

**FLAVIO HAFNER**

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**UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA**

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**Personal Information**

Citizenship: Swiss

**Undergraduate Studies**

Bachelor of Arts in Economics, **University of St. Gallen** (Switzerland), 2013

**Graduate Studies**

PhD Candidate in Economics, **Universitat Pompeu Fabra**, Barcelona, Spain, 2015 to present

Thesis Title: "Essays in Labor Economics"

Expected Completion Date: July 2020

Visiting PhD student, **University College London**, London, UK, 2017

Host: Prof. Christian Dustmann

M.Res in Economics, **Universitat Pompeu Fabra**, Barcelona, Spain, 2015

M.Sc in Economics, **Barcelona GSE**, Barcelona, Spain, 2014

**References:**

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**Teaching and Research Fields**

Primary field: Labor Economics

Secondary fields: Urban Economics, Applied Microeconomics

### **Teaching Experience**

Fall, 2016	<i>Research Methods (PhD)</i> , TA for Prof. Hogarth <i>Human Resources I</i> , TA for Prof. Barrenechea (in Spanish)
Fall, 2015	<i>Research Methods (PhD)</i> , TA for Prof. Hogarth <i>Introduction to Microeconomics</i> , TA for Prof. León (in Spanish) <i>Data Analysis</i> , TA for Prof. García-Fontes (in Spanish)
Winter, 2015	<i>Introduction to Game Theory</i> , TA for Prof. Calsamiglia <i>Microeconomics II (Graduate)</i> , TA for Prof. de Martí
Fall, 2014	<i>Data Analysis, UPF</i> , TA for Prof. García-Fontes (in Spanish) <i>Introduction to Microeconomics</i> , TA for Prof. León (in Spanish)

### **Research Experience and Other Employment**

2013	Citi Private Bank, Geneva, Summer Analyst
2012	UBS, Zurich, Intern in Economic Research

### **Professional Activities**

#### *Conferences*

2019	GEP/CEPR Postgraduate Conference Nottingham, Munich Young Economists Meeting, European Association of Labor Economists (EALE)
2018	Mannheim Conference on Migration, Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics

### **Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships**

2018-2020	Predoc Fellowship, Spanish Ministry of Education
2017	DocMobility Fellowship, Swiss National Science Foundation
2014-2016	UPF Teaching Assistant Scholarship

### **Languages**

Human	German (native), English, French, Spanish
Computer	R, Python, Stata, Bash

### **Research Papers**

#### *“Labor Market Competition, Wages and Worker Mobility” ([Job Market Paper](#))*

I study how removing barriers to worker mobility impacts the local labor market. Exploiting a quasi-experiment in which French border commuters gained access to the high-paying Swiss labor market, I show that the market integration leads to improved labor market outcomes, particularly for low-skill workers. The difference-in-differences research design compares treated French labor markets in the border area to Switzerland with a matched control group of labor markets located in other parts of France. The empirical results show that after three years, low-skill wages rise by 1.7 percent, and low-skill employment by around 3 percent. The findings can be explained by a model of monopsonistic competition where firms have some wage-setting power in the – especially low-skill – labor market. The labor market integration then both increases the outside options of workers and makes the supply to firms more elastic, which raises wages and employment. Enhancing worker mobility may therefore have pro-competitive effects on the labor market that reduce monopsony power and improve the labor market outcomes of workers.

## **Research in Progress**

### *“Firm-level Adjustment to Labor Market Competition”*

In monopsonistic labor markets, employers suppress wages, employment and investment. Making labor markets more competitive can therefore increase economic activity. I use the opening of the Swiss labor market to French border commuters as a quasi-experiment to competition in the labor market.

Preliminary results show that the reform increases workers’ transitions across firms within France. Firms become more capital intensive, and this is not because they lose more workers. Instead it suggests that the increased competition in the labor market spurred investment and labor market dynamism.

### *“Immigration and preferences for distributive policies”*

This project assesses whether immigration changes the demand for specific distributive policies. In Switzerland, people vote regularly on various policies through referenda. I assess whether a higher presence of immigrants in the municipality decreases voters’ support of distributive policies on health insurance, unemployment insurance and old-age insurance. Using past settlements of immigrants across locations as an instrument for immigrant inflows, I find that voters decrease support for all types of distributive policies when there are more immigrants in the municipality. The results are, however, partly driven by pre-existing trends in political voting support for the major right-wing party. The evidence suggests that local trends in political preferences may be more persistent than shocks to local labor market conditions. It thus becomes harder to assess whether local labor market conditions affect political preferences.