

Hugo Cruces | Empirical economist

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Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Professional Summary

Economist with extensive experience in data analysis within the European Commission. Proven expertise in developing and maintaining EU-wide microsimulation models, analysing large and complex datasets, and translating results into actionable policy recommendations.

Professional Experience

Joint Research Centre, European Commission

Seville, Spain

Economic Analyst & Project Leader

October 2021 – Present

- Lead international 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
- Develop and maintain the EUROMOD tax-benefit microsimulation model for EU-wide socioeconomic analysis
- Coordinate data preparation and quality assurance processes in collaboration with DG ESTAT
- Contribute to European Semester cycles through quantitative economic analysis in collaboration with DG ECFIN, DG EMPL and DG TAXUD
- 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: L^AT_EX, 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)

Last updated: November 5, 2025