Garyn Tan

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labour economics, health economics, inequality, applied econometrics

ACADEMIC SUPERVISORS

Professor David Dorn ph. +41 44 634 5577 email: david.dorn@econ.uzh.ch
Professor Ana Costa-Ramón email: ana.costa-ramon@econ.uzh.ch
Professor Josef Zweimüller ph. +41 44 634 37 24 email: josef.zweimueller@econ.uzh.ch
Professor Ulf Zölitz ph. +41 44 634 61 25 email: ulf.zoelitz@econ.uzh.ch

EDUCATION

08/2020 – present		**Ph.D. Economics,** University of Zurich (UZH), Zurich
		Primary supervisor: David Dorn
02/2025 – 06/2025		**Vising Ph.D. Student,** University of Melbourne, Melbourne
		Hosts: Nicolas Salamanca, Alexandra de Gendre
09/2018 – 08/2019	**GPA 9.4/10**	**M.Sc. Economics (spec. Monetary Policy and Banking),**
	Cum Laude	University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam
		Thesis supervisor: Aerdt Houben
02/2017 – 05/2018	**GPA 6.88/7**	**Grad. Dip. Economics,** Australian National University, Canberra
02/2008 – 12/2011	*Honours*	**B.A. Pharmacy,** Monash University, Melbourne

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Labour Market Effects of Insurance for Disability Supports: Evidence from the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Australia (JMP) [link]
Best PhD Paper Award, Swiss Society of Health Economics Workshop 2025

Abstract: This paper studies the labour market effects of funding for disability-related aids and services (disability supports), using evidence from the large-scale roll-out of Australia's National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS). Leveraging a staggered difference-in-differences design, I find that the reform increased participants' total annual earnings by 11.1% of the pre-treatment outcome in the four years following exposure, while receipt of income-replacement benefits declined. The effects are highly heterogeneous: earnings gains are driven almost entirely by participants with prior labour force attachment, while those with no employment history remain unaffected. Using a novel administrative dataset on funding allocations and participant outcomes, I provide evidence that the NDIS increased economic participation mainly through indirect channels - by reducing care constraints and increasing autonomy - rather than through direct channels such as employment or training supports. The findings suggest that unlike income-replacement schemes, which are typically associated with negative work incentives, disability policy need not entail a trade-off between economic support and labour market participation.

Youth mental health and outcomes in adulthood *[in progress]*
with Ida Lykke Kristiansen
We study how experiences of mental health conditions in youth affect economic and health outcomes in early adulthood. Using administrative data on psychiatric diagnoses to identify children with depression, we examine how the approval of the first drug indicated to treat childhood depression altered outcomes

as adults. We document a large earnings penalty of childhood depression – however we find no significant evidence that greater access to antidepressants in childhood helped to close the earnings gap. We do find significant effects on health. Affected cohorts are less likely to be taking short-term treatments like benzodiazipines, have more overall interaction with the psychiatric healthcare system, and have fewer visits to the ER. We provide some evidence that these effects are unlikely to be driven by compositional changes in socioeconomic status or depression severity of the childhood depression group.

The wage cyclicality of new hires from unemployment *[in progress]*
with Josef Zweimüller and Andreas Mueller

Using Austrian administrative data from 1976 to 2019, we investigate the wage cyclicality of new hires and the role of worker-reallocation. Using AKM decompositions of the wage changes of new hires, we document a substantial role for firm effects in the wage cyclicality of new hires – that is, workers allocate to lower-paying firms during downturns. However, we find evidence of residual cyclicality in the wages of new hires from unemployment, even after accounting for reallocation effects. Finally, we reconcile the wage cyclicality literature with the worker reallocation literature by showing the conditions of equivalence between cyclical reallocation and the firm component of wage changes.

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

Individual inflation forecasts and monetary policy announcements [link]
with Jakob de Haan and Kostas Mavromatis (Economics Letters)
Using a decomposition of US monetary policy shocks and professional inflation forecasts, we find that information and monetary policy shocks move inflation expectations in opposite directions. Better performing forecasters appear less reliant on the informational content of announcements.

Beyond the zero lower bound: negative policy rates and bank lending (Msc. thesis) [link]
DNB Working Paper, De Nederlandsche Bank
I use bank-level data from the ECB to show that, contrary to some earlier research, banks most affected by negative rates due to the zero lower bound on retail deposit rates *increase* their lending relative to less affected banks.
Featured in: University of Oxford Business Law Blog, ECB internal memo

Improving Uptake and Sustainability of Sanitation Interventions in Timor-Leste: A Case Study [link]
with Naomi Clarke; Clare Dyer; Salvador Amara; and Susana Vaz Nery (International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health)
We utilise a mixed-methods approach to examine sanitation interventions in Timor-Leste.

RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

Research/teaching assistant
University of Zurich   Dec 2021 – 2024
- Teaching assistant in Health Economics with Professor Ana Costa-Ramón
- Research assistant in Labour and Macroeconomics for Professor Josef Zweimüller
Junior Economist/Statistical Officer
De Nederlandsche Bank – Research Department, Amsterdam, NL   *Oct 2019 – Sept 2020*
- Research primarily covered unconventional monetary policy and inflation dynamics (publicly available publications listed above). Other projects included: the frequency of producer price adjustments and the impact of containment measures on the spread of COVID.
Research Intern
De Nederlandsche Bank – Monetary Policy Department, Amsterdam, NL   *Mar 2019 – Oct 2019*

- Completed MSc. thesis, which was presented at the DNB research seminar. The paper was subsequently circulated within DNB policy groups and the ECB.
- Published two policy memos for the President of the DNB, about 1) the impact of negative rates on bank lending behavior; and 2) the experience of other countries with negative policy rates.

Junior Economist

Australian Department of Jobs and Small Business, Canberra, AU   *Nov 2017-Aug 2018*
- Modeled predictive performance of employment service providers in achieving outcomes for job-seekers (probit, logit, OLS). Analysed potential and existing job-seeker variables and labour market trend variables.
- Research project: Compared the relative performance of job-seekers with a documented history of drug/alcohol abuse against the population. Analysed how drug/alcohol abuse interacts with other job-seeker variables and its prevalence in vulnerable demographics.

Assistant to Professor Bruce Chapman (Australian Economist)

ANU College of Business and Economics, Canberra, Australia -   *May 2018-Sept 2018*
- Assisted in the creation of the Centre for International Student Loans Research (CISLR), an international network of economists with common research interests in higher education financing. Key tasks involved documenting developments in higher education policy around the world, designing the CISLR website, and liaising with CISLR members.

Sessional Tutor in Economics

ANU College of Business and Economics, Canberra, Australia -   *Feb 2017-Jul 2018*
- Tutored two classes (25 students per class) in graduate Business Economics. Other duties include academic support to students, exam and assignment marking and consultation with lecturers.

Freelance Writer *(selected articles below)*

The 10 year recovery and lessons from Iceland –Asia and the Pacific Policy Society (APPS) Policy Forum, January 2018 [link]

Explainer: much ado about inflation – Woroni, September 2017 [link]

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2025: Swiss Society of Health Economics PhD Workship, Melbourne Institute Brown Bag Seminar
2024: University of Zurich Applied Micro Seminar, National Disability Insurance Agency Branch Meeting
2023: University of Zurich Research Seminar
2022: University of Zurich Research Slam (Zurich)
2020: De Nederlandsche Bank Research Seminar

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant

ANU Research School of Population Health, Canberra, Australia   *Apr 2017-Dec 2017*
- Extracted and analysed raw data relating to latrine uptake and sustainability in Timor-Leste. Designed a survey for aid workers examining effectiveness of latrine subsidy programs compared to behaviour-led approaches

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

2017	**Senior Pharmacist** – Chemist on Northbourne, Canberra (AU)	
2016 – 2017	**English teacher** – GABA English School, Tokyo (JP)	
2013 – 2016	**Senior Pharmacist –** Quality Pharmacy, Melbourne (AU)	
2008 – 2011	**BA of Pharmacy (Hon.) –** Monash University, Melbourne (AU)	

SCHOLARSHIPS, ACHIEVEMENTS + COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

UZH Doc Mobility Scholarship (29,600 CHF), 2025

UZH Student Life Committee member and co-administrator of the PhD Mental Health Survey, 2022 – present

URPP Equality of Opportunity Project Grant (2,971 CHF), 2023

GRC Travel Grant (2,230 CHF), 2023

Research Slam 2022: The Economics of Inequality (University of Zurich), 2022 [link]

UBS Center Scholarship holder (University of Zurich), 2020 – current

Amsterdam Merit Scholarship (University of Amsterdam), 2018

Holland Scholarship (University of Amsterdam), 2018

Letter of Commendation from the Treasury Secretary, Treasury Research Institute Essay Competition (Australian Department of Treasury), 2017

Honours achievement for Bachelor of Pharmacy (Monash University), 2011

Scholarship of Academic Merit (Monash University), 2011

PROGRAMMING SKILLS

Proficient: Stata, Julia, Python, R
Working knowledge: Matlab, SAS, SQL