

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

2018-	Assistant Professor (with tenure)	University College Dublin
2018-	Research Fellow	Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)
2016-	Research Fellow	Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration (CReAM), University College London
2018-	Research Fellow	Geary Institute for Public Policy

Past Positions

2014-2017	Senior Research Associate	Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)
2012-2014	Research Associate	Institute of Labor Economics (IZA)

Education

2013	PhD Economics	Trinity College Dublin
2008	M.A. Economics	Universität Regensburg

Publications

Google scholar: **Number of citations:** 908; **h-index:** 13

Refereed Journals

1. Chevalier, A., Elsner, B., Lichter, A., & Pestel, N. (2023). Forced migration and public policy setting: Evidence from post-war west germany. *Journal of the European Economic Association*, forthcoming.
2. Albarosa, E., & Elsner, B. (2023). Forced migration and social cohesion: Evidence from the 2015/16 mass inflow in germany. *World Development*, 167, 106228.
3. Elsner, B., & Wozny, F. (2023). Long-run exposure to low-dose radiation reduces cognitive performance. *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, 118, 102785.
4. Elsner, B. (2022). Does emigration increase the wages of non-emigrants in sending countries? *IZA World of Labor*, 208.
5. Elsner, B., Isphording, I. E., & Zölitz, U. (2021). Achievement rank affects performance and major choices in college. *Economic Journal*, 131(640), 3182–3206.
6. Biavaschi, C., Burzyński, M., Elsner, B., & Machado, J. (2020). Taking the skill bias out of global migration. *Journal of Development Economics*, 142, 102317.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. Elsner, B., & Isphording, I. E. (2018). Rank, sex, drugs and crime. *Journal of Human Resources*, 53(2).
10. 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.
11. Elsner, B. (2013). Emigration and wages: The EU enlargement experiment. *Journal of International Economics*, 91(1), 154–163.

12. 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. Biavaschi, C., & Elsner, B. (2014). *Let's be selective about migrant self-selection*.
2. Bellani, L., Ceolotto, S., Elsner, B., & Pestel, N. (2022). The political fallout of air pollution. *Revise and Re-Submit at Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Work in Progress

1. The Impact of Brexit on Irish Firms and Workers (joint with Eoin Flaherty and Stefanie Haller)
2. Gender Norms and Time Use: Pan-European Evidence from School Closures during Covid-19 (joint with Manvi Jindal, Massimiliano Mascherini and Sanna Nivakoski)
3. Air Pollution and High-Stakes Decision Making (joint with Florian Wozny)

Grants

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

Honors and Awards

2022	Teaching Excellence Award	UCD College of Social Sciences and Law
2018	Best Paper Award	Spring Meetings of Young Economists
2018	Novartis Prize	Best Paper in Health Economics, Irish Economic Association

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

Invited Seminars

2023

University of Surrey, University of Padova, IRVAPP-FBK (Trento), University of Bolzano, ISEG Lisbon

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), Institute for East European Studies (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-)

Dimitrios Argyros (UCD, 2021-)

Manvi Jindal (UCD, 2021-)

Aditi Kharb (UCD, 2022-)

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

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 (70 Reports, 48 journals)

American Economic Review (2x), American Economic Review: Insights, Review of Economic Studies (2x), Journal of Human Resources (6x), 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 (3x), Regional Science and Urban Economics (3x), Scandinavian Journal of Economics, American Journal of Health Economics, Economics of Education Review (4x), Economic Policy, 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

Grant Reviews

GLM-LIC (IZA and DFID, 2x)
 OeNB Jubiläumsfonds (Austrian National Bank)
 Czech Science Foundation (2x)
 Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI; review of policy report)

Conference Selection Committees

Annual Meetings of the European Economic Association (2023)
 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 50k views, over 2,300 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-)
 Introduction to Econometrics (B.Sc, 2018-)
 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)

Guest Lectures and Masterclasses

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)
 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)

Managerial Roles

University College Dublin

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)

References

Prof. Gaia Narciso, Trinity College Dublin, Department of Economics of Economics. narcisog@tcd.ie

Prof. Ron Davies, University College Dublin, School of Economics. ronald.davies@ucd.ie

Prof. Paul Devereux, University College Dublin, School of Economics. paul.devereux@ucd.ie

Prof. Daniel Hamermesh, University of Texas at Austin, hamermes@utexas.edu