

# Martin Wiegand

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Department of Economics and Business  
Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) Barcelona  
Jaume I Building, Office 20.148  
Ramon Trias Fargas, 25-27  
08005 Barcelona

E-mail: [martin.wiegand@upf.edu](mailto:martin.wiegand@upf.edu)  
Website: [m-wiegand.github.io](https://m-wiegand.github.io)

## Fields

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Primary: Labor Economics, Public Economics

Secondary: Urban Economics

## Graduate Studies

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2022 - present      **PhD Candidate in Economics**  
Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) Barcelona  
Expected Completion Date: July 2026

2025      **Visiting PhD Student**  
University of California Berkeley  
Host: Enrico Moretti

## References

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Albrecht Glitz (advisor)  
UPF, BSE, IPEG & RFBerlin  
[albrecht.glitz@upf.edu](mailto:albrecht.glitz@upf.edu)

Dávid Krisztián Nagy (advisor)  
CREi, UPF & BSE  
[dnagy@crei.cat](mailto:dnagy@crei.cat)

Joan Monràs  
UPF, BSE & CREi  
[jm3364@gmail.com](mailto:jm3364@gmail.com)

Enrico Moretti  
UC Berkeley  
[moretti@berkeley.edu](mailto:moretti@berkeley.edu)

## Prior Studies

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2021-2022      **Master of Research in Economics**  
Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF)

2020-2021      **Master of Economics**  
Barcelona School of Economics (BSE)

2016-2020      **BSc Economics and BA Political Science**  
Ludwig-Maximilians Universität (LMU) Munich

## Research Papers

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### **Cities with Benefits** (Job Market Paper) *BeNA Innovative Research Award 2024*

This paper studies how local economic conditions shape the optimal design of unemployment benefits across space. I develop a theoretical framework that characterizes the insurance value and fiscal costs of unemployment benefits across locations as a function of (i) local prices, (ii) behavioral responses in unemployment duration and (iii) distortions to location choice. I estimate the fiscal costs of the unemployment duration and migration responses using novel quasi-experimental variation from Germany's Hartz IV reform, which tied benefit levels to local rents for long-term unemployed individuals. Unemployment durations respond similarly to benefit changes in high- and low-price locations. However, higher benefits in expensive regions attract jobseekers, raising fiscal costs. My findings imply that indexing unemployment benefits to local prices makes benefits excessively generous in high-price locations, and that redistribution towards regions with lower prices yields sizable welfare gains.

## Research in Progress

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### **Incumbents' Cost of Living Advantage** (with [Albrecht Glitz](#) and [Joan Monras](#)) *Draft available soon*

Households become less geographically mobile as they accumulate tenure in a location. In this paper, we quantify how much renting households can save on their cost of living by not moving and estimate its effect on the spatial distribution of households and housing supply. By matching market housing units to a panel of renting households in Germany, we estimate that incumbent households pay rents that are 31% below the matched market level, and that this rent gap is particularly large in locations with rapid market rent growth (48%). While tenant rent control can explain around half of this gap, we show that landlords adjust rents infrequently and do not set rents at their legal maximum, which is especially prevalent among non-professional owners. Finally, we embed this rent gap in an overlapping-generations spatial equilibrium model to quantify its role for the spatial allocation of households and variation in housing supply across locations.

### **Stepping Stones or Dead Ends? How Geography Shapes the Effects of Low-Skill Employment** (with [Nathan Jones](#))

Starting a career in low-skill employment has been associated with persistently worse labor market outcomes. Yet, such jobs are often concentrated in urban areas, which tend to offer substantial long-run advantages for workers. This paper examines whether the long-run effects of starting a career in low-skill employment differ across locations. We study the case of Spain's tourism sector—a major employer of young workers that spans both urban and rural areas—to explore how geography shapes the career consequences of low-skill work. Using newly digitized data on tourist flows over forty years, we exploit variation in exposure to tourist demand across regions and graduation cohorts to measure the long-run effects of graduating in a tourist boom. Ten years after graduation, we find that workers exposed to tourist demand (i) are more likely to work in touristic sectors; (ii) have lower earnings; and (iii) are less likely to have attained higher education. Crucially, we also find that local tourism booms attract young workers through migration. Going forward, we will study whether the long-run effects of early-career employment in a low-skilled sector such as tourism differ across local labor markets.

## Research Assistance Experience

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2020	<b>Part-time Research Assistance for Dominik Grothe</b> LMU, Chair for Organizational Economics
2018	<b>Part-time Research Assistance for Christoph Trebesch</b> LMU, Chair for Macroeconomics

## Presentations

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2025	UC Berkeley Labor Seminar, UC Berkeley Public Finance Seminar, IRLE Visiting Scholar Seminar, UEA European Meeting (Berlin), 3rd Summer School in International Economics (ifo Institute), RF Berlin Brownbag Seminar, Workshop on Regional Economics Inequalities (Berlin), VfS Jahrestagung (Cologne), UPF Internal Applied Seminar, Workshop Urban Labor Markets and Local Income Inequality (IAB Nürnberg)*
2024	BeNA Winter Workshop, RF Berlin Brownbag Seminar, IZA Summer School of Labor Economics, UPF Internal Applied Seminar, CREI International Lunch Workshop, BSE Jamboree
2023	CREI International Lunch Workshop, UPF PhD Applied Student Seminar, BSE Jamboree *scheduled

## Teaching

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2024	Teaching Assistance for Labor Economics (undergraduate)
2023	Teaching Assistance for Labor Economics (undergraduate)
2022	Teaching Assistance for Modern Statistical Computing (undergraduate) and Public Economics (undergraduate)

## Scholarship & Distinction

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2023-	<b>FPI Scholarship</b> Ph.D. scholarship from Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation
2021-2023	<b>Severo Ochoa BSE-UPF</b> Ph.D. track fellowship
2020	<b>BSE Master Tuition Fee Waiver</b>
2019-2022	<b>German National Academic Foundation</b> German merit-based scholarship
2018-2020	<b>Honors Program in Economics</b> Mentoring program for 15 BSc Economics students at LMU
2016-2021	<b>Max-Weber-Program</b> Bavarian merit-based scholarship
2015	<b>Georg-Dax Foundation</b> 500 EUR for excellent high school graduation (best of cohort)

## Service

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2024-	Co-Organiser, CREi International Lunch Seminar
2022-2023	Co-Organiser, UPF Applied Student Seminar

## Skills

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Languages	German (native), English (fluent), Spanish and French (intermediate)
Programming	Stata, R, Python, Latex

Updated November 2025