Alex Newnham

Curriculum vitae

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Research Interests

Migration, Spatial Economics and Economic History

Education

2021–   **PhD candidate in Economics**, *RITM (University Paris-Saclay)*, France
- ⋄ Title : Assigned to a residence : determinants and consequences of the (lack of) mobility in Europe
- ⋄ Supervisor : Matthieu Crozet
- ⋄ Description : This thesis's main objective is to exploit economic geography tools to better understand internal migration and, even more so, non-migration decisions. The focus of the thesis will, therefore, be on individuals who are excluded from - or do not voluntarily participate in - internal migration.
- ⋄ Other : PhD student representative. (Ongoing)

2024–2026   **Temporary Lecturer (ATER)**, *University Paris-Saclay*, France
- ⋄ Annual teaching load 192 hours

2025 (2 weeks)   **Visiting**, *Pau University*, France
- ⋄ host : Prof. Fabien Candou

2024 (6 months)   **Visiting**, *Bristol University*, UK
- ⋄ host : Prof. Yanos Zylberberg

2017–2020   **Two year MSc in Economics (LMEC)**, *University of Bologna*, Italy, score : 106/110
- ⋄ Description : Rigorous training in microeconomics and statistics that provides the fundamentals needed for scientific modelling and statistical analysis in economics.
- ⋄ Thesis : Income shock effects on spatial demographic distribution : the Phylloxera crisis in Nineteenth-Century France (supervisor : Giovanni Prarolo)

2014–2017   **B.Sc.in Economics and Management**, *University Paris-Saclay*, France, score : 15/20
- ⋄ Description : Fundamental courses in economics and management, as well as transversal courses in methodology, languages, law and IT.

Working Papers

JMP :   **Beyond Stickiness : Unravelling the Complexities of Worker Mobility and Occupational Switching**
- ⋄ Abstract : I study how displaced workers make joint decisions about where to work and what occupation to pursue. Using French administrative employer-employee panel data from 2002 to 2018, I focus on workers who lost their jobs through mass layoffs to obtain exogenous variation in mobility decisions. I first document that mobility increases earnings compared to staying put. Geographic moves alone raise wages by 5 percent, occupational changes yield 7 percent gains, and combined moves produce the largest effects at 10 percent. Yet 38 percent of displaced workers remain in their original location and occupation, which suggests that mobility costs must be substantial. Through the lens of a dynamic discrete choice model where decisions are nested, with workers first choosing a location and then selecting an occupation within that location, I estimate both geographical and occupational mobility costs.

Fields and Foreign Lands : Pre-industrial Climate Risk and International Migration

◇ Co-authors : Miriam Manchin and Elena Nikolova

◇ Abstract : We study how pre-industrial climate risk during 1500-1800 influenced historical bilateral inward migration and present-day international migration stocks in Europe. We exploit datasets with high resolution (0.25 and 0.5 degree grids). We find that one standard deviation increase in historical precipitation decreases the share of today's migrants in a given location by 0.045 percentage points and also negatively influences historical migration flows. The results only hold in historically rural locations, suggesting that these long-run relationships are driven by agriculture. We also find evidence that historical climate risk had a persistent effect on current migration patterns through differences in historical prosperity.

Where the Jobs Went : Commuting and Spatial Mismatch in France

◇ Abstract : While residential mobility has declined in France, worker mobility has shifted to the commuting channel. From 1996 to 2016, average commuting distances increased by 5 kilometers as jobs concentrated in large labor markets while residents did not follow. I study which workers have been most affected by this spatial mismatch.

Work experience

Main

2019–2020
(12 months)
Research Assistantship, *Politecnico di Milano*, Italy
◇ Project : Historical climate variation and migration
◇ Missions realized : Granular climate and demographic panel data management (100m*100m grids) and econometric analysis, literature review preparation, construction of PCA indicators
◇ Supervisor : Miriam Manchin
◇ Programming language : Stata & Python (NumPy, pandas, GeoPy)

2019
(6 months)
Research Assistantship, *University College London*, UK
◇ Missions realized : GIS data management
◇ Supervisor : Elena Nikolova
◇ Programming language : Stata

2017
(3 months)
Traineeship, *CLCV (Consumer organization)*, France
◇ Missions realized : Insurance inquiry & control of rent regulation in Paris
◇ Programming language : Excel

Other

2019
(150h)
Research Assistantship, *University of Bologna*, Italy
◇ Missions realized : Retrieval and structuring European elections 2019 data
◇ Supervisor : Giovanni Prarolo
◇ Programming language : Python (NumPy, pandas, Scrapy)

2016
(3 months)
Research Assistantship, *University Paris-Saclay*, France
◇ Missions realized : construct and clean data on excel
◇ Supervisor : José De Sousa
◇ Programming language : Excel

Teaching

2025-2026 International and European Economics (Undergraduate level) - 30h

2025-2026 Econometrics 3 in R - Associate Professor Jean-Noël Senne - 40h

2025-2026 Microeconomics 1 - Associate Professor Lisa Anouliès - 90h

2021-2026 Scraping and Python (graduate level) - 75h

2024-2025 Macroeconomics 1 - Professor Mathieu Crozet - 165h

2024-2025 Data Processing in R - Associate Professor Björn Nilsson - 15h

2022-2024	Microeconomics 3 - Associate Professor Ugo Bolletta - 45h
2021-2023	Contemporary economic issues - Associate Professor My Dam - 90h

Skills

Software	⋄ Advanced knowledge of R (tidyverse, data.table, ggplot2, sf, sp) ⋄ Advanced knowledge of Python (Scrapy, NumPy, GeoPandas, Polars, Pandas) ⋄ Advanced knowledge of Stata ⋄ Good knowledge of QGIS
GRE	⋄ Quantitative score : 165 (85th percentile)
Languages	⋄ French : Mother tongue ⋄ English : Mother tongue ⋄ Italian : Good

Seminars and Conferences

2026	ADRES (Paris Sorbonne, January)
2025	RITM Internal seminar (February), AgroParisTech internal seminar (AgroParisTech, April), Paris-Saclay PhD meeting (RITM, May), JMA (Poitiers, June), ESPE (Naples, June)
2024	Paris-Saclay PhD meeting (AgroParisTech, May), Genealogical Sources in Economic History (LSE, June), Population Flows Happy Day (IESEG/LEM, October)
2023	Paris-Saclay PhD meeting (EPEE, June)

Referee

Journal of European Economic Association