

Andra Hiriscau

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Policy, Development Economics, Labor Economics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Florida International University Expected graduation date: August 2021
 • Major advisor: Prof. Mihaela Pintea
M.A. Economics, Clemson University May 2014
B.A. International Affairs, Babeş-Bolyai University June 2010

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Instructor, Florida International University July 2019- Present
 • Principles of Macroeconomics, ECO 2013, 55 students Fall, 2019
 • Intermediate Macroeconomics, ECO 3203, 27 students Summer, 2019

Teaching Assistant, Florida International University August 2016- Present
 • Ph.D. level: Macroeconomics (2020), Econometrics I (2018), Microeconomics I (2017)
 • Undergraduate & Graduate level: Intermediate Macroeconomics (2017,2019), Intermediate Microeconomics (2017, 2020), International Money (2020, 2018), Women, Culture and Economics Development (2018), Topics in Theory (2018), Introduction to Econometrics (2018), Measurement Analysis (2018), Principles of Macroeconomics (2017, 2020), Principles of Microeconomics (2016), International Trade Theory and Policy (2020), Industrial Organization (2020)

Teaching Assistant, Clemson University August 2012- May 2014
 • Principles of Microeconomics (2012), Principles of Macroeconomics (2013), Intermediate Microeconomics (2013, 2014)

WORKING PAPERS

"The Effect of Paid Maternity Leave on Fertility and Mother's Labor Force Participation" (Job Market Paper)

This study examines how paid maternity leave (ML) impacted fertility and mothers' labor force participation in Romania. Specifically, I investigate the effects of a law regarding paid ML, which was implemented in 1990- less than one month- after the fall of the Communist regime in the country. The ML gives mothers the right to paid leave until the child turns one year old, and it offers 65% of monthly income before birth. This policy change was unexpected, creating conditions for a quasi-natural experiment. To establish causality, I examine the effects of this policy change using a regression discontinuity design and census data. I show that mothers who are eligible for ML are 3 percentage-points more likely to have an additional child than those ineligible. The effect is persistent for seven years after the policy was implemented. I find no significant results regarding the mother's labor force participation. I argue that the policy alleviated, to some extent, declining fertility rates, which were primarily caused by lifting bans on birth controls after the fall of the communist regime. These results have important implications regarding the shrinking working-age population and the ability to fund benefits programs.

”Birth Order Effects on Children’s Education” (with Dr. Mihaela Pinteau)

This paper examines the effect of birth order on educational attainment in the United States. Using a family fixed effects model, we find negative birth order effects that are in line with previous research among developed countries. Turning to the mechanism behind the birth order, this paper evaluates if resource dilution would be a plausible pathway by exploiting parental income during childhood. Our results show significant negative birth order effects among wealthy households and insignificant effects among poor households. This suggests that the resource dilution hypothesis is a plausible mechanism behind the birth order effects.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	Allied Social Science Associations (ASSA). Association for Study of Generosity	2020*
	Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)	2020*
	Annual Southern Economics Association Meeting (SEA)	2018, 2019, 2020*
	Eastern Economics Association Meeting (EEA)	2019, 2020
	Graduate Student Appreciation Week (GSAW)	2019
	Young Scholar Initiative North America Convening	2019
	Economics Department Workshops at FIU (x4)	2016-2018
HONORS AND AWARDS	Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Florida International University	August 2016- Present
	Scholarship for Public Administration, Public Policy, and Public Affairs to participate in ICSPR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research at University of Michigan	2020*
	Institute for Humane Studies- Academic Research Seminars (totaling \$650)	2020
	Young Scholar Initiative North America Convening (totaling \$600)	2019
	Institute for Humane Studies Conferences Grant (totaling \$950)	2018, 2019
	Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Clemson University	August 2012- May 2014
	Undergraduate Scholarship, Babeş-Bolyai University	September 2008- June 2010
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT	Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, Inter- University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICSPR)	Summer, 2020
	• Machine Learning: Applications in Social Sciences	Prof. Christopher Hare
	• Bayesian Modeling for Social Science I	Prof. Ryan Baker
	• Data Visualization in R	Prof. Robert Cooper
	• Workshops: Introduction to R and Introduction to Python	
	Empirical Implication of Theoretical Models Certification	University of Michigan, Summer, 2020
	Remote Teach Ready Certification	Florida International University, August 26 th , 2020
	Advanced Certificate in University Teaching	Florida International University, Fall, 2019
	Economics Course Design Institute	Florida International University, July 1 st – 3 rd , 2019
	Certificate in University Teaching and Learning	Florida International University, Spring, 2018
COMPUTER SKILLS	Stata, R, L ^A T _E X, Familiar with Python	
PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS	American Economics Association (AEA), Southern Economic Association (SEA), Eastern Economic Association (EEA), Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (APPAM)	
SERVICE	CSO Representative for Economics Club at Florida International University	2018- Present
LANGUAGES	Romanian (native), English (fluent), and Spanish (intermediate)	

REFERENCES

[Mihaela Pinte](#) , Ph.D.

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