

# Eirik Berger Abel

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PhD Research Scholar | Norwegian School of Economics

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## Education

PhD in Economics at Norwegian School of Economics (NHH) 2018 - ongoing

M.Sc in Business and Administration at Norwegian School of Economics (NHH) 2016 - 2018

Bachelor in Business and Administration at Norwegian School of Economics (NHH) 2012 - 2015

## Visiting Activities

Visiting student researcher at Stanford University (visiting Ran Abramitzky) 2021 - 2022

## Research Fields

Primary: Labor Economics and Applied Microeconomics

Secondary: Economic History

## References

**Prof. Kjell Gunnar Salvanes**  
Norwegian School of Economics  
[Kjell.Salvanes@nhh.no](mailto:Kjell.Salvanes@nhh.no)

**Prof. Aline Bütikofer**  
Norwegian School of Economics  
[Aline.Buetikofer@nhh.no](mailto:Aline.Buetikofer@nhh.no)

**Prof. Ran Abramitzky**  
Stanford University  
[RanAbr@stanford.edu](mailto:RanAbr@stanford.edu)

## Working Papers

**“Living the American Dream: How Norway Became a High-Mobility Country” (JMP) 2023**

Coming soon.

**“Fertility, Family Formation and Human Capital” with Aline Bütikofer and Kjell G. Salvanes 2023**

By varying the intensity of compulsory schooling while keeping the number of compulsory school years constant, this paper generates new insights into the effect of human capital on fertility on the extensive and intensive margin. We leverage population-wide panel data for Norway in combination with a school reform in the 1930s changing the instruction time during the school year that allows us to isolate the effect of human capital investment on fertility behavior across the life-cycle from an incarceration effect. We present robust evidence of reduced total fertility driven mostly by an increase in the share of women with one or no children and an increase in the age at first birth by around four months.

**“The Making of Equality: How the Second World War Shaped the Norwegian Income Distributions” with Ran Abramitzky and Kjell G. Salvanes 2023**

Coming soon.

**“Norwegian Tax Returns from the 20th Century: An Automated Machine Learning Approach” with Kjell G. Salvanes 2023**

High-quality administrative tax data has been instrumental in advancing economic research over the past several decades. However, the scarcity of data prior to the 1970s has posed a significant obstacle to the study of the distribution of economic outcomes across people and generations in historical settings. We introduce a dataset extending Norwegian tax records to 1900 by meticulously digitizing more than 270,000 pages. The dataset includes most Norwegian regions and data on name, occupation, place of residence, earnings, and wealth. We link observations across years to significantly enhance the usefulness of the data. We argue that the methodologies employed in this paper offer significant potential for application to a wider range of sources and countries.

### **Selected Work in Progress**

“Becoming Sweden: A 115 Year Journey Towards Wealth and Welfare” with Josef Sigurdsson and Arash Nekoei

“The Long-Run Effect of Industrialization on Health and Mortality” with Rene Karadakic

“Two Centuries of Norwegian Newspapers” with Jaime Marques Pereira

### **Articles Not Intended for Publication**

“Equality before the welfare state: The Norwegian income distribution 1892-1929”, Master Thesis, with Håkon Block Vagle 2017

### **Other Engagements**

Journalist at Dagens Næringsliv (financial newspaper)	2016, 2017 (summer)
Board member at Department of Economics at NHH	2015, 2017, 2021
Journalist at Finansavisen (financial newspaper)	2014 (summer)
Board member at Norwegian School of Economics (NHH)	2016 - 2017

### **Presentations**

SOLE, EALE, Stanford University (internal), NHH (internal), Uppsala University	2021
NHH (internal), University of Southern Denmark (HEDGE mini-workshop), the Scandinavian (online) PhD Seminar	2020

### **Refereeing**

Journal of Human Resources

### **Teaching and Research Assistance**

#### **TEACHING ASSISTANT**

Inequality, Intergenerational Mobility and Early Childhood. Ph.D level at UiB.	2021
Econometrics/Econometric Techniques ( <i>ECN402</i> ). Master level at NHH	2020 (2x), 2021
Krakk og Kriser (the History of Business Cycles, <i>FIE431</i> ). Master level at NHH	2019, 2023
Empirical Strategies for Causal Analysis ( <i>ECO433</i> ). Masters level at NHH	2019
Økonomi og Psykologi (Behavioural Economics, <i>VOA40</i> ). Bachelor level at NHH	2016

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Prof. Katrine Løken

2017

Prof. Alexander Cappelen and Bertil Tungodden

2016

Prof. Kjell Gunnar Salvanes

2017-2023

## Skills

### DATA SCIENCE

R (advanced), Stata (advanced), Python (advanced), Bash (proficient) and Git (proficient)

### LANGUAGES

Norwegian and English