

# Benjamin Elsner

Curriculum Vitae  
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## Research Interests

My research interests lie at the intersection of labour economics, international economics, and environmental economics. I currently pursue three strands of research:

1. impact of **migration** on the sending and receiving countries,
2. impact of the **environment** (especially pollution) on human capital formation,
3. the effect of **peers** and teachers on human capital,

## Current Positions

2024-	<b>Head of School</b>	School of Economics, University College Dublin
2023-	<b>Professor</b>	University College Dublin
2018-	<b>Research Fellow</b>	Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)
2016-	<b>Research Fellow</b>	Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM), University College London
2018-	<b>Research Fellow</b>	Geary Institute for Public Policy

## Past Positions

2018-2023	<b>Assistant Professor</b>	University College Dublin
2014-2017	<b>Senior Research Associate</b>	Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)
2012-2014	<b>Research Associate</b>	Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)

## Education

2013	<b>PhD Economics</b>	Trinity College Dublin
2008	<b>M.A. Economics</b>	Universität Regensburg

## Publications

Google scholar: **Number of citations:** 1117; **h-index:** 13

### Refereed Journals

1. Elsner, B., Jindal, M., Mascherini, M., & Nivakoski, S. (2024). Gender gaps in time use: Pan-european evidence from school closures during COVID-19. *Economic and Social Review*, 55(3), 311–356.
2. Bellani, L., Ceolotto, S., Elsner, B., & Pestel, N. (2024). The political fallout of air pollution. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 121(18).
3. Chevalier, A., Elsner, B., Lichter, A., & Pestel, N. (2024). Forced migration and public policy setting: Evidence from post-war west germany. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, 22(2), 915–962.
4. Albarosa, E., & Elsner, B. (2023). Forced migration and social cohesion: Evidence from the 2015/16 mass inflow in germany. *World Development*, 167, 106228.
5. Elsner, B., & Wozny, F. (2023). Long-run exposure to low-dose radiation reduces cognitive performance. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 118, 102785.
6. Elsner, B. (2022). Does emigration increase the wages of non-emigrants in sending countries? *IZA World of Labor*, 208.
7. Elsner, B., Isphording, I. E., & Zölitz, U. (2021). Achievement rank affects performance and major choices in college. *Economic Journal*, 131(640), 3182–3206.
8. Biavaschi, C., Burzyński, M., Elsner, B., & Machado, J. (2020). Taking the skill bias out of global migration. *Journal of Development Economics*, 142, 102317.
9. Buhlmann, F., Elsner, B., & Peichl, A. (2018). Tax refunds and income manipulation evidence from the EITC. *International Tax and Public Finance*, 25(6), 1490–1518.
10. Elsner, B., Narciso, G., & Thijssen, J. (2018). Migrant networks and the spread of (mis-)information. *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 80(3), 659–688.

11. Elsner, B., & Isphording, I. E. (2018). Rank, sex, drugs and crime. *Journal of Human Resources*, 53(2).
12. Elsner, B., & Isphording, I. E. (2017). A big fish in a small pond: Ability rank and human capital investment. *Journal of Labor Economics*, 35(3), 787–828.
13. Elsner, B. (2013). Emigration and wages: The EU enlargement experiment. *Journal of International Economics*, 91(1), 154–163.
14. Elsner, B. (2013). Does emigration benefit the stayers? Evidence from EU enlargement. *Journal of Population Economics*, 26(2), 531–553.

### Edited Book

1. Borjas, G. J., & Chiswick, B. R. (2018). *Foundations of migration economics* (B. Elsner, Ed.). Oxford University Press.

### Book Chapters and Policy Reports

1. Elsner, B., & Concannon, J. (2023). Immigration and redistribution. In R. M. Sauer (Ed.), *Handbook of global migration* (Vol. 3). World Scientific.
2. Albarosa, E., & Elsner, B. (2022). *Forced migration, social cohesion and conflict*. World Bank.
3. Elsner, B. (2019). The economic effects of migration. In T. Brancaccio, Y. Deli, I. Pastine, & C. Whelan (Eds.), *Economics in action: Topics and resources*. McGraw Hill.
4. Elsner, B., & Zimmermann, K. F. (2016). Migration 10 years after: EU enlargement, closed borders, and migration to germany. In M. Kahanec & K. F. Zimmermann (Eds.), *Labor migration, EU enlargement, and the great recession* (pp. 85–101). Springer.

### Working Papers

1. Elsner, B., Flaherty, E., & Haller, S. (2024). Brexit had no impact on irish exporters. *Revise and Re-Submit at the Review of International Economics*.
2. Biavaschi, C., & Elsner, B. (2014). *Let's be selective about migrant self-selection*.

### Grants

2023	<b>European Economic Association</b> 2,000€	Seedcorn Grant for the Development of Innovative Teaching
2023	<b>Irish Research Council</b> Co-PI with Dimitrios Argyros, 56,000€	Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship
2021	<b>Irish Research Council</b> Co-PI with Michele Gubello, 55,000€	Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship
2020	<b>World Bank, UK Aid and UNHCR</b> PI, 25,000USD	Forced Migration, Social Cohesion and Conflict
2020	<b>Irish Research Council</b> Co-PI with Diego Zambiasi, 48,000€	Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship
2019	<b>Irish Research Council</b> Co-PI with Emanuele Albarosa, 72,000€	Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship
2017	<b>German Ministry of Education (BMBF)</b> Determinants of College Dropout (with Ingo E. Isphording, Florian Wozny and Ulf Zölitz) 170,000€	
2011	<b>Irish Research Council (IRCHSS)</b> PI, 21,000€	Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship
2008	<b>Strategic Innovation Fund</b> PI, 48,000€	PhD Scholarship
2005	<b>Haniel Foundation</b> PI, 3,000€	Go East Scholarship for Studies Abroad

### Honors and Awards

2025	<b>Brendan Walsh Prize</b>	Best Paper Published in the Economic and Social Review
2022	<b>Teaching Excellence Award</b>	UCD College of Social Sciences and Law
2018	<b>Best Paper Award</b>	Spring Meetings of Young Economists
2018	<b>Novartis Prize</b>	Best Paper in Health Economics, Irish Economic Association

2016	<b>Best Paper Prize</b>	Warsaw International Economic Meeting
2015	<b>Excellence in Refereeing Award</b>	Labour Economics
2010	<b>FEEM Award</b>	Best Paper Presented by a Young Economist at the EEA Conference
2008	<b>Christa Lindner Preis</b>	Best M.A. Thesis at the University of Regensburg

## Invited Seminars (69 seminars, 48 institutions, 19 countries)

### 2023

University of Surrey, University of Padova, IRVAPP-FBK (Trento), University of Bolzano, Queen's University Belfast, ISEG Lisbon, University of Antwerp

### 2022

UCD Geary Institute, KU Leuven (LICOS), University of Strathclyde

### 2021

University of Innsbruck, KU Ingolstadt-Eichstätt

### 2020

University of Groningen, Graduate Institute (Geneva), University of St. Andrews, University of Cardiff

### 2019

Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca, Queen's University Belfast, ESRI, VU Amsterdam, University of Vilnius, University of Potsdam

### 2018

UCD Geary Institute, Trinity College Dublin, CERGE-EI Prague, Masaryk University Brno, Paris School of Economics, University of Trier, LISER (Luxembourg)

### 2017

University College Dublin, Paris School of Economics, OECD, University of Freiburg, RWI Essen, IOS Regensburg, University of Regensburg

### 2016

SOFI Stockholm, Maastricht University, University of Cologne, University of Colorado Denver, University of Leicester, University of Oxford, University of Duisburg-Essen, University of Kent, University of Bayreuth, University of Bonn

### 2015

University of Mainz, IAB Nuremberg, Modul University Vienna, WU Vienna, Concordia University, University of Mannheim, University of Regensburg, HHU Dusseldorf

### 2014

DIAL (Paris), NIW (Hannover), University of Hamburg, Temple University, George Washington University, HHU Dusseldorf, University of Heidelberg, University of Freiburg, IRES-UC Louvain

### 2013

University College Dublin, University of Southern Denmark, IOS Regensburg, University of Münster

### 2012

University of Edinburgh, LMU Munich, IZA Bonn, University of Stirling

### 2011

UCD Geary Institute, NUI Maynooth, SSE Riga, Bocconi University, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (Milan), IOS Regensburg

### 2010

Trinity College Dublin

## Conference Presentations

### 2023

EEA-ESEM Annual Meetings (Barcelona)

### 2022

IZA Workshop on Environment, Health and Labor Markets (online), ECA Talks on Forced Migration (World Bank, online)

### 2019

Workshop on Mobility and Migration (Bank of Italy, Rome)

**2018**

Irish Economic Association

**2017**

IZA Annual Migration Meeting (Bonn), IZA Workshop on the Environment and Labor Markets, EALE (St. Gallen), IZA Workshop on the Economics of Education

**2016**

SOLE Meetings (Seattle), EALE (Ghent), RGS/RWI Workshop on the Economics of Migration (Essen), IZA Workshop on the Economics of Education, ZEW Workshop on Migration (Mannheim)

**2015**

IZA Workshop "Inequality: Causes and Consequences" (Bonn), SOLE/EALE World Congress (Montreal), Workshop Health.Skills.Education (Essen), IZA/Worldbank Conference on Employment and Development (Bonn), EEA Meeting (Mannheim), Verein für Socialpolitik (Münster), Workshop "Immigration in OECD Countries" (Paris)

**2014**

FERDI Workshop "International Labor Mobility and Inequality across Nations" (Clermont-Ferrand), RES Annual Conference (Manchester), SOLE (Arlington, VA), Annual Migration Meeting (Bonn), EALE (Ljubljana)

**2013**

RES Annual Conference (RHUL, London), NORFACE migration conference (UCL, London), EALE (Torino), IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting (Munich), ESPE (Aarhus), Worldbank Migration Conference (Ifrane, Morocco), ETSG (Birmingham), CEMIR workshop on migration (Munich), IZA/ASE Workshop "EU Enlargement and the Labor Markets" (Bucharest), OECD workshop "Immigration in OECD Countries" (Paris)

**2012**

RES PhD Meeting (London), Irish Economic Association (Dublin), EEA Meetings (Málaga), ESEM (Málaga), German Economic Association (Göttingen), IZA/CEU Workshop on EU Enlargement and the Labor Markets (Budapest), Immigration in OECD Countries (Paris)

**2011**

Mainz Workshop in Labor Economics (Mainz), NORFACE Conference "Migration: Economic Change, Social Challenge" (London), German Economic Association (Frankfurt), Irish Society of New Economists (Dublin), 2nd TEMPO Conference on International Migration (Vienna), SAE (Málaga)

**2010**

EEA Meetings (Glasgow), Irish Society of New Economists (Dublin), RGS Doctoral Conference (Bochum), Irish Economic Association (Belfast)

**2009**

Irish Society of New Economists (Limerick)

**Supervision****PhD Students**

Emanuele Albarosa (UCD, 2018-2022; first placement: Economist, IOM/United Nations, Ukraine)

Diego Zambiasi (UCD, 2018-2022, first placement: Lecturer with tenure, Newcastle University)

Stefano Ceolotto (TCD, co-advisor, 2019-2022, first placement: Post-Doc, ESRI; currently at CMCC Venice)

Michele Gubello (UCD, 2019-2023, first placement: Post-Doc, ESRI)

Mohsin Javed (UCD, 2019-2024, first placement: Assistant Professor, DCU)

Dimitrios Argyros (UCD, 2021-)

Manvi Jindal (UCD, 2021-)

Aditi Kharb (UCD, 2022-)

Chiara Litardi (UCD, 2024-)

**Post-Doc**

Nicolas Apfel (letter writer 2020-2022; PhD at U Regensburg; first placement: Post-Doc at U Surrey; currently permanent Lecturer at U Southampton)

**M.Sc Students (first placement in brackets)**

Christoph Deuster (U Bonn, 2013; PhD student UC Louvain), Anusha De (UCD, 2019; PhD student KU Leuven), Rafan Alfrayyan (UCD, 2019, Economist at Saudi Ministry of Finance), Jeff Concannon (UCD, 2021; Analyst at Frontier Economics), Wendy Disch (UCD, 2021; Researcher at ESRI), Stephen Fowler (UCD, 2021; MPP Harris School, U Chicago), Anthony Jordan

(UCD, 2021, Irish Government Economic and Evaluation Service), Cormac Harten (UCD, 2022, Analyst at Glenveagh Properties), Cecilie Gjendem (UCD, 2022, Analyst at LinkedIn)

### PhD and Habilitation Examinations

#### External

Stefano Cellini (University of Surrey, PhD examiner, scheduled for 2025)  
 Milan Van Steenvoort (Maastricht University, PhD examiner, 2024)  
 Davit Adunts (CERGE-EI, external PhD examiner, 2023)  
 Stepan Mikula (Masaryk University Brno, examiner on habilitation committee, 2023)  
 Jacopo Bassetto (University of Trento & University of Bamberg, external PhD examiner, 2022)  
 Vahan Sargsyan (CERGE-EI, external PhD examiner, 2018)

#### Internal

Xidong Guo (UCD, PhD committee chair, 2022)  
 Ivan Petrov (UCD, PhD committee chair, 2021)  
 Neil Killeen (UCD, internal PhD examiner, 2018)

### Reviewing

#### Refereed Journals (77 Reports, 51 journals)

American Economic Review (2x), American Economic Review: Insights, Review of Economic Studies (2x), Journal of Environmental Economics and Management, Journal of Human Resources (7x), Journal of International Economics (2x), Journal of Labor Economics (4x), Journal of Public Economics (2x), Journal of the European Economic Association (3x), Management Science, Review of Economics & Statistics (3x), Canadian Journal of Economics, European Economic Review (2x), Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (3x), Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Population Economics (3x), Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, Journal of Urban Economics (2x), Labour Economics (5x), Regional Science and Urban Economics (3x), Scandinavian Journal of Economics, American Journal of Health Economics, Economics of Education Review (5x), Economic Inquiry, Economic Policy, Economics Letters, Health Economics, Journal of Regional Science, Review of Development Economics, Review of Income and Wealth, Review of International Economics, China Economic Review, Economic Systems, Economics Letters, Empirical Economics (2x), Fiscal Studies, German Economic Review (3x), International Journal of Manpower, International Migration Review, IZA Journal of Development and Migration, IZA Journal of European Labor Studies, IZA Journal of Labor Economics, IZA Journal of Migration, IZA World of Labor (3x), Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Common Market Studies, Journal of Development Studies, Migration Studies, Oxford Development Studies, Review of the World Economy, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, Social Science and Medicine, Socio-Economic Review, World Development

#### Grant and Research Report Reviews

GLM-LIC (IZA and DFID, grant review, 2x)  
 OeNB Jubiläumsfonds (Austrian National Bank, grant review)  
 Czech Science Foundation (grant review, 2x)  
 Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI, report review)  
 Center for Global Development (report review)

#### Conference Selection Committees

Annual Meetings of the European Economic Association (2023, 2024)  
 Irish Economic Association (2023, 2024)  
 Annual Conference of the German Economic Association (Verein für Socialpolitik, 2017, 2020)  
 DIAL conference “Barriers to Development” (2015)

### Teaching

#### Programmes Designed

##### Structured MLitt/PhD programme in Economics (UCD, 2018)

- Created the first PhD programme in Ireland with a full first year of coursework
- Tripled enrolment numbers from 17 (2017) to 50 (2020)

##### M.Sc Economics and Data Analytics (UCD, 2023)

- Created an M.Sc programme that is jointly offered by the School of Economics and the School of Mathematics and Statistics
- Strong focus on quantitative methods (econometrics, data programming, machine learning)

## Innovations

YouTube Channel with over 70 videos, over 120k views, over 3,000 subscribers  
 intuitivemetrix.com → interactive website for undergraduate econometrics

## Qualification

Professional Certificate in University Teaching & Learning (University College Dublin, 2019)

## Courses taught

### University College Dublin

Causal Inference and Policy Evaluation (M.Sc, 2023-)  
 Public Economics (B.Sc, 2019-2022)  
 Econometrics (Ph.D, 2018-2024)  
 Introduction to Econometrics (B.Sc, 2018-2023)  
 Economics Research Workshop (B.Sc, 2018-2020)

### European Business School

Introductory Econometrics (PhD, 2014-2020)  
 European Labour Markets (B.Sc, 2014-2017)

### University of Luxembourg

Economics of Migration (PhD, 2017)

### Universität Regensburg

Economics of Migration (B.Sc, M.Sc, 2018)  
 Macroeconomics (B.Sc tutorial, 2006-2007)  
 Microeconomics (B.Sc tutorial, 2008)

### Trinity College Dublin

Microeconomics (M.Sc, tutorial, 2009-2012)

### TU Dresden

Causal Inference (PhD Course, 2024)

## Guest Lectures and Masterclasses

Masterclass: Econometrics (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Inclusion and Youth, Ireland, 2025)  
 Masterclass: Impact Evaluation (GLM|LIC, J-PAL MENA and UNICEF Egypt, Cairo, 2024)  
 Workshop: R for Practitioners (IGEES, 2023-)  
 Masterclass: New Developments in Causal Inference (Central Bank of Ireland, 2023)  
 Guest lecture: Why International Experience Matters (University of Oldenburg, PhD class, scheduled 2023)  
 Guest lecture: the Welfare Impact of International Migration (University of Groningen, MSc class, scheduled 2023)  
 Masterclass Regression Discontinuity Design (University of Regensburg, MSc class, 2023, 2024)  
 Masterclass in Causal Inference (Geary Institute for Public Policy, 2023)  
 Common Pitfalls in Causal Research Designs (Irish Early Career Workshop, TU Dublin, 2023)  
 The 2021 Nobel Prize in Economics (UCD, 2022)  
 Common Pitfalls in Causal Research Designs (Eurofound, Dublin, 2022)  
 Causal Research Designs with DAGs (Örebro University, 2022)  
 Causal Inference for Social Scientists (UCD Social Sciences Summer School, 2021)  
 New Developments in Causal Inference (Central Bank of Ireland, 2019)  
 New Developments in Microeconometrics (Central Bank of Ireland, 2018)  
 The Economics of Brain Drain and Brain Gain (University of Mannheim, 2015)

## Editorships

Research in Labor Economics (Co-Editor, 2022-)  
 IZA Journal of Labor Economics (Managing Editor, 2013)

## Leadership Roles

### University College Dublin

Head of School, UCD School of Economics (starting September 2024)  
 Member of the UMT Digital Campus Group (2025-)  
 Programme Director, M.Sc Economics and Data Analytics (2023-)  
 Director of Research and Postgraduate Studies, UCD School of Economics (2022-)  
 Director of the MLitt/PhD Programme in Economics (2018-2021)  
 Member of the Executive Board of the School of Economics (2019-)

### Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)

Deputy Director of the Programme Area *Mobility and Migration* (2015-2021)

Manager of the guest programme and seminar series (2013-2017)

### Conference Organization

IZA Annual Migration Meeting (co-organizer, Geary Institute, Dublin/Ireland, 2019)

IZA Annual Migration Meeting (co-organizer, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge/MA, 2018)

Irish Postgraduate and Early Career Economics Conference (co-organizer, Geary Institute, Dublin/Ireland, 2018)

IZA Annual Migration Meeting (co-organizer, IZA, Bonn/Germany, 2017)

IZA Annual Migration Meeting (sole organizer, IZA, Bonn/Germany, 2016)

IZA Annual Migration Meeting (co-organizer, IZA, Dakar/Senegal, 2015)

Irish Society of New Economists (ISNE, Trinity College Dublin, 2010)

### Skills

#### Software

R, RMarkdown, Stata, LaTeX, HTML

#### Languages

German (native), English (fluent), French, Polish (good), Italian, Czech, Russian (some)