

Martin Wiegand

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Fields

Primary: Labor Economics, Public Economics

Secondary: Urban Economics

Graduate Studies

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

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

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

Joan Monràs
UPF, BSE & CREi
jm3364@gmail.com

Enrico Moretti
UC Berkeley
moretti@berkeley.edu

Prior Studies

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

Cities with Benefits (Job Market Paper)

Selected for the 2026 [EALE Tour](#) | Winner of the 2024 [BeNA Innovative Research Award](#)

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

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

Draft available soon

We document substantial rent gaps between “market” rents and households' actual rent. For instance, households who have been in the same unit for 15 years pay about 30 percent less than households who rent a unit for the first time in the same county and type of housing. This rent gap is larger in high growth cities. We decompose the rental gap between the regulatory gap – the gap that originates from limitations in within tenure rent growth – and the residual gap. We show that the regulatory gap accounts for only slightly more than 50% of the actual gap. This evidence suggests that frictions other than existing regulation likely give incumbents' an advantage in the rental market, something that, we argue, is inconsistent with landlord market power. We embed these forces in an overlapping generations model, which we estimate using German data, to study how much frictions in the rental market limit labor mobility, and how much this, in turn, explains why housing affordability is a problem in a selected group of high growth cities.

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

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

Presentations

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

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

2025	EALE Tour 2026
2023-	FPI Scholarship Ph.D. scholarship from Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation
2021-2023	Severo Ochoa BSE-UPF Ph.D. track fellowship
2020	BSE Master Tuition Fee Waiver
2019-2022	German National Academic Foundation German merit-based scholarship
2018-2020	Honors Program in Economics Mentoring program for 15 BSc Economics students at LMU
2016-2021	Max-Weber-Program Bavarian merit-based scholarship
2015	Georg-Dax Foundation 500 EUR for excellent high school graduation (best of cohort)

Service

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

Skills

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

Updated November 2025