Hugo **Cruces** | Empirical economist

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Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Professional Summary

Economist specializing in data-driven policy analysis, focusing on living conditions and labour markets. Expertise in developing EU-wide microsimulation models and analysing large and complex datasets. Experience as team leader with proven ability to represent teams in high-level meetings and translate technical findings into actionable policy recommendations.

Professional Experience

Joint Research Centre, European Commission   **Seville, Spain**
Economic Analyst & Project Leader   *October 2021 – Present*
- Develop and maintain the EUROMOD tax-benefit microsimulation model for EU-wide socioeconomic analysis, coordinating external contractors
- Led team analysing distributional impact of health social transfers in-kind, in collaboration with DG SANTE
- Analysis of large and complex data (e.g., EU-SILC, HFCS, HBS, LIS, LWS) with advanced methods
- Coordinate data preparation in collaboration with Eurostat
- Represent analytical work in high-level policy discussions
- Communicate policy-actionable results in meetings, reports and technical documents

University of Vigo   **Vigo, Spain**
Adjunct Professor   *January 2024 – Present*
- Teach the course *Advanced Data Analysis*

University of Vigo   **Vigo, Spain**
Acting Professor   *November 2020 – March 2021*
- Taught the course *Economic History*

University of Vigo   **Vigo, Spain**
Predoctoral Researcher   *January 2016 – October 2020*
- Conducted research using microdata and advanced econometric and machine learning techniques
- Published peer-reviewed research in international journals
- Taught the courses *Introduction to Economics* and *Tourism Economics*

Education

University of Vigo   **Spain**
Ph.D. in Economics, Sobresaliente Cum Laude   *February 2021*

○ Supervisor: Professor Carlos Hervés-Beloso

○ Dissertation focus: Measurement of Opportunity Inequality

○ Extensive use of microdata and advanced econometric and machine learning techniques

Complutense University of Madrid **Spain**
M.A. in Economics *March 2015*
○ Specialization in microeconomics and data analysis

University of Santiago de Compostela **Spain**
B.A. in Economics *July 2012*

Technical Skills & Statistical Expertise

Statistical Software: **Expert:** Stata, EUROMOD **Advanced:** R, gretl

Data analysis: Panel data, microsimulation modelling, machine learning

Programming: **Intermediate:** HTML/CSS, Bash, Git version control

Technical Writing: LATEX, Markdown, Microsoft Office suite

AI tools: Chatbots, Integrated Development Enviroments, API integration

Achievements

EPSO Competition: Placed on reserve list EPSO/AD/412/24 - 1 Administrators in the field of Data and Statistics (AD 6)

EPSO Competition: Placed on reserve list EPSO/AD/402/23 - 1 Administrators in the field of Microeconomics/macroeconomics (AD6)

International Award: Aldi Hagenaars Memorial Award 2020, LIS Cross-National Data Center

Research

Peer-Reviewed Articles...

2025: Escaping the Inactivity Trap? The Work Incentive of the Spanish Minimum Income. *Journal of Policy Modeling* (with A. Hernández and E. Narazani)

2021: Issues on the Measurement of Opportunity Inequality. *Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics* 15(1), 172–178

2019: Preference Orderings Representable By Utility Functions. *Journal of Economic Surveys* 33(1), 179-194 (with C. Hervés-Beloso)

Working Papers...

2021: Households or Individuals? Gender and the Level of Analysis when Estimating Opportunity Inequality. *ECOBAS Working Papers*

2020: Using Capital Income to Proxy Family Background: An Application to Inequality of Opportunity. *ECOBAS Working Papers*

Reports..

2025: The Role of Healthcare in Reducing Inequalities and Poverty in the EU. *European Commission, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety* (main author)

2022: Regional Economic Outlook. Europe: the fog of war clouds the European outlook. *International Monetary Fund* (contributing author)

Languages

Spanish: Native
Galician: Native
English: Fluent   *Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English*
Italian: Intermediate

Training & Professional Development

2023: Causal Inference for Health and Social Scientists, CEMFI - Advanced econometric techniques
2021: Winter School on Recent Advances in Poverty and Inequality Research, LISER - Microdata analysis
2020: 15th Winter School on Inequality and Social Welfare Theory, University of Verona
2018: Introduction to Data Science and Big Data Analytics, London School of Economics
2018: Big Data for Economics, University of Barcelona - Large dataset exploitation
2017: Dynamic and Non-Linear Panel Data Models, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics

International Research Stays

2019: Research stay at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore - Econometric analysis collaboration (invited by Prof. M. Ali Khan)

2019: InGRID Visiting Grant at LIS, Luxembourg - Cross-national microdata analysis (EU Horizon 2020)

2018: InGRID Visiting Grant at CELSI, Bratislava - Statistical research collaboration (EU Horizon 2020)

Event Participation

2025: Roundtable speaker, *Acto Institucional 17 de octubre por el Día Internacional para la Erradicación de la Pobreza*, organised by the European Anti-Poverty Network Spain

2024: Roundtable speaker and discussion group coordinator, *Desafíos y horizontes de la garantía infantil en España*, organised by the European Commission and *La Caixa* Foundation

Event Organisation

2024: Co-organizer, 6th JRC Fiscal Policy Modelling Workshop
2022–2024: Coordinator, Biweekly Academic Seminars, Fiscal Policy Analysis Unit (JRC.B2)

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