

Hugo Cruces | Empirical economist

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Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Professional Summary

Economist with a PhD and over four years of experience in fiscal policy analysis and public policy evaluation, including the European Semester. Extensive experience in the analysis of complex databases. Proven ability to translate technical findings into actionable advice for diverse stakeholders.

Professional Experience

Joint Research Centre, European Commission <i>Economic Analyst & Team Leader</i>	Seville, Spain <i>October 2021 – Present</i>
○ Develop and maintain the EUROMOD tax-benefit microsimulation model for EU-wide fiscal policy analysis	
○ Analysis of large and complex data (e.g., EU-SILC, HFCS, HBS) with advanced methods	
○ Conduct economic analyses for the European Semester, in collaboration with DG ECFIN, DG EMPL and DG TAXUD	
○ Led research team analysing distributional impact of health social transfers in-kind, in collaboration with DG SANTE	
○ Communicate policy-actionable results in meetings, reports and technical documents	
University of Vigo <i>Adjunct Professor</i>	Vigo, Spain <i>January 2024 – Present</i>
○ Teach the course <i>Advanced Data Analysis</i>	
University of Vigo <i>Acting Professor</i>	Vigo, Spain <i>November 2020 – March 2021</i>
○ Taught the course <i>Economic History</i>	
University of Vigo <i>Predoctoral Researcher</i>	Vigo, Spain <i>January 2016 – October 2020</i>
○ Conducted research using microdata and advanced econometric and machine learning techniques	

Education

University of Vigo <i>Ph.D. in Economics, Sobresaliente Cum Laude</i>	Spain <i>February 2021</i>
○ Supervisor: Professor Carlos Hervés-Beloso	
○ Extensive use of microdata and advanced econometric and machine learning techniques	
Complutense University of Madrid <i>M.A. in Economics</i>	Spain <i>March 2015</i>
University of Santiago de Compostela <i>B.A. in Economics</i>	Spain <i>July 2012</i>

Research

Peer-Reviewed Articles.....

- 2026:** Escaping the Inactivity Trap? The Work Incentive of the Spanish Minimum Income. *Journal of Policy Modeling* 48(1): 107–129 (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)

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: L^AT_EX, Markdown, Microsoft Office suite

AI tools: Chatbots, Integrated Development Environments, 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

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, United States - 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)

Events

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

2024: Co-organizer, 6th JRC Fiscal Policy Modelling Workshop

2022–2024: Coordinator, Biweekly Academic Seminars, Fiscal Policy Analysis Unit (JRC.B2)

Last updated: January 31, 2026