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References

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Dr. Bertrand Achou
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University of Groningen
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Luigi Ferrucci
Scientific Director,
National Institute of Aging (NIA),
Baltimore (MD), Unites States
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Agar Brugiavini
Professor of Economics
Ca' Foscari University
Venice, Italy
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EDUCATION

PhD Candidate in Economics

Department of Economics, Econometrics and Finance (EEF)

- Advisors: Gerard J. van den Berg, Bertrand Achou

University of Groningen, NL

2022 – 2025

MPhil in Economics

Research Master

- Visiting Student at Utrecht School of Economics: Labour Economics by Maarten Goos & Behavioural Economics by Diogo Gerales

University of Groningen, NL

2020 – 2022

BSc Economics and Business Economics

Emerging Markets Specialization (Hons), 8.17 (4/4), cum laude

- Honours (Phi Beta Kappa), MaRBL, 217/180 ECTS
- Thesis: ‘Universal Two-Child Policy in China: Exploiting urban-rural differences in policy enforcement’

Maastricht University, NL

2016 – 2019

Liceo Scientifico

Exchange Program at Anshan No.3 Senior High, China (2014)

Bolzano, IT

2011 – 2015

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Research Interests: Health and Labour Economics, Development, Microeconometrics

Languages: [Native] Ladino/German/Italian — [Fluent] English — [Conversational] Simplified-Chinese (HSK5 / C1), Dutch (B2), Russian (B1)

Software: Python, R, STATA, \LaTeX , Qualtrics

Leisure: Gardening, Farming, Swimming, Chess

Noncontributory Pensions and Mental Health: Evidence from Rural China

joint with S. Pichler and G. van den Berg

This paper investigates the mental health consequences of noncontributory pensions by leveraging regional and temporal variation in implementation dates of the New Rural Pension Scheme (2009–2012). Using data from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS), we implement a difference-in-difference strategy and compare estimates from a two-way-fixed effect specification with estimators that are robust to heterogeneous treatment effects. Our results reveal a pension take-up of 60% among the eligible rural population, a 900-yuan rise in annual pension income, and significant crowding-out of private transfers from children and grandchildren. The results indicate that the new rural pension scheme improves mental health by reducing depressive symptoms, and provide evidence of its broader welfare implications.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Multimorbidity in SHARE and ELSA

joint with Luigi Ferrucci, Agar Brugiavini, Elisa Fabbri

It is well established that multimorbidity increases with aging and is associated with adverse health outcomes, including physical and cognitive disability, frailty and mortality. Using longitudinal data from more than 25000 participants to the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA), we describe the longitudinal disease trajectories of elderly individuals older than 50 prior to death. We implement a linear mixed model and a generalized ordered logit with flexible coefficients across thresholds, and find that the probability within individuals of developing higher-order diseases increases with the current disease count. Heterogeneity analyses suggest that individuals who experienced the first disease onset at older ages present a more rapid health deterioration. We do not find evidence of any disease clusters.

Health Types in Multimorbidity Transitions: Unobserved Heterogeneity in Health

single-authored

Multimorbidity (having more than one chronic health condition at the same time) increases with aging and is associated with adverse health outcomes, including physical and cognitive disability, frailty and early death. This paper studies how unobserved differences between individuals (i.e. health “types”) account for differences in the speed of disease accumulation between individuals who are indistinguishable using observed characteristics. Using rich panel data with health and labor market histories from more than 20,000 individuals followed over a period of 20 years from the Health and Retirement Study (HRS) and the Panel Study of Income Dynamics (PSID), we model the transitions between different disease states, or multimorbidity states, using a finite mixture ordered logit that incorporates unobserved heterogeneity that differs between individuals. The model exploits the duration spent in each disease state to identify the presence of multiple health types among the elderly, and incorporates whether the speed of disease accumulation is dependent on the time of onset of other (un)related conditions that emerge at younger ages.

Effects of Family size on cognition development in old-age

single authored, job market paper

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Returns to communist party membership: Matching on childhood characteristics

single authored

This paper examines the economic returns to Communist Party membership in China, focusing on historical contexts and early-life determinants. By leveraging nationally representative data from the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Survey (CHARLS) and employing propensity score matching, it identifies a significant party premium for pensioners who worked in the private sector, while no clear premium is observed for the currently employed. The study highlights the role of political and social capital in shaping economic outcomes and underscores the importance of historical recruitment periods and selection criteria. These findings contribute to the literature by providing causal estimates and addressing endogeneity through the use of early-life circumstances.

[more information on my [Personal Website](#)]

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

TA for Microeconometrics (BSc Econometrics EOR) <i>University of Groningen</i>	2023 – 2025
TA for Estimation & Testing (BSc Econometrics EOR) <i>University of Groningen</i>	2023 – 2024
Supervision of BSc Econometrics Thesis, x16 <i>University of Groningen</i>	2022 – 2025
TA for Quantitative Methods <i>Maastricht University</i>	2017 – 2019

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIP

RA for Prof. dr. B. de Bruin	2021 – 2022
<i>University of Groningen Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB)</i>	<i>Groningen, NL</i>
• Survey and Data Analysis for paper 'Ranking Philosophy Journals'	
RA for Dr. S. Pichler	2021 – 2022
<i>University of Groningen Faculty of Economics and Business (FEB)</i>	<i>Groningen, NL</i>
• Data assistance to paper "Mandated Sick Pay: Coverage, Utilization and Welfare effects"	

REVIEWING

Economics and Human Biology

WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

2024: (i) International Association of Applied Econometrics (IAAE), Xiamen, China — (ii) Econometrics Society Asia Meeting (AMES), Hangzhou, China — (iii) Chinese Economists Society (CES) China Yearly Conference, Hangzhou, China
2023: (i) International Association of Applied Econometrics (IAAE), Oslo, Norway, *June* — (ii) EuHEA PhD Conference, Bologna, Italy, *September*
2022: (i) Dggoe Health Econometrics Workshop, Leibniz University Hannover, Germany — (ii) Bolzano Joint Political Economy and Applied Economics Workshop, Free University of Bolzano, Italy.

SUMMER SCHOOLS AND ADDITIONAL COURSES

2023 (i) Mixtape Advance Difference-in-Differences, *Johnathan Roth*, online — (ii) Mixtape Frontiers in Difference-in-Differences, *Brantly Callaway* — (iii) Summer Institute of Ageing, *Venice International University*, Venice, Italy

2022 (i) Mixtape Causal Inference II, *Scott Cunningham*, online — (ii) Mixtape Machine Learning and Causal Inference, *Richard Frandsen*, online — (iii) Topics in Applied Microeconomics *Travis Lybbert*, Tilburg, Utrecht & Groningen, Netherlands

2021 (i) Barcelona Graduate School of Economics (BGSE) Data Science Summer School, *André Souza*, Barcelona, Spain

EXTRACURRICULAR

EBF Study Association <i>Career events</i>	2020 – 2022
MOOC - Coursera/EdX/Skillshare <i>R, Python, JavaScript, Data Science</i>	2019 – 2020
SCOPE Maastricht <i>Academic Committee/PINE, committee member</i>	2017 – 2019
GEW Week <i>Global Entrepreneurship Week, board member</i>	2017 – 2018
AFS Intercultural Programs <i>Exchange Program representative</i>	2015 – 2019

AWARDS & PRIZES

Scholarship <i>University of Groningen, Research Master</i>	2020 – 2022
Study Grant <i>Paris 1 Sorbonne, Quantitative Economic Methods — offer rejected</i>	2020
Study Grant <i>Peking University HSBC, Master Economics — offer rejected</i>	2020
Scholarship <i>European Forum Alpbach</i>	2020
Scholarship <i>AFS Intercultural Programs, High School Exchange</i>	2013