

OLATZ ROMÁN

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Postdoctoral Scholar , University of Mannheim	2025 - present
Member of Collaborative Research Center Transregio 224 “Economic Perspectives on Societal Challenges” (Project A03)	2025 - present
Member of the Macro Inequality Lab	2025 - present

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics , European University Institute (Florence)	2019 - 2025
<i>Supervisors:</i> Thomas F. Crossley and Alexander Monge-Naranjo	
<i>Thesis title:</i> Essays in the Economics of Couples	
Visiting Scholar , University of California, Berkeley	Spring 2022
<i>Host:</i> Enrico Moretti	
MSc in Economics and Finance , Barcelona Graduate School of Economics	2017 - 2018
Bachelor in Economics , University of the Basque Country (Bilbao)	2013 - 2017
Erasmus Exchange Program: Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (2016-2017)	

RESEARCH FIELDS

Labor Economics, Gender Economics, Family Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Children, Household Specialization and Relationship Quality, with Belén Rodríguez-Moro

“We investigate how having children impacts the quality of couples’ relationships, a proxy of the non-material gains from being in a relationship. Using a novel measure of relationship quality (RQ), we perform a dynamic difference-in-differences estimation around the birth of the first child. We find a sharp and lasting decrease in RQ immediately after birth. We attribute this effect to changes in household specialization. Traditional gender-based specialization prevails after birth, regardless of the baseline distribution of tasks within the couple. Leveraging heterogeneous changes in household specialization after birth, we find that couples undergoing larger rearrangements also suffer larger RQ drops.”

Measuring Relationship Quality, with Belén Rodríguez-Moro

“This paper introduces and validates a novel measure of relationship quality (RQ), the non-material gains from being in a relationship. We use survey data from the United Kingdom to construct and validate RQ, by demonstrating its predictive power for marital transitions and its comparability across individuals. We examine the evolution of RQ over time using panel data, testing common assumptions in the theoretical family economics literature. Our analysis reveals significant associations between RQ and individual and couple characteristics. The findings on the assortative matching on education underscore the importance of shared characteristics in enhancing RQ.”

The Geography of Jobs and Couple Migration

“This paper studies how joint geographic constraints induced by partners’ occupations influence couples’ migration decisions. Using novel measures of geographic concentration and overlap of occupations, I find that highly concentrated occupations significantly limit couples’ ability to relocate, although this is mitigated by the geographic overlap of partners’ occupations. Additionally, I explore gender differences in occupational choices, showing that women,

particularly college educated women, have increasingly selected into more geographically concentrated occupations. A shift-share decomposition reveals that the sharp decline in couple migration over the last few decades is primarily due to changes in migration patterns within different couple types rather than shifts in their composition.”

WORK IN PROGRESS

Until the City Do Us Part: Relationship Quality and Marriage Market Size, with Ana Moreno-Maldonado

“We exploit geographical differences in marriage markets to unveil the main determinants of relationship quality as well as couple formation and dissolution. Using data for the United Kingdom, we show that big cities are characterized by a larger proportion of singles and by a lower stability of newly formed couples as compared to small cities. However, we also find that the risk of couple dissolution decreases faster in bigger cities and that the relationship quality of couples deteriorates at a slower pace. We then build a dynamic quantitative model of couple formation and dissolution that allows us to account for the endogeneity of location decisions and to quantify the importance of each mechanism in resulting relationship quality.”

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

PhD level - European University Institute

- 2023 Topics in Labor Economics, Co-instructor with Monica Costa-Dias & Thomas Crossley
- 2022 Economic Measurement, TA to Sule Alan & Thomas Crossley
- 2020, 2021 Statistics and Econometrics II - Econometric Models for Micro Data, TA to Sule Alan & Thomas Crossley

Graduate - Florence School of Banking and Finance

- 2020, 2021 Panel Data for Banking Sector Analysis, TA to Jeffrey Wooldridge

Undergraduate - New York University Florence

- 2023 Econometrics, TA to Giampiero Gallo

Undergraduate - Universitat Pompeu Fabra

- 2017-2018 TA in Macroeconomics II, Business Organization and Administration II, Economics and Analytical Instruments for the Study of Law (Statistics and Game Theory)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- 2018-2019 Research Assistant to Monica Martinez-Bravo, CEMFI (Madrid)
- 2014-2015 Research Assistant to Juan Ramón Murua, University of the Basque Country (Bilbao)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Presentations: (* scheduled)

- 2025 ifo Institute (Munich), Masaryk University (Brno), 2nd Mini-Conference on Gender Economics (Florence), Mend the Gap in Economic Opportunities workshop (Rome), XXVIII Workshop on Dynamic Macroeconomics (Vigo), EEA Congress 2025 (Bordeaux), 19th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Montreal), 16th CRC-TR 224 retreat (Offenbach), Institutions and Frictions in the Labor Market workshop (Nuremberg), CRC-TR 224 Family & Gender Economics Workshop (Mannheim)
- 2024 IZA (Bonn), SOLE Annual Meeting (Portland), University of the Basque Country (Bilbao), Economics of Migration Junior Seminar (online), UniTo - Collegio Carlo Alberto Ph.D. Workshop in Economics (Torino), SAEe (Palma de Mallorca), EWMES (Palma de Mallorca)
- 2023 18th Doctorissimes Conference (Paris), Understanding Society Conference (Essex), EALE Conference (Prague), Inequalities in Education, Labor Markets and Families Conference (Florence)
- 2022 IRLE Visiting Scholar Workshop (Berkeley)

Academic Service:

- March 2024, 2025 Organizer, Mini-conference in Gender Economics, EUI
2023-2024, 2024-2025 Co-organizer, Gender Talks at Villa La Fonte, EUI
2020-2021 Co-organizer, Microeometrics Working Group, EUI

Refereeing: The B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, European Societies.

DISCUSSIONS

North American Meeting of the Urban Economic Association	October 2025
“Understanding the Congestion Child Penalty: a Look at Labor Force Participation, Time Use and Work from Home” by Ilaria D’Angelis and Keren Horn	
PSE-CEPR Policy Forum	June 2025
“Rise in Home Working and Spousal Labor Supply” by Mylene Feuillade, Dominique Goux and Eric Maurin	
Economics of Migration Junior Seminar	November 2024
“The Effect of Initial Location Assignment on Healthcare Utilization of Refugees” by Shobhit Kulshreshtha	

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2022 US Department Visiting Grant, European University Institute
2019-2023 Beca Salvador de Madariaga, Spanish Ministry of Science, Innovation & University
2019 Beca del Banco de España (*declined due to scholarship incompatibility*)
2017-2018 Teaching Assistant Scholarship, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
2017 Half tuition waiver, Universitat Pompeu Fabra
2017 Academic Excellence Award, University of the Basque Country
2016 Erasmus Scholarship, European Commission
2013 Academic Excellence Award, Basque Government

OTHER SKILLS**Languages:**

English (fluent), Spanish (native), Basque (native), Italian (advanced), German (basic)

Programming Skills:

Stata, Matlab, Python, R, Latex