

A Public $\text{\LaTeX}$ Template for *Econ Journal Watch*

Making article production easier —
for authors, and for Dan



Alexis Akira Toda

Professor of Economics, Emory University

alexis.akira.toda@emory.edu | alexisakira.github.io

EJW Powwow, Fairfax, Virginia | presenting via Zoom | August 23, 2026

What I'll Cover

1. The problem with how we build articles today
2. What `ejw.cls` actually is (no jargon, I promise)
3. Seeing it work, side by side
4. What changes for you — and what doesn't
5. How we roll it out

Ten minutes of slides, then I'd much rather hear your questions.

The Problem Today

Right now, an accepted article travels a long road before it looks like *EJW*:

- Authors write and submit in **Word**.
- Someone — almost always **Max** — retypes or reformats it by hand into house style.
- Every rule is applied *manually*: fonts, margins, headings, footnote numbering, reference style.
- That means real staff time on every article, and real risk of a stray typo or a missed italic.

The question

Can the computer remember the house style, so a person doesn't have to — every time?

What Is a “Class File”?

*Think of `ejw.cls` as a Word template
that never forgets the house rules.*

Author controls substance; class file controls appearance.

The author supplies

- Title, name, text
- Footnotes
- Figures and tables
- References

The class file supplies

- Page size, margins, fonts
- Headings, running heads, footers
- Quotations, captions
- Reference style, live links

This is a production tool, not a push toward equations. It changes how the file is built, not what *EJW* publishes.

How It Works



- Change a rule once, in the class file, and **every** article that uses it updates.
- Today, changing a rule means changing it in every article, one at a time.

Same article. Two different production systems.



Max's in-house system

`ejw.cls` — public, author-editable

Same identity, headings, captions, and biography — font already matched using XeLaTeX. What's left (list style, table rules) is an editorial choice, not an obstacle.

It Works on Real Articles, Too

Discuss this article at [journaltalk](https://journaltalk.net/articles/):
<https://journaltalk.net/articles/>



ECON JOURNAL WATCH XX(X)
Month 20XX: 1–XX

Where Credit is Due

Alexis Akira Toda¹

[LINK TO ABSTRACT](#)

Here is that *essential* preceding article of 1998, published in a leading field journal, goes unrecognized by the authors of the 2006 and 2011 papers that reach remarkably similar conclusions? And, how is it that the 1998 article is neglected while the 2011 article is cited more than two times as often?

The preceding paper is Jean Borghesi, Alberto Rossi, and Shenghao Zhu (2011) (henceforth BRZ), together with an earlier unpublished manuscript of Borghesi and Rossi (2006) (henceforth BR). Both study overlapping generational economies in which each household saves, consumes, and leaves a bequest to the next generation, and in which luck—in the return a generation earns on its wealth, or in how long it lives to accumulate—varies from one generation to the next. Both papers show that this combination delivers a stationary wealth distribution with a Pareto upper tail: a small number of very rich dynasties, with the frequency of wealth levels declining according to a power law rather than tapering off exponentially. The appeal is that the fat tail is not assumed: it emerges from optimizing behavior plus repeated multiplicative shocks. BRZ is influential by any measure: cited over 600 times on Google Scholar as of August 2020, and a fixture of the wealth inequality literature that flourished after Thomas Piketty (2014).

The preceding paper is Jayant Datta and Philippe Michel (1998) (henceforth DM), which reached the same conclusion eight years earlier than the 2006 version and 15 years earlier than the 2011 article. Jayant Datta passed away in 2021,² and Philippe Michel passed away in 2004.³ In the model of DM, time is discrete, a household in a dynasty lives for one period, and may or may not be altruistic with some probability. When a household is selfish, it consumes all wealth. If

¹Department of Economics, Emory University. Email: alexis.toda@emory.edu.

²<https://www.emory.edu/em/~/media/2021/professor-jayant-datta-obituary>

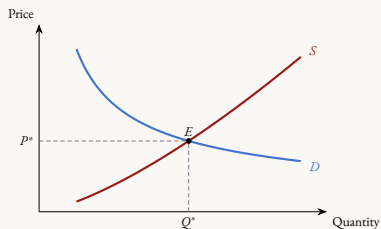
³[https://em.emory.edu/org/whats/Philippe_Michel_\(economics\)](https://em.emory.edu/org/whats/Philippe_Michel_(economics))

This isn't just a mockup.

A real, 15-page manuscript — fully typeset in `ejw.cls`, start to finish:

- Title page, abstract, sections
- Footnotes and long quotations
- Full bibliography with clickable links and DOIs
- Author biography page

Figures, Tables, and References



A vector figure, drawn once, always crisp

- Handled automatically, with no extra author effort.
- Figures and tables get EJW-style captions.
- Clean booktabs tables — fewer rules, less clutter.
- Citations, web addresses, and DOIs become **clickable** on screen.

No Software to Install

Overleaf puts $\text{\LaTeX}$ in a web browser.

1. Open the EJW template on Overleaf
2. Click “Open as Template”
3. Replace the sample text with your paper
4. Click **Recompile**

No installation. No command line. Free plan is enough.



Scan: “Learn $\text{\LaTeX}$ in
30 Minutes” (Overleaf)

Why This Helps Everyone

1. **Less burden on authors** — focus on the argument, not the formatting.
2. **Faster, safer production** — reuse the source instead of retyping it.
3. **A wider submission pool** — no separate Word conversion required.
4. **Better online reading** — citations, DOIs, and links become clickable.
5. **More consistent issues** — one set of rules, applied every time.

What Does *Not* Change

This is an **optional** route.
Word submissions are still fully welcome.

- This is a **production** proposal, not an effort to make *EJW* more mathematical.
- Nobody is required to learn $\text{\LaTeX}$.
- The *EJW* look and editorial voice don't change — only how the file gets built.

A Low-Risk Rollout

1. Approve the public template after one final visual review.
2. Publish it in the Overleaf Template Gallery and link it from the EJW submission page.
3. Keep accepting every existing format — $\text{\LaTeX}$ is an added option, not a replacement.
4. Pilot it on one issue, collect corrections, and refine the class once.

Most of the work is already done. The payoff: easier submissions, faster production, fewer errors, more consistent issues, better digital reading.

Try It Yourself

Everything shown today — the class file, template, user guide, and sample article — is ready to share right now.



Overleaf



econjwatch.org



My website

Ask me, and I'll send you the files today.

Thank You

Questions, pushback, and “that will never work” welcome.

Alexis Akira Toda

Professor of Economics, Emory University

alexis.akira.toda@emory.edu

alexisakira.github.io

github.com/alexisakira

