

Alaitz AYARZA- ASTIGARRAGA

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CITIZENSHIP: Spanish

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Primary: Applied Microeconomics: Labor Economics, Migration Economics, Gender Economics
Secondary: Belief elicitation, Survey Design

REFERENCES

Sule Alan European University Institute Sule.alan@eui.eu +39 055 4685 909	Michele Belot Cornell University mb2693@cornell.edu 109 Tower Rd, Ithaca, NY 14853	Alessandro Tarozzi European University Institute Alessandro.tarozzi@eui.eu +39 055 4685 646
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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 KuLeuven University	

JOB MARKET PAPER

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

This paper studies the relative role of pecuniary and nonpecuniary outcomes on migration choices of young individuals in their school-to-work transition. I design and conduct a survey of more than 600 last year bachelor's degree students who are at the time of making their migration decision in an economically distressed area of Spain. I then estimate a life-cycle model that uses the rich data on students' subjective expectations. I find that young individuals are highly responsive to expected earnings as well as full-time employment and study-job match prospects. Nonpecuniary factors are also statistically and economically significant determinants, but their total value is lower than previously estimated. Counterfactual exercises show that nonpecuniary factors play a larger role than pecuniary factors on young adults' migration choices.

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 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. 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 [IZA WP, DP No. 14904]

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.

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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RESEARCH GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Early Stage Research Fund, EUI Grant	2020
- Funding for own project: Determinants of migration choices	
Early Stage Research Fund, EUI Grant	2021
- Funding for own project: Determinants of migration choices	
PhD Scholarship, EUI	2021
PhD Scholarship, Salvador de Madariaga	2017-2020
- Grant by the Spanish Ministry of Education for EUI researchers	

TRAINING SESSIONS AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

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.