

# Alaitz AYARZA- ASTIGARRAGA

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## FIELDS OF INTEREST

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Primary: Applied Microeconomics: Labor, Migration, Education, Gender and Behavioral Economics  
Secondary: Survey Design, Elicitation of beliefs, perceptions and attitudes

## JOB MARKET PAPER ([Paper](#))

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### Determinants of migration choices: The role of beliefs about pecuniary and nonpecuniary outcomes

This paper studies the pecuniary and nonpecuniary determinants of young, highly-educated individuals' migration choices out of economically distressed regions. I conduct a survey at the time when individuals are making migration choices in one of the poorest regions of Spain, Andalusia. I collect their subjective expectations about outcomes under counterfactual migration alternatives, including no-migration, short-term migration and long-term migration. The use of the rich data on beliefs allows me to mitigate the identification problem concerning the separation of preferences and expectations to estimate a life-cycle model of migration choice. I find that average elasticity of choice is largest with respect to earnings, followed by full-time employment and study-job match prospects. Moreover, results from counterfactual exercises show that nonpecuniary factors play a larger role than pecuniary factors on migration choices. Given the large expected likelihood of short-term migration, I study the reasons for planning to migrate temporarily. Counterfactual exercises show that this option is seen as having limited value as a human capital acquisition strategy. Instead, expected short-term migration is largely motivated by preferences for nonpecuniary outcomes, which individuals believe have higher values in their region of birth over the life-cycle.

## REFERENCES

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**Sule Alan**  
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## WORK IN PROGRESS

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### Self-selection into internal and international migration of young individuals: Evidence using novel survey data

This paper studies the self-selection intentions into internal and international migration of young individuals in their school-to-work transition from the South of Spain -one of the areas with highest youth unemployment rates in the EU. I use a rich dataset that includes personal, academic and family background characteristics, as well as individuals' beliefs about labor market outcomes in their home region and migration destination. Results indicate that having a higher GPA and being from a high socioeconomic status significantly predict individuals' intention to migrate internationally, but not internally. Despite being positively selected, students

who plan to migrate internationally have the most pessimistic views about their career prospects in their home region. With their migration plans, they expect higher labor market returns to migration than internal migrants. International migrants are more likely than internal migrants to plan a long-term migration as opposed to a temporary migration. If individuals follow their plans, my results suggest a future brain drain from the region as well as from the country.

## WORKING PAPERS

**E-learning Engagement Gap during School Closures: Differences by Academic Performance**, joint with Josep Amer and Marta C. Lopes - [R&R Applied Economics](#) ([Paper](#))

We study the impact of COVID-19 school closures on differences in online learning usage by regional academic performance. Using data from Google Trends in Italy, we find that during the first lockdown, regions with a previously lower academic performance increased their searches for e-learning tools more than higher-performing regions. Analysing school administrative and survey data before the pandemic, we find that both teachers and students in lower performing regions were using no less e-learning tools than higher performing ones. These two findings suggest that the COVID-19 shock widened the e-learning usage gap between academically lower and higher-performing regions. Exploiting the regional variation in school closure mandates during the 2020/2021 academic year, we report that the patterns detected after the first lockdown were no longer present. Regions with different previous academic performance had the same response in terms of online learning usage when faced with stricter school closures.

## EDUCATION

PhD Candidate in Economics, European University Institute (EUI)	2018-present
M.Res in Economics, EUI	2018
Research Master in Economics, Université Catholique de Louvain	2017
Master Program in Economics, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics	2016
- Degree awarded by the University of Pompeu Fabra	
Bachelor's Degree in Economics, University of the Basque Country	2015
- With one semester academic exchange at KU Leuven University	

## TEACHING ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

Panel Data for Banking and Finance (Florence School of Banking and Finance, FBF-EUI)	Fall 2021
- Instructor: Jeffrey Wooldridge	
Topics in Microeconometrics, (PhD course, EUI)	Spring 2021
- Instructor: Thomas Crossley	
Panel Data for Banking and Finance (FBF-EUI)	Spring 2021
- Instructor: Jeffrey Wooldridge	

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT POSITIONS

Research Assistant of Marta C. Lopes, University Carlos III of Madrid	2020
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## EXTERNAL PRESENTATIONS

SAEe Valencia (scheduled)	2022
EUI Alumni Workshop	2022

## RESEARCH GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Contrato de Personal Investigador (upv-ehu)	02-05/2022
Early Stage Research Fund, EUI Grant	2021
- Research grant for project: Determinants of migration choices	
PhD Scholarship, EUI	2021
Early Stage Research Fund, EUI Grant	2020
- Research grant for project: Determinants of migration choices	
PhD Scholarship, Salvador de Madariaga	2017-2020

- Grant by the Spanish Ministry of Education for EUI researchers

## **TRAINING SESSIONS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS**

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Teacher Training in Higher Education, Certificate awarded by the EUI	2019
- Instructors: Dr. Annika Zorn (EUI) and Prof. Lesley Gourlay (UCL, London)	
Gender Economics- Labor Economics Summer School, Barcelona GSE	2018
- Instructor: Libertad González	

## **LANGUAGE & COMPUTER SKILLS**

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LANGUAGES: English (fluent), Spanish (native), Basque (native), French (basic)

COMPUTER: Stata, Matlab, Python (Selenium WebDriver for web Scrapping), Qualtrics Survey Software, Latex, Microsoft Office.

Last updated: November 3, 2022