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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. My research combines methods and perspectives across economics, sociology, as well as social and public policy. My research focuses on the measurement income volatility in Belgium 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

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*

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., 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

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	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	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 testscores. (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

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
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Name	Nina Guyon
Occupation	Professor, SciencesPo
Relationship	Bachelor's thesis supervisor, NUS
Email	nina.guyon@ens.psl.eu