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Placement Director

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Education

2018 - Present MRes/PhD Economics, LSE
2017 - 2018 M.Sc. Econometrics & Mathematical Economics, LSE
2016 - 2017 M.Sc. Econometrics, Erasmus University Rotterdam
2012 - 2015 B.Sc. Economics, Erasmus University Rotterdam
2012 - 2017 LL.B. (Bachelor of Laws) Dutch Law, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Research Fields

Primary: Macroeconomics
Secondary: Economic History

References

Ethan Ilzetzki

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Camille Landais

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Ricardo Reis

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Job Market Paper

Scale-Biased Technical Change and Inequality

Abstract: Scale bias is the extent to which technical change increases the productivity of large relative to small firms. I show that this dimension of technical change is important for inequality. To illustrate the mechanism, I develop a tractable framework where people choose to work for wages or earn profits as entrepreneurs and where entrepreneurs choose from a set of available production technologies that differ in their fixed and marginal cost. Large-scale-biased technical change lowers entrepreneurship rates and increases top income inequality, primarily by concentrating business income. Small-scale-biased technical change does the opposite. I show the empirical relevance of scale bias by identifying the causal effects of adoption of two general purpose technologies that vary in scale bias, but are otherwise similar: steam engines (large-scale-biased) and electric motors (small-scale-biased). Using newly collected data from the United States and the Netherlands and a range of identification strategies, I show that these two technologies had opposite effects on firm sizes and inequality. Steam engines increased firm sizes and inequality, while electric motors decreased both. Consistent with scale bias (rather than skill bias), I find that adopting entrepreneurs were the main drivers of inequality increases after steam engine adoption.

Working Papers

Jim Crow and Black Economic Progress After Slavery, *with Lukas Althoff*
Revise and resubmit, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*

Abstract: This paper studies the long-run effects of slavery and restrictive Jim Crow institutions on Black Americans' economic outcomes. We trace each Black family's linked census and administrative records between 1850 and 2000. We show that Black families whose ancestors were enslaved until the Civil War have considerably lower education, income, and wealth today than Black families whose ancestors were free before the Civil War. The disparities between the two groups have persisted, not because of slavery per se, but because most families enslaved until the Civil War lived in states with strict Jim Crow regimes after slavery ended. In a regression discontinuity design based on ancestors' enslavement location, we show that states' Jim Crow institutions sharply reduced Black families' economic progress in the long run, largely by limiting their access to education. Using quasi-experimental variation, we show that gaining school access closed 75 percent of the loss in human capital caused by exposure to strict Jim Crow regimes.

Intergenerational Mobility and Assortative Mating, *with Lukas Althoff and Harriet Brookes Gray*

Abstract: By incorporating the role of mothers, this paper reevaluates intergenerational mobility in the US from 1850 to 1940. We build a unique, large, and representative panel by combining historical census and administrative data. This approach helps overcome previous limitations in tracing women over time. We measure the transmission of socioeconomic outcomes—from parents to sons and daughters—including both maternal and paternal inputs. We measure mobility as the share of variation in child outcomes explained by parental background (R^2). This measure allows us to simultaneously incorporate multiple parental inputs and to decompose parents' overall predictive power into the separate contributions of mothers and fathers. Our analysis shows that mothers play a substantial role in predicting children's socioeconomic status, in many cases a larger role than fathers. Mothers' human capital is especially predictive of outcomes for daughters and Black children. More generally, we find that the predictive power of mothers is larger for groups and places with low access to education. Over time, as public school provision increased, the relative importance of mothers' human capital in shaping child outcomes declined.

Publication

A multi-step kernel-based regression estimator that adapts to error distributions of unknown form, *with Jan G. de Gooijer, Communications in Statistics-Theory and Methods*, 50(24), 6211-6230, 2021.

Teaching Experience

2021 - 2023	EC442 Macroeconomics for MRes/PhD students, LSE
2019 - 2021	EC220 Introduction to Econometrics, EC210 Macroeconomic Principles, PP440 Micro and Macroeconomics for Public Policy, LSE
2013 - 2017	Markov Processes, Advanced Statistics, Applied Microeconomics, Microeconomics, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Research Experience

2021	Research Assistant to Prof. Ricardo Reis and Prof. Silvana Tenreyro, LSE
2019 - 2021	Research Assistant to Prof. Ethan Ilzetzki, LSE
2014	Research Assistant to Prof. Willem Molle, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Awards

2023	Best Job Market Paper Award, UniCredit Foundation in cooperation with EEA
2023	Teaching Award (Highly commended), LSE
2023	Erik Olin Wright Prize, Havens Wright Center for Social Justice
2022	Best Student Paper Award, Urban Economics Association
2022	Best Student Research Award, IPUMS USA
2020	Sir John Hicks Prize for Outstanding Performance in PhD coursework, LSE
2017	Best Econometric Thesis Award, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Fellowships

2018 - 2022	ESRC Doctoral Training Programme Scholarship
2017	Scholarship Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds