

**JOHANNES HAUSHOFER**  
**CV OF FAILURES**

Most of what I try fails, but these failures are often invisible, while the successes are visible. I have noticed that this sometimes gives others the impression that most things work out for me. As a result, they are more likely to attribute their own failures to themselves, rather than the fact that the world is stochastic, applications are crapsheets, and selection committees and referees have bad days. This CV of Failures is an attempt to balance the record and provide some perspective.

**This idea is not mine**, but due to a wonderful article in *Nature* by **Melanie I. Stefan**, who is a Lecturer in the School of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Edinburgh. You can find her original article [here](#), her website [here](#), her publications [here](#), and follow her on Twitter under [@MelanieIStefan](#).

**I am also not the first academic to post their CV of failures.** Earlier examples are [here](#), [here](#), [here](#), and [here](#).

This CV is unlikely to be complete – it was written from memory and probably omits a lot of stuff. So if it's shorter than yours, it's likely because you have better memory, or because you're better at trying things than me.

#### **Degree programs I did not get into**

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- 2008      PhD Program in Economics, Stockholm School of Economics
- 2003      Graduate Course in Medicine, Cambridge University  
Graduate Course in Medicine, UCL  
PhD Program in Psychology, Harvard University  
PhD Program in Neuroscience and Psychology, Stanford University
- 1999      BA in International Relations, London School of Economics

#### **Academic positions and fellowships I did not get**

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- 2014      Harvard Kennedy School Assistant Professorship  
UC Berkeley Agricultural and Resource Economics Assistant Professorship  
MIT Brain & Cognitive Sciences Assistant Professorship  
This list is restricted to institutions where I had campus visits; the list of places where I had first-round interviews but wasn't invited for a campus visit, and where I wasn't invited to interview in the first place, is much longer and I will write it up when I get a chance. The list also shrouds the fact that I didn't apply to most of the top economics departments (Harvard, MIT, Yale, Stanford, Princeton, Chicago, Berkeley, LSE) because one of my advisors felt they could not write a strong letter for them.

#### **Awards and scholarships I did not get**

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- 2011      Swiss Network for International Studies PhD Award
- 2010      Society of Fellows, Harvard University  
Society in Science Scholarship  
University of Zurich Research Scholarship

- 2009 Human Frontiers Fellowship
- 2007 Mind-Brain-Behavior Award (Harvard University)
- 2006 Mind-Brain-Behavior Award (Harvard University)
- 2003 Fulbright Scholarship  
Haniel Scholarship (German National Merit Foundation)

### **Paper rejections from academic journals**

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- 2016 QJE, Experimental Economics
- 2015 AER x 2
- 2013 PNAS, Experimental Economics, Science, Neuron
- 2009 AER
- 2008 Science, Neuron, Nature Neuroscience, Journal of Neuroscience, Journal of Vision

### **Research funding I did not get**

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- 2016 MQ Mental Health Research Grant
- 2015 Russell Sage Research Grant (two separate ones)
- 2013 National Science Foundation Research Grant
- 2010 University of Zurich Research Grant  
Swiss National Science Foundation Research Grant
- 2009 Financial Innovation Grant  
International Labor Organization Research Grant  
3ie Research Grant

### **Meta-Failures**

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- 2016 This darn CV of Failures has received way more attention than my entire body of academic work