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in maisarah-wizan
○ M-Wizan

Maisarah WIZAN

Doctoral researcher

Career profile

While I have a passion for and background in applied economics, I enjoy working in a multidisciplinary setting and learning about novel and mixed methodologies. In my work, I employ methods and perspectives across economics, sociology, as well as social and public policy. My research currently focuses on the measurement of income volatility in Belgium and the ability of social safety nets to protect against unexpected shocks to income. I examine the heterogeneity of volatility across socio-demographic factors, such as by education levels and migration background.

Topics of interest: Applied econometrics | Microsimulation | Labour economics | Social policy

Education/experience

May 22–Present	**PhD in Socio-economic Sciences**, *Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy, University of Antwerp*, Antwerp
	Expected graduation date: May-June 2026
	Visting Researcher at Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER), *April–May, 2025*.
Sep 20–Sep 21	**M.Sc. in Development Studies (Advanced Master's)**, *Institute of Development Policy (IOB), University of Antwerp*, Antwerp, *Great Distinction*, second best performing student
	Interdisciplinary diploma within the field of development studies (i.e. *ontwikkelingsbeleid*).
Feb 19–Jun 19	**Bachelor's Exchange Programme**, *Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Antwerp*, Antwerp
	Some courses were also taken at the Faculty of Social Sciences.
	Enrolled for five courses (30 ECTs) in total, including two graduate courses:
	• 'Public Finance (2109TEWECP)'
	• 'Political Economy of Development (2200FSWEID)'
Aug 16–Jun 20	**B.Soc.Sci. (Honours) in Economics**, *National University of Singapore (NUS)*, Singapore, *Distinction (GPA: 4.37/5.00)*
	Specialisation in Applied and Policy Economics
	Minor in European Studies
	Graduate courses taken during honours year (i.e., optional additional year to complete independent research):
	• 'Policy Impact Evaluation Methods (EC5326R)' – applied econometrics
	• 'Macroeconomic Analysis III (EC4302)' – inter-temporal optimisation models

Publications and Working Papers

Wizan, M. (in progress). Earnings Volatility and Dynamics: Comparisons across Migrants and Natives in Belgium.

Wizan, M., Sologon, D.M. & Marchal, S. (2025). The Shift from Persistent Inequality to Earnings Instability in Belgium: A Longitudinal Decomposition by Gender and Education using Administrative Records, 2005–2021. IZA Discussion Paper No. 18132. Under review at *Labour Economics*.
https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/18132

Wizan, M. & Marchal, S. (2025). Balancing Timeliness, Efficiency and Effectiveness: An Assessment of Targeted Social Policies in Challenging Times. *Social Policy & Administration*, 1–15. https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.13156

Wizan, M., Janssens, J. & Marchal, S. (2025). A Comparison of Nowcasted Social Outcomes for the COVID-19 Pandemic with the Post-hoc Observed Outcomes for Belgium: lessons for the next pandemic? BE-FAST Deliverable 2.2. https://repository.uantwerpen.be/docstore/d:irua:29227

Conferences and Presentations

Sep 25 | Speaker — Annual European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Conference: Demography and Social Inequality, *University of Cologne*
"Long-run inequality and instability in earnings in Belgium: the role of education and gender"

Apr 25 | Speaker — HEC Liège Young Researchers Conference in Economics, *HEC Liège*
"Long-run inequality and instability in earnings over the lifecycle in Belgium, 2005-2021"

May 23 | Speaker — 1st Welfare & Policy Conference, *Bordeaux School of Economics*
"Balancing speed and effectiveness: Smoothing income volatility through COVID-19 social policy responses in Belgium"

Aug 22 | Participant — International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) 37th General Conference, *Luxembourg*

Training and Workshops

Oct, Nov 22 — EUROMOD Autumn Training & BELMOD Autumn Course
Courses and workshops in microsimulation

Aug–Sep 22 — FLAMES Summer School
Longitudinal and Incomplete Data
Time Series Analysis
Essentials of R

Master's Thesis

Title — *Half-Earth, Conservation and New Media: An analysis of NGO narratives using the Narrative Policy Framework*

Supervisor — Prof. Dr. Gert Van Hecken [↗]

Grade — 17/20

Description — This thesis explores how social media can be used in the construction of narratives about the 'Half-Earth' – the idea to conserve half of Earth's landmass by 2030. A mixed method approach, following the Narrative Policy Framework, is used on Twitter data collected from non-governmental organisations who hold contesting notions about conservation. This thesis received a valorisation grant.

Bachelor's Thesis

Title — *A Student Fixed Effects Approach: Does computer use in classrooms improve testscores?*

Supervisor — Dr. Nina Guyon [↗]

Grade — A+ ($\sim$20/20)

Description — This thesis was written independently as part of the graduation requirements of the optional Honours' year. Using a student fixed effects model, alongside Oster's (2019) method in determining the extent of selection bias, I determine the causal effects of classroom computer use on testscores. (Full abstract [↗]).

Awards and Achievements

2022 — **Master's Thesis Valorisation Grant**
Amount: 1000€
Awarded to graduate students with dissertations of high quality for the valorisation of their thesis.

2020   **NUS Dean's Scholars List**, *Academic Year 2019-2020, Semester 2*
Amount: 100 SGD (*66€*)
Placed on the Dean's Scholars List for academic achievement, which recognises the top 1% of the faculty cohort of around 6000 students. ↗

2019   **NUS Alumni Student Exchange Award**, *Academic Year 2018-2019*
Amount: 2500 SGD (*1657€*)
Awarded to students embarking on a semester abroad who have shown great involvement in co-curricular activities.

Languages

English	Native	Malay	Native
Bahasa Indonesia	Proficient (C1)	German	Intermediate (B1+) ↗
Spanish	Elementary (A2)	Dutch	Intermediate (B1)

Computer skills

Software and programming	Stata (Proficient), R (Proficient), LATEX(Proficient), NVivo (Intermediate), MATLAB (Basic), SPSS (Basic), SAS (Basic), Python (Basic), Excel VBA (Basic)
Miscellaneous	EUROMOD (Intermediate), Git (Basic)
Microsoft Office Suite	Excel, PowerPoint, Word (Proficient)

References

Name	Sarah Marchal
Occupation	Tenure Track Assistant Professor
Employer	Herman Deleeck Centre for Social Policy, UAntwerpen
Relationship	PhD supervisor
Tel	+32(0)032 65 19 20
Email	sarah.marchal@uantwerpen.be

Name	Gert Van Hecken
Occupation	Associate Professor
Employer	Institute of Development Policy, UAntwerpen
Relationship	Master's thesis supervisor
Tel	+32(0)032 65 56 85
Email	gert.vanhecken@uantwerpen.be