

✉ nurmaisarah.bintemohammadwizan@uantwerpen.be

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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 | Economic of education | 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
Visiting 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*
Interdisciplinary programme within the field of development studies
- 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 (2109TEWECF)'
 - '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 and postgraduate 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

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 (Revise & Resubmit) at *Labour Economics*.

<https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/18132>

Publications

Wizan, M. & Marchal, S. (2026). Balancing Timeliness, Efficiency and Effectiveness: An Assessment of Targeted Social Policies in Challenging Times. *Social Policy & Administration*, 60, no. 1: 193207. <https://doi.org/10.1111/spol.13156>

Conferences and Presentations

- Jan 26 | Organising Committee, Speaker AIPRIL/CHANGE Workshop "Changing work, changing incomes: assessing the vulnerability of non-standard workers and self employed", *University of Antwerp*
"Earnings volatility and dynamics: the migrant-native volatility gap in Belgium"
- 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 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 scraped Twitter data collected from various 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 test scores?*
- Supervisor Dr. Nina Guyon [🔗](#)
- Grade A+ (~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 test scores. (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

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|------------------|-----------------|--------|--------------------------------------|
| 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 Assistant Professor, UAntwerpen
Relationship PhD supervisor, UAntwerpen
Tel +32(0)032 65 19 20
Email sarah.marchal@uantwerpen.be

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

Name Nina Guyon
Occupation Assistant Professor, Paris School of Economics
Relationship Bachelor's thesis supervisor, NUS
Email nina.guyon@ens.psl.eu