spring 2006, Spring 2007, Spring 2008,

Fall 2020 (online course) and Spring 2021 (online course) – Undergraduate Public Economics: Spring 2003, Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Fall 2004, Spring 2005, Fall 2005, Spring 2006, Spring 2007 (Writing Intensive), Fall 2007 (Writing Intensive), Spring 2008, Fall 2008, Spring 2008 (Writing Intensive), Fall 2009, Spring 2010 (Writing Intensive), Fall 2011 (Writing Intensive), Spring 2012, Fall 2012 (Writing Intensive), Spring 2013, Fall 2013 (Writing Intensive), Fall 2014, Spring 2015 (Writing Intensive), Fall 2015 (Writing Intensive), Fall 2016 (Writing Intensive), Spring 2017 (Writing Intensive), Fall 2018 (Writing Intensive), Fall 2019 (Writing Intensive), Fall 2020 (Writing Intensive, online course), Fall 2021 (Writing Intensive, online course), Spring 2023 (Writing Intensive regular and an online course), Fall 2023 (Writing Intensive), Spring 2024 (online course), Fall 2024 (online course), Spring 2025 (Writing Intensive) – Honors Proseminar: Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009 and Spring 2010 – Master’s Research Seminar: Fall 2008, Spring 2009, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2018 and Spring 2019 – Topics in Microeconomic Policy Analysis (Graduate Course): Spring 2010 – Mathematics for Economics (Graduate Course): Fall 2011, Fall 2012, Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019 and Fall 2020 – Mathematics for Economics (Online Graduate Course): Fall 2018 and Fall 2019 – Mathematics for Economics (Undergraduate Course): Fall 2019 , Fall 2023 and Spring 2026 – Urban Economics: Spring 2016 (Writing Intensive), Spring 2017 (Writing Intensive), Spring 2018 (Writing Intensive), Spring 2019 (Writing Intensive), Spring 2020 (Writing Intensive) and Spring 2021 (Writing Intensive, online course) - Doctoral Research Seminar: Fall 2020 (online course) and Spring 2021 (online course) - Economic Decision-Making: Fall 2021 and Spring 2022.

Aalto University Design of Tax Systems: Fall 2010.

L'università Commerciale Luigi Bocconi Introductory Microeconomics: Spring 2002.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology Teaching assistant for a Ph.D. level course in Public Economics: Fall 2000.

(Updated March 2026)