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EDUCATION

PhD Candidate in Economics

University of Groningen, NL

Department of Economics, Econometrics and Finance (EEF)

2022 – curr.

- Advisors: [Gerard J. van den Berg](#), [Bertrand Achou](#)

MPhil in Economics

University of Groningen, NL

Research Master

2020 – 2022

- Labor Economics and Behavioral Economics at Utrecht USE; [Maarten Goos](#) & [Diogo Geraldes](#)

BSc Economics and Business Economics

Maastricht University, NL

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

2016 – 2019

- [Honours](#) (Phi Beta Kappa), [MaRBL](#), 217/180 ECTS
- Thesis: Universal Two-Child Policy in China: Exploiting regional heterogeneity in policy enforcement

Liceo Scientifico

Bolzano, IT

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

2011 – 2015

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Research Interests: Health and Labour Economics, Development Economics, Microeconometrics

Languages: [Native] Ladino/German/Italian — [Other] English (IELTS), Dutch (B2), Russian (B1), Chinese (HSK5 / C1)

Software: Git/Github, Python, R, STATA, \LaTeX , Qualtrics

Leisure: Gardening, Farming, Swimming, Chess

WORKING PAPERS

Noncontributory Pensions and Mental Health: Evidence from Rural China

joint with [Stefan Pichler](#) and [Gerard 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 four waves of 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.

Multimorbidity in SHARE and ELSA (Epidemiology paper)

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 dynamically 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, and that individuals from disadvantaged socioeconomic background accumulate chronic conditions faster. We do not find evidence of any chronic disease clusters.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Duration Dependence in Multimorbidity Accumulation: Health Types and Health Inequality

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. The model exploits the duration spent in each multimorbidity state to identify the presence of multiple health types among the elderly.

PRE-DOCTORAL WORKING PAPERS

Does it pay to join the Party? Decomposing the Communist Party Wage Premium

single-authored

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.

EXTRACURRICULAR COURSES

2025 (i) The Mixtape: Instrumental Variables, taught by *Peter Hull*
2024 (i) The Mixtape: Frontiers in Difference-in-Differences, taught by *Brantly Callaway*
2023 (i) The Mixtape: Advanced Difference-in-Differences, taught by *Johnathan Roth* — (ii) Summer Institute of Aging, *Venice International University*
2022 (i) The Mixtape: Causal Inference II, taught by *Scott Cunningham* — (ii) The Mixtape: Machine Learning and Causal Inference, taught by *Richard Frandsen* — (iii) Topics in Applied Microeconomics, taught by *Travis Lybbert*, Tilburg, The 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

REFERENCES

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University of Groningen
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Agnieszka Postepska (Teaching)
Associate Professor
University of Groningen
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