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FIELDS OF INTEREST

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

JOB MARKET PAPER ([Paper](#))

Determinants of Migration Choices: The Role of Beliefs about Pecuniary and Nonpecuniary Outcomes

Why do young adults migrate? This paper studies the reasons behind migration choices of young, highly educated individuals from lagging-behind regions. I collect a rich dataset on subjective expectations at the time when respondents are making their choice of whether to migrate out of Andalusia, one of the poorest regions of Spain. I then use the data to estimate a life-cycle model of migration choice, taking migration duration into account. Crucially, the collected data allow me to separate preferences from beliefs and to distinguish between pecuniary and nonpecuniary factors. Regarding pecuniary factors, I find that migration decisions are more sensitive to earnings, followed by the prospects of full-time employment and a better match between studies and job. Although there is sorting on expected labor market outcomes, my results show that the set of nonpecuniary factors, such as being close to family and quality of social life, play a larger role in choosing whether to migrate. Given the large expected likelihood of short-term migration, I study the reasons for planning to migrate temporarily. Counterfactual exercises show that a human capital acquisition strategy plays a small role on the plan to migrate short-term. Instead, expected short-term migration is largely motivated by preferences for nonpecuniary outcomes.

REFERENCES

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WORK IN PROGRESS

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.

Geographic Job search differences by Socioeconomic Status

High socioeconomic status university graduates are more likely to migrate internationally than their lower socioeconomic status counterparts. As a result, low socioeconomic status individuals could be left behind, despite being university graduates, in countries with high youth unemployment rates. This limits the university's role as a tool to foster social mobility. I study the mechanisms underlying university graduates' different geographic location choices by socioeconomic status. I use an information experiment to investigate the role of information frictions and study credit constraints and other costs (e.g., knowledge of the language) as alternative mechanisms.

PUBLICATIONS

E-learning Engagement Gap during School Closures: Differences by Academic Performance, joint with Josep Amer and Marta C. Lopes - Forthcoming at 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

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|---|--------------|
| 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 KULeuven University | |

TEACHING ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

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| 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

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

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| SAEe Valencia | 2022 |
| EUI Alumni Workshop | 2022 |

RESEARCH GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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

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: January 5, 2023