

# Benjamin Elsner

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## Contact Information

University College Dublin  
School of Economics  
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Belfield, Dublin 4  
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Updated: November 2022

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## Fields of Interest

**Labor Economics, Public Economics, Environmental Economics**

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## Current positions

**Assistant Professor** with tenure, University College Dublin, School of Economics Since 2018

## Past positions

**Deputy Program Director Labor Mobility**, IZA, Bonn, Germany, 2014-2020  
**Senior Research Associate**, IZA, Bonn, Germany 2014-2017  
**Research Associate**, IZA, Bonn, Germany 2012-2014

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## Education

**PhD in Economics**, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, 2008-2013  
**Visiting PhD Student**, Bocconi University, Milan, Italy, Spring 2011  
**M.A. (Diplom), Economics, with Honors**, University of Regensburg, Germany, 2003-2008  
**Visiting Student**, University of Łódź, Poland, 2005-2006

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## Publications

- 9) **Achievement Rank Affects Performance and Major Choices in College** (joint with Ingo Isphording and Ulf Zölitz)  
*Economic Journal*, 2021, 131(640), 3182-3206.
- 8) **Taking the Skill bias out of Global Migration** (joint with Costanza Biavaschi, Michał Burzyński and Joël Machado )  
*Journal of Development Economics*, 2020, 142.
- 7) **Tax Refunds and Income Manipulation: Evidence from the EITC** (joint with Florian Buhlmann and Andreas Peichl)  
*International Tax and Public Finance*, 2018, 25(6), 1490-1518.
- 6) **Migrant Networks and the Spread of Information** (joint with Gaia Narciso and Jacco Thijssen)  
*Oxford Bulletin of Economics & Statistics*, 2018, 80(3), 659-688.
- 5) **Rank, Sex, Drugs, and Crime** (joint with Ingo Isphording)  
*Journal of Human Resources*, 2018, 53(2), 356-381.
- 4) **A Big Fish in a Small Pond: Ability Rank and Human Capital Investment** (joint with Ingo Isphording)

*Journal of Labor Economics*, 2017, 787-828.

3) **Does Emigration Increase the Wages of Non-emigrants in Sending Countries?**  
*IZA World of Labor*, 2015.

2) **Emigration and Wages: The EU Enlargement Experiment**,  
*Journal of International Economics*, 2014, 91(1), 154-163.

1) **Does Emigration Benefit the Stayers? Evidence from EU Enlargement**,  
*Journal of Population Economics*, 2013, 26(2), 531-553.

#### Working Papers

- 1) **Let's be Selective about Migrant Self-selection** (joint with Costanza Biavaschi)
- 2) **Poor Voters, Taxation and the Size of the Welfare State** (joint with Arnaud Chevalier, Andreas Lichter and Nico Pestel)  
*Revise and re-submit at Journal of the European Economic Association*
- 3) **The Cognitive Meltdown: Radiation and Human Capital after Early Childhood** (joint with Florian Wozny)  
*Revise and re-submit at Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*
- 4) **Pollution Affects Decision-Making: Evidence from the Ballot Box** (joint with Luna Bellani, Stefano Ceolotto and Nico Pestel) *submitted*
- 5) **Refugee Migration and Social Cohesion** (joint with Emanuele Albarosa),  
*Revise and re-submit at World Development*

#### Work in Progress

- 1) **The Impact of Macroeconomic Uncertainty on the Labor Market: Evidence from Brexit** (joint with Eoin Flaherty and Stefanie Haller)
- 2) **School Closures and Parents' Time Use** (joint with Manvi Jindal, Massimiliano Mascherini and Sanna Nivakoski)

#### Books edited

Editor of **Foundations of Migration Economics**, a book in honor of the IZA Prize in Labor Economics to George Borjas and Barry Chiswick.  
*Oxford University Press*, 2018.

#### Book Chapters

- 4) **Forced Migration, Conflict and Social Cohesion** (joint with Emanuele Albarosa),  
in: World Bank special report on forced migration, *forthcoming*.
  - 3) **Immigration and Redistribution** (joint with Jeff Concannon),  
in: Robert M. Sauer (ed.), "Encyclopedia of Global Migration", World Scientific, *forthcoming*.
  - 2) **The Economic Effects of Migration**,  
in: Brancaccio, T., Y. Deli, I. Pastine and C. Whelan, "Economics in Action: Topics and Resources", McGraw Hill, 2019.
  - 1) **10 Years After: EU Enlargement, Closed Borders, and Migration to Germany** (joint with Klaus F. Zimmermann),  
in: Kahanec, M., and Zimmermann, K.F., "Migration and the Great Recession: Adjustments in the Labour Market of an Enlarged European Community", Edward Elgar, 2014.
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<b>Grants</b>	<b>Irish Research Council</b>	2021
	Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship (EUR 55,000; Co-PI: Michele Gubello)	
	<b>World Bank, UK Aid and UNHCR</b>	2020
	Forced Migration, Social Cohesion and Conflict: The Host Country Perspective (USD 25,000; PI)	
	<b>Irish Research Council</b>	2020
	Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship (EUR 48,000; Co-PI: Diego Zambiasi)	
<b>Honors and Awards</b>	<b>Irish Research Council</b>	2019
	Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship (EUR 72,000; Co-PI: Emanuele Albarosa)	
	<b>German Ministry of Education (BMBF)</b>	2017
	Research grant for a project on the determinants of college dropout (EUR 170,000; w. Ingo Isphording, Florian Wozny, Ulf Zölitz)	
	<b>IRCHSS</b>	2011-2012
	Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship (EUR 21,000)	
<b>Best Paper Award</b>	Spring Meeting of Young Economists	2018
	<b>Novartis Prize</b> Best paper in health economics, IEA conference	2018
	<b>Best Paper Prize</b> Warsaw International Economic Meeting	2016
	<b>Labour Economics</b> Excellence in Refereeing Award	2015
	<b>FEEM Award ("Young Economist Award")</b> European Economic Association,	2010
	<b>Strategic Innovation Fund</b> PhD Scholarship	2008-2011
	<b>Award for the best M.A. thesis</b> in economics at the University of Regensburg	2008
	<b>Haniel Foundation</b> "Go East" scholarship for studies abroad	2005
	<b>Erasmus</b> scholarship for studies abroad	2005-2006
<b>Guest Lectures &amp; Masterclasses</b>	Masterclass in Causal Inference (Geary Institute, scheduled)	2023
	Common Pitfalls in Causal Research Designs (Irish Early Career Workshop, scheduled)	2023
	The 2021 Nobel Prize in Economics (UCD)	2022
	Common Pitfalls in Causal Research Designs (Eurofound, Dublin)	2022
	Causal Research Designs with DAGs (Örebro University)	2022
	Causal Inference for Social Scientists (UCD Social Sciences Summer School)	2021
	The Economics of Brain Drain and Brain Gain (University of Mannheim)	2015
<b>Invited Seminars</b>	<b>2023</b>	
	University of Padova (scheduled), IRVAPP-FBK (Trento/Italy, scheduled), University of Bolzano (scheduled), University of Surrey (scheduled), University of Antwerp (scheduled)	
	<b>2022</b>	
	KU Leuven, University of Strathclyde	

**2021**

U Innsbruck (online), KU Ingolstadt-Eichstätt (online)

**2020**

U Groningen (online), Graduate Institute Geneva (online), U St. Andrews (online), U Cardiff (online)

**2019**

Bicocca, Queen's University Belfast, ESRI, VU Amsterdam, U Vilnius, U Potsdam

**2018**

UCD Geary Institute, Trinity College Dublin, CERGE-EI Prague, Masaryk University Brno, Paris School of Economics, University of Trier, LISER

**2017**

University College Dublin, PSE, OECD, University of Freiburg, RWI Essen, IOS Regensburg, U Regensburg

**2016**

SOFI Stockholm, Maastricht University, U Mannheim (public lecture), U Cologne, U Colorado Denver, U Leicester, U Oxford, U Duisburg-Essen, U Kent, U Bayreuth, U Bonn

**2015**

University of Mainz, IAB Nuremberg, Modul University Vienna, WU Vienna, Concordia University, University of Mannheim, University of Regensburg, U Dusseldorf

**2014**

DIAL Paris, NIW Hannover, University of Hamburg, Temple University, George Washington University, University of Dusseldorf (DICE), University of Heidelberg, University of Freiburg, IRES-UC Louvain

**2013**

University College Dublin, University of Southern Denmark, IOS Regensburg, University of Münster

**2012**

University of Edinburgh, LMU Munich, IZA Bonn, University of Stirling

**2011**

University College Dublin, NUI Maynooth, SSE Riga, Bocconi, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (Milan), Institute for East European Studies (Regensburg)

**2010**

Trinity College Dublin

**Conference  
Presentations**

**2022**

IZA Workshop on Environment, Health and Labor Markets (online), ECA Talks on Forced Migration (World Bank, online)

**2019**

Workshop on Mobility and Migration (Bank of Italy, Rome)

**2018**

Irish Economic Association

**2017**

IZA Annual Migration Meeting (Bonn), IZA Workshop on the Environment and Labor Markets, EALE (St. Gallen), IZA Workshop on the Economics of Education

**2016**

SOLE Meetings (Seattle), EALE (Ghent), RGS/RWI Workshop on the Economics of Migration (Essen), IZA Workshop on the Economics of Education, ZEW Workshop on Migration (Mannheim)

**2015**

IZA Workshop "Inequality: Causes and Consequences" (Bonn), SOLE/EALE World Congress (Montreal), Workshop Health.Skills.Education (Essen), IZA/Worldbank Conference on Employment and Development (Bonn), EEA Meeting (Mannheim), Verein für Socialpolitik (Münster), Workshop "Immigration in OECD Countries" (Paris)

**2014**

FERDI Workshop "International Labor Mobility and Inequality across Nations" (Clermont-Ferrand), RES Annual Conference (Manchester), SOLE (Arlington, VA), Annual Migration Meeting (Bonn), EALE (Ljubljana)

**2013**

RES Annual Conference (RHUL, London), NORFACE migration conference (UCL, London), EALE (Torino), IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting (Munich), ESPE (Aarhus), Worldbank Migration Conference (Ifrane, Morocco), ETSG (Birmingham), CEMIR workshop on migration (Munich), IZA/ASE Workshop "EU Enlargement and the Labor Markets" (Bucharest), OECD workshop "Immigration in OECD Countries" (Paris)

**2012**

RES PhD Meeting (London), Irish Economic Association (Dublin), EEA Meetings (Málaga), ESEM (Málaga), German Economic Association (Göttingen), IZA/CEU Workshop on EU Enlargement and the Labor Markets (Budapest), Immigration in OECD Countries (Paris)

**2011**

Mainz Workshop in Labor Economics (Mainz), NORFACE Conference "Migration: Economic Change, Social Challenge" (London), German Economic Association (Frankfurt), Irish Society of New Economists (Dublin), 2nd TEMPO Conference on International Migration (Vienna), SAE (Málaga)

**2010**

EEA Meetings (Glasgow), Irish Society of New Economists (Dublin), RGS Doctoral Conference (Bochum), Irish Economic Association (Belfast)

**2009**

Irish Society of New Economists (Limerick)

**Media Appearances**

Deutsche Welle (internet; 22/01/2013); Wall Street Journal (internet; 08/05/2013); Spiegel online (internet; 08/05/2013); Rzeczpospolita (internet; 28/05/2013); Phoenix (tv; 2x: 28/05/2013, 04/07/2013); MDR jump (radio; 01/05/2014); BBC Capital (internet; 03/07/2018); Boston Globe (internet; 14/04/2018), Bloomberg Opinion (4/9/2018)

**Refereeing**

American Economic Review (2x), Review of Economic Studies (2x), Journal of Human Resources (5x), Journal of International Economics (2x), Journal of Labor Economics (4x), Journal of Public Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association (3x), Management Science, Review of Economics & Statistics (3x), Canadian Journal of Economics, European Economic Review (2x), Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (3x), Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Population Economics (3x), Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Journal of Urban Economics (2x), Labour Economics (3x), Regional Science and Urban Economics (3x), Scandinavian Journal of Economics, American Journal of Health Economics, Economics of Education Review (4x), Economic Policy, Health Economics, Journal of Regional Science, Review of

Development Economics, Review of Income and Wealth, Review of International Economics, China Economic Review, Economic Systems, Empirical Economics (2x), Fiscal Studies, German Economic Review (3x), International Journal of Manpower, International Migration Review, IZA Journal of Development and Migration, IZA Journal of European Labor Studies, IZA Journal of Labor Economics, IZA Journal of Migration, IZA World of Labor (3x), Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Common Market Studies, Journal of Development Studies, Oxford Development Studies, Review of the World Economy, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, Social Science and Medicine, Socio-Economic Review

**PhD & Post-Doc examinations** **PhD:** Vahan Sargsyan (CERGE-EI, external examiner, 2018), Neil Killeen (UCD, internal examiner, 2018), Ivan Petrov (UCD, committee chair, 2021); Jacopo Bassetto (University of Trento & University of Bamberg, external examiner, 2022)  
**Post-Doc (habilitation):** Masaryk University Brno (2022, reviewer of habilitation thesis)

**Grant Reviews, etc** GLM-LIC project (IZA and DFID, 2x), OeNB Jubiläumsfonds (Austrian National Bank), Czech Science Foundation (2x), Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI)

**Editorships** **Editor**, Research in Labor Economics (joint with Solomon Polachek) 2022-  
**Managing Editor**, IZA Journal of Labor Economics, 2013

**Selection Committees** DIAL conference "Barriers to Development" 2015, Annual Conference of the German Economic Association (2017, 2020)

**Teaching Outreach** **YouTube Channel** with over 70 teaching videos; over 1,500 subscribers 2021-

**Teaching Qualification** **Professional Certificate in University Teaching & Learning**, UCD 2019

**Teaching Experience** **University College Dublin**  
 Public Economics (B.Sc, lecture) 2019-  
 Econometrics (Ph.D course) 2018-  
 Introduction to Econometrics (B.Sc, lecture) 2018-  
 Economics Research Workshop (B.Sc, lecture) 2018-2020

**Central Bank of Ireland**  
 Introduction to Causal Inference (1-day course) 2018, 2019  
 New Developments in Causal Inference (1-day course) 2018, 2019

**University of Luxembourg**  
 Economics of Migration (PhD Course) 2017

**European Business School, Wiesbaden**  
 Introductory Econometrics (PhD, lecture and lab) 2014-2020  
 European Labour Markets (lecture) 2014-2017

**Trinity College Dublin**  
 Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics (M.Sc) 2009-2012

**University of Regensburg**  
 Economics of Migration (B.Sc, M.Sc) 2018  
 Teaching Assistant, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics (B.Sc) 2006-2008

<b>Conferences organized</b>	<b>Annual Migration Meeting</b> (co-organizer), Dublin/Ireland	2019
	<b>Annual Migration Meeting</b> (co-organizer), Cambridge, MA	2018
	<b>Irish Postgraduate and Early Career Economics Conference</b> (co-organizer), Dublin/Ireland	2018
	<b>Annual Migration Meeting</b> (AM <sup>2</sup> ; co-organizer), Bonn/Germany	2017
	<b>Annual Migration Meeting</b> (AM <sup>2</sup> ; sole organizer), Bonn/Germany	2016
	<b>Annual Migration Meeting</b> (AM <sup>2</sup> ; co-organizer), Dakar/Senegal	2015
	<b>Irish Society of New Economists</b> (ISNE), Dublin/Ireland	2010
<b>Academic Service</b>	<b>Director of Research</b> , UCD School of Economics,	2022-
	<b>Graduate Director</b> , UCD School of Economics,	2018-2021
	<b>School Executive Board Member</b> , UCD School of Economics,	2019-2021
	<b>Seminar Organizer</b> , IZA,	2013-2017
	<b>PhD Student Seminar Organizer</b> , Trinity College Dublin	2010-2012
	<b>PhD Class Representative</b> , Trinity College Dublin	2009-2010
<b>Supervision</b>	<b>PhD:</b> Emanuele Albarosa (UCD, 2018-2022; first placement: Economist, IOM/United Nations) Diego Zambiasi (UCD, 2018-2022, first placement: Lecturer, Newcastle University) Stefano Ceolotto (TCD, co-advisor, 2019-2022, first placement: Post-Doc, ESRI) Mohsin Javed (UCD, 2019-) Michele Gubello (UCD, 2019-) Dimitrios Argyros (UCD, 2021-) Manvi Jindal (UCD, 2021-) Aditi Kharb (UCD, 2022-)	
	<b>Post-Doc:</b> Nicolas Apfel (letter writer 2020-2022; PhD at U Regensburg; first placement: Post-Doc at U Surrey; soon permanent Lecturer at U Southampton)	
	<b>M.Sc. (post-M.Sc placement in brackets)</b> Christoph Deuster (U Bonn, 2013; PhD student UC Louvain), Anusha De (UCD, 2019; PhD student KU Leuven), Rafan Alfrayyan (UCD, 2019, Economist at Saudi Ministry of Finance), Jeff Concannon (UCD, 2021; Analyst at Frontier Economics), Wendy Disch (UCD, 2021; Pre-Doc ESRI), Stephen Fowler (UCD, 2021; MPP Harris School, U Chicago), Anthony Jordan (UCD, 2021, Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service), Cormac Harten (UCD, 2022), Cecilie Gjendem (UCD, 2022)	
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	<b>Skills</b>	
	<b>Software:</b> Stata, MatLab, R, MS-Office, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X	
	<b>Languages:</b> German (native), English (fluent), French , Polish (very good), Italian, Czech, Russian	

(basic)

**Other**

**Citizenship:** German

**Family status:** married, 1 child (born 2017)

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**References**

**Prof. Gaia Narciso**, Trinity College Dublin, Department of Economics of Economics. <mailto:narcisog@tcd.ie>

**Prof. Ron Davies**, University College Dublin, School of Economics. [ronald.davies@ucd.ie](mailto:ronald.davies@ucd.ie)

**Prof. Paul Devereux**, University College Dublin, School of Economics. [paul.devereux@ucd.ie](mailto:paul.devereux@ucd.ie)

**Prof. Daniel Hamermesh**, University of Texas at Austin, [hamermes@utexas.edu](mailto:hamermes@utexas.edu)