DESISLAVA TARTOVA

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✎ https://desislavatartova.github.io

📍 Paris School of Economics (PSE), 48 Boulevard Jourdan, 75014 Paris, France

EDUCATION

PARIS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (PSE)   since 2021
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

COLUMBIA BUSINESS SCHOOL   Winter-Spring 2024
Visiting Scholar, sponsored by Jonah Rockoff

PARIS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS (PSE)   2020-2021
MRes in Analysis and Policy in Economics

THE LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE (LSE)   2017-2018
MSc in Economics

THE UNIVERSITY OF NOTTINGHAM   2014-2017
BSc in Economics

WORKING PAPERS

TEACHER VALUE-ADDED IN THE ABSENCE OF ANNUAL TEST SCORES: UTILIZING TEACHER NETWORKS

Abstract: This paper proposes a novel methodology for estimating teacher value-added in the presence of non-random teacher-student sorting and the absence of annual standardized student test scores. Rather than relying on lagged student test scores to control for nonrandom teacher-student sorting on student ability, I exploit within-student across-subject variation in test scores and teacher "networks"— teachers in the same subject who teach groups of students observed with a unique teacher in another subject. The resulting estimates closely recover the true parameters of teacher value-added in Monte Carlo simulations and align well with estimates from standard methodologies in New York City data where lagged test scores are available. The methodology substantially expands the research on teacher value-added, as the majority of educational settings do not rely on standardized testing in consecutive grade levels. I apply the method to French middle school teachers and find that a 1 SD increase in teacher value-added within school improves student scores by 0.10 SD in Math and 0.07 SD in French. I show that using a "hybrid" methodology—which augments the network estimator to control for lagged scores— in settings where lagged scores are available can outperform standard methods under specific sorting patterns by accounting for sorting on time-varying student unobservables.

Presentations: Columbia University (2024), IZA/ECONtribute Workshop on the Economics of Education (2023), CESifo / ifo Junior Workshop on the Economics of Education (2023), European Economic Association (2023), SSE Quality in Education Conference (2023), Doctorissimes Conference (2023), European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) (2023), PSE (2023, 2022), ENS Workshop in Economics of Education (2022)

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

WHO LEAVES AND WHO STAYS? TEACHER COMPENSATION AND THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION

Presentations: PSE (2025)

DETERMINANTS OF TEACHER VALUE-ADDED: EVIDENCE FROM FRENCH TEACHER SURVEYS ON PEDAGOGICAL PRACTICES

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics (BSc, instructors: Margaret Bray, Erik Eyster), LSE   2017-2018

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

FRENCH MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
Researcher, *Direction de l'évaluation, de la prospective et de la performance*   since 2021

Research assistant to Prof. Adrien Matray (Princeton)   Autumn 2021

EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANK
Research Analyst, *D.G. Monetary Policy - Capital Markets and Financial Structure*   2019-2020
Trainee, *D.G. Monetary Policy - Monetary Policy Strategy*   2018-2019

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2025: PSE

2024: Columbia University

2023: IZA/ECONtribute Workshop on the Economics of Education, CESifo / ifo Junior Workshop on the Economics of Education, European Economic Association, SSE Quality in Education Conference, Doctorissimes Conference, European Association of Labour Economists (EALE), PSE

2022: ENS Workshop in Economics of Education, PSE

GRANTS AND HONORS

Education Policy and Social Mobility Chair PhD scholarship   2024-2025

PSE Mobility Grant   2023

Paris 1 Sorbonne ED465 PhD scholarship   2021-2024

University of Nottingham Award for Outstanding Academic Achievements   2017

SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING

R, Stata, LaTeX

LANGUAGES

Bulgarian (native), English (fluent), French (advanced), Spanish (beginner)