

Benjamin Elsner

Contact Information

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Fields of Interest

Labor Economics, Public Economics, International Economics, Microeconometrics

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

Education

PhD in Economics, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, 2008-2012
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

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)

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.

Grants

Irish Research Council 2021
Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship
(EUR 55,000; Co-PI: Michele Gubello)

World Bank, UK Aid and UNHCR 2020
Forced Migration, Social Cohesion and Conflict: The Host Country Perspective

(USD 25,000; PI)

Irish Research Council 2020
Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship
(EUR 48,000; Co-PI: Diego Zambiasi)

Irish Research Council 2019
Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship
(EUR 72,000; Co-PI: Emanuele Albarosa)

German Ministry of Education (BMBF) 2017
Research grant for a project on the determinants of college dropout
(EUR 170,000; w. Ingo Isphording, Florian Wozny, Ulf Zölitz)

IRCHSS Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship (EUR 21,000) 2011-2012

**Honors
and Awards**

Best Paper Award Spring Meeting of Young Economists 2018

Novartis Prize Best paper in health economics, IEA conference 2018

Best Paper Prize Warsaw International Economic Meeting 2016

Labour Economics Excellence in Refereeing Award 2015

FEEM Award ("Young Economist Award") European Economic Association, 2010

Strategic Innovation Fund PhD Scholarship 2008-2011

Award for the best M.A. thesis in economics at the University of Regensburg 2008

Haniel Foundation "Go East" scholarship for studies abroad 2005

Erasmus scholarship for studies abroad 2005-2006

Invited Seminars

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

**Conference
Presentations**

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

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 (3x), 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 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 (3x), 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, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, Social Science and Medicine

PhD examinations

Vahan Sargsyan (CERGE-EI, external examiner, 2018), Neil Killeen (UCD, internal examiner, 2018), Ivan Petrov (UCD, committee chair, 2021),

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

Managing Editor (in substitution), IZA Journal of Labor Economics, Feb 2013-June 2013

Selection Committees

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

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
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Conferences organized	Annual Migration Meeting (co-organizer), Dublin/Ireland	2019
	Annual Migration Meeting (co-organizer), Cambridge, MA	2018
	Irish Postgraduate and Early Career Economics Conference (co-organizer), Dublin/Ireland	2018
	Annual Migration Meeting (AM ² ; co-organizer), Bonn/Germany	2017
	Annual Migration Meeting (AM ² ; sole organizer), Bonn/Germany	2016
	Annual Migration Meeting (AM ² ; co-organizer), Dakar/Senegal	2015
	Irish Society of New Economists (ISNE), Dublin/Ireland	2010
Academic Service	Seminar Organizer , IZA,	2013-2017
	PhD Student Seminar Organizer , Trinity College Dublin	2010-2012
	PhD Class Representative , Trinity College Dublin	2009-2010
Supervision	PhD:	
	Emanuele Albarosa (UCD, 2018-; first placement: Economist, IOM/United Nations)	
	Diego Zambiasi (UCD, 2018-, first placement: Lecturer, Newcastle University)	
	Stefano Ceolotto (TCD, co-advisor, 2019-)	
	Mohsin Javed (UCD, 2019-)	
	Michele Gubello (UCD, 2019-)	
	Dimitrios Argyros (2021-)	
	M.Sc: (post-M.Sc placement in brackets)	
	Christoph Deuster (U Bonn, 2013; PhD student UC Louvain), Anusha De (UCD, 2019; PhD student KU Leuven), Rafan Alfrayyan (UCD, 2019), Cecilie Gjendem (UCD, 2021/22), Wendy Disch (UCD, 2021; Pre-Doc ESRI), Stephen Fowler (UCD, 2021; MPP Harris School, U Chicago)	
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Skills	Software: Stata, MatLab, R, MS-Office, L ^A T _E X	

Languages: German (native), English (fluent), French , Polish (very good), Italian, Czech, Russian (basic)

Professional Memberships

American Economic Association, European Economic Association, German Economic Association

Other

Citizenship: German

Family status: married, 1 child (born 2017)