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Maisarah WIZAN

Doctoral researcher

Career profile

I have a passion for development and policy economics, with interests in education and income inequality. While I have a background in economics, I enjoy working in a multidisciplinary setting and learning about novel and mixed methodologies. My doctoral research focuses on income volatility in Belgium, examining its determinants and the ability of social safety nets to protect against unexpected shocks to income.

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
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*
- Feb 19–Jun 19 **Exchange Programme**, *Faculty of Business and Economics, University of Antwerp*, Antwerp
- Aug 16–Jun 20 **B.Soc.Sci. (Honours) in Economics**, *National University of Singapore (NUS)*, Singapore, *Distinction*
Specialisation in Applied and Policy Economics
Minor in European Studies

Publications and working papers

Wizan, M., Sologon, D.M. & Marchal, S. (forthcoming). The Shift from Persistent Inequality to Earnings Instability in Belgium: A Longitudinal Decomposition by Gender and Education using Administrative Records, 2005–2021. Submitted to *Labour Economics*.

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>

Conferences and presentations

"Long-run inequality and instability in earnings in Belgium: the role of education and gender",
2025 Annual European Consortium for Sociological Research (ECSR) Conference: Demography and Social Inequality, University of Cologne, September 2025.

"Long-run inequality and instability in earnings over the lifecycle in Belgium, 2005-2021",
HEC Liège Young Researchers Conference in Economics, HEC Liège, April 2025
Econ@UAntwerp Seminar Series, University of Antwerp, November 2024.

"Balancing speed and effectiveness: Smoothing income volatility through COVID-19 social policy responses in Belgium",
1st Welfare & Policy Conference, Bordeaux School of Economics, May 2023.

Participant,
International Association for Research in Income and Wealth (IARIW) 37th General Conference, Luxembourg, August 2022.

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 [🔗](#)
- 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 test scores?*
- Supervisor Dr. Nina Guyon [🔗](#)
- Description Using a student fixed effects model, alongside Oster's (2019) method in determining the extent of selection bias, we determine the causal effects of classroom computer use on test scores. (Full abstract [🔗](#)).

Awards and Achievements

- 2020 **Academic Year 2019-2020, Semester 2, NUS Dean's Scholars List**
Placed on the Dean's Scholars List for academic achievement, which recognises the top 1% of the faculty cohort. [🔗](#)
- 2019 **Academic Year 2018-2019, Semester 2, NUS Alumni Student Exchange Award**
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

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Name Gert Van Hecken
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