

# Science and Technology Group Annual Report FY2025

Yuliya Kulikova  
Science and Technology Associate

## 1 Introduction

I am a labor economist. In my research I use empirical and structural modeling methods to study inequality, social mobility, labor markets, health, and fertility. My research places particular emphasis on policy implication, policy evaluations and understanding the underlying mechanisms.

## 2 Activities and Findings

During FY2025, my research focused primarily on two COI-NEXT-funded projects on health shocks, education, and labor-market inequality, while I also continued work on a KAKENHI-funded structural project on health and intergenerational mobility.

### 1. Delaying Cancer: The Effect of Education on the Age at Diagnosis

In this paper we study whether education affects not only whether major disease occurs, but also when it occurs over the life course. Using Austria's 1962 compulsory schooling reform and newly linked full-population administrative data, we show that additional schooling reduces the incidence of behaviorally related cancers, especially lung cancer, and delays the age at diagnosis among men. We also provide evidence that occupational sorting is an important mechanism: additional education shifted men into occupations with lower exposure to risky behaviors and workplace hazards, and delayed the onset of such exposures. This project has been presented at seminars and conferences throughout FY2025 and is currently in the final stage of analysis and draft preparation.

### 2. The Timing of Cancer Onset and its Labor Market Consequences

We examine how the age at first cancer diagnosis shapes subsequent employment, earnings, sick leave, retirement, and job mobility. Using full-population Austrian administrative data and a matched event-study design, we find large and persistent labor-market effects of cancer, with substantial heterogeneity by age, stage, sector, and cancer site. Younger individuals are more likely to return to work, though often at reduced hours; mid-career workers experience the largest earnings losses; and older individuals are more likely to exit the labor force permanently. These findings highlight the importance of timing in understanding the long-run economic consequences of health shocks and point to scope for age-dependent policy responses. This project is currently at the first-draft stage.

### 3. Health and Intergenerational Mobility

Health is an important dimension of human capital, it affects the way children can use and develop their cognitive and non-cognitive abilities. While the role of education and education policies received a lot of attention in the literature on intergenerational mobility, almost nothing is known on how medical policies affect intergenerational mobility and inequality. In this project, I develop and estimate a human-capital based overlapping generations model of household decisions that take into account multidimensionality and dynamic nature of human capital investments. I distinguish three forms of human capital: health capital and human capital (cognitive and non-cognitive abilities), and model explicitly government policies in education and health, as well as parental decisions regarding their monetary and time investments into cognitive and non-cognitive abilities, as well as health (curative and preventive spending).

The project is currently in the estimation stage.

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## 3 Current Collaborations

1. Family-Friendly Policies and Fertility: What Firms Got to Do With It?  
Collaborators: Olympia Bover (CEMFI), Nezhil Guner (CEMFI), Alessandro Ruggieri (IAE, Spain), Carlos Sanz (Bank of Spain)
2. Life is about timing: Age at health shocks and its role for survival and socioeconomic inequalities across the life cycle.  
Collaborators: Michael Kuhn (VID, IIASA, Austria), Sonja Spitzer (VID, Austria), Jana Ströbinger (VID, Austria), Vanessa di Lego (Assistant Professor, Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil).
3. Climate Risks Expectations and Migration  
Collaborators: Michael Kuhn (Director of Economic Frontiers Program, IIASA), Roman Hoffman (IASA, Austria), Jacopo Lunghi (CMCC European Institute on Economics and the Environment, Italy).

## 4 Publications and other output

Author list, Title, Journal or other reference, volume information (year)

### Publications:

- Agula, C., Patange, O., Biney, A., Kuhn, M., Kyei, P., Asuming, P., Bawah, A. A., and Kulikova Y.A. “Who Pays More? Exploring Cost Disparities in Medication Abortion Access Across Socio-Demographic Groups in Ghana.” *International Journal for Equity in Health* 24, 144 (2025).  
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s12939-025-02500-8>
- Guner, N., Kulikova, Y. A., and Valladares-Esteban, A. Does the added worker effect matter?, *Review of Economic Dynamics*, Volume 56, April 2025, 101271,  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.red.2025.101271>

### External Presentations:

- NOeG, Krems-am-Donau, Austria
- UCL, London, UK
- London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK
- SAEe, Barcelona, Spain
- Keio University, Tokyo, Japan

### External Funding:

- 2025 OIST Workshop internal funding
- 2025 [STINT](#) grant for MIRAI Network Workshop at OIST, “Health and Aging Population” (752,600 JPY (49,000SEK/~4,000 EUR))
- KAKENHI Start-Up Grant, FY2022-2024 – 2,860,000 yen
- KAKENHI Early Career Scientist, FY2023-2025 – 4,680,000 yen
- COI-NEXT “Healthy Mind, Healthy Body, Healthy Environment” FY2024-2026 – 10 mln yen for FY2024, 8 mln yen for FY2025, 9 mln for FY2026, subsequent funding is determined upon evaluation

### Other Academic and Professional Activities:

- Representative of Japan and OIST in Global Task Force “[Health and Ageing](#)” [MIRAI 3.0](#).

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- Hosted the GCT1 MIRAI Meeting at OIST on October 25-26, 2025.
- Co-hosted a MIRAI intern at OIST (March 2026-July 2026).
- Organized [MIRAI Workshop “Health and Aging Population”](#) at OIST on October 27, 2025, together with OIST Academic Partnerships, with funding from Swedish STINT foundation. The Workshop brought together researchers from Sweden and Japan, as well as health-tech startups working on ageing, to discuss challenges and innovations in healthy aging. The program included academic talks, industry showcases, and a keynote by Prof. Craig Willcox (Okinawa Centenarian Study).
- Major Activity in FY2025. Organized the OIST Workshop “[Building a Sustainable and Resilient Future: Addressing Demographic Challenges, Health and Gender Disparities, and Economic Inequality](#)” on March 18-20, 2026. This workshop was organized in partnership with GRIPS (Sagiri Kitao) and the University of Tokyo (Yasuyuki Sawada), and was supported by OIST, University of Tokyo and COI-NEXT. It brought together leading experts from around the globe to discuss the latest research and facilitate the exchange of ideas in the fields of Macroeconomics, Health Economics, Labor and Family Economics, Public Policy, Demography, and Sustainability. Speakers included: Mariacristina De Nardi (University of Minnesota), Jérôme Adda (Bocconi University), Marco Bassetto (Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis), Toni Braun (GRIPS), Matthias Doepke (London School of Economics), Christine Ho (Singapore Management University), Ayşe İmrohoroğlu (University of Southern California), Peter Rupert (University of California at Santa Barbara), Ananth Seshadri (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Alessandra Voena (Stanford University). A total of 54 people attended the Workshop, including 14 participants from OIST, 20 non-speaking participants from Japan, 17 presenters (3 from Japan and 14 from outside Japan) and 3 organizers.
- Mentored two participants in [WinE Mentoring Program](#).
- Presented at [Annual COI-NEXT Symposium at OIST](#) with the talk “ From Data to Decisions: Turning Research into Policy That Works”, and led a parallel group discussion.
- Participating in the OIST – Toyota KONPON Research Institute Initiative (February-April/June 2026).