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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labour economics; economics of education, skills and human capital; intergenerational mobility.

REFERENCES

Jean-Marc Robin
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EDUCATION

Sciences Po, Paris, France
Ph.D. in Economics, 2017–2021 (Expected). Supervisor: Prof. Jean-Marc Robin.
M.Sc. in Economics, Sept. 2015 – July 2017. Summa cum laude (top 2%).

University of Cambridge, England
Advanced Diploma in Economics, Sept. 2013 – July 2014.

University of Birmingham, England
B.Sc. in Mathematics and Chemistry, Sept. 2008 – July 2012. First-class honours.

RESEARCH PAPERS

A non-parametric finite-mixture approach to difference-in-difference estimation, with an application to professional training and wages, with Robert Gary-Bobo, Julie Pernaudet, and Jean-Marc Robin.

We develop a finite-mixture framework for nonparametric difference-in-difference analysis with unobserved heterogeneity correlating treatment and outcome. Our framework includes an instrumental variable for the treatment, and we demonstrate that our method allows us to relax the no common trend restriction usually required in difference-in-difference analysis. We also show that outcomes can be Markovian provided there are multiple post-treatment observations. Our main theoretical contributions are the substitution of an instrument for the common-trends assumption, and a

non-parametric identification proof. Empirically, we apply our framework to evaluate the effect of on-the-job/professional (re)training on wages, using novel French linked employee-employer data. Estimating our model using the EM-algorithm, we find small ATEs and ATTs on hourly wages of between 2% and 3%. However, we find larger effects on hours and annual wages with both ATEs and ATTs of over 5%. A simple extension to our model to include *observed* as well as unobserved heterogeneity produces very similar results.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Who goes to university and why? A comparison across cohorts (1985 – 2015)

I investigate the role of earnings expectations on young people's educational decisions and career choices. Exploiting detailed longitudinal data on two UK cohorts, I model educational and career decisions and use a combination of choice data, wages and survey questions to better understand the factors that impact their decisions. I compare these factors across time (cohort vs cohort) and across socio-economic status (within cohorts). Preliminary results suggest that for both cohorts non-earnings factors are more important than earnings expectations in determining whether a student decides to continue on to higher education, and are also the main driver of the SES-gap in educational attainment. These factors are also responsible for the huge growth in degree attainment between the 1970 and 1990 cohorts, with the distribution in earnings expectations remaining largely constant across cohorts. Meanwhile, the increase in the non-earnings factors across cohorts is equivalent to a 50% increase in earnings expectations. Decomposition analysis of the non-earnings factors is ongoing, and will hopefully shed light on the main components of these "psychic costs".

The returns to different subjects and institutions in higher education

Using the UK Labour Force Survey (LFS) supplemented by more detailed longitudinal surveys, I estimate *ex post* returns to different subjects and types of higher education institutions (HEIs). I find large dipersion in returns across both subjects and HEIs within cohorts, to the extent that choices *between subjects conditional on continuing to HE* can be more important for earnings than the choice to continue to HE. Comparing across cohorts the ranking of subjects by median earnings has changed drastically over recent decades. Work to incorporate and control for important factors such as ability to understand whether these cross-subject differences are driven by differences in the students who choose these subjects, or whether different subjects have vastly different *causal effects on earnings* is ongoing.

Estimating expected individual wage profiles of current UK students using British labour force survey data

I estimate individual lifetime earnings profiles using a technique similar to that used in Bonhomme and Robin (2009), who used French labour force survey data. The dataset I use is the British labour force survey (LFS). The LFS is a shorter panel than its French equivalent, and the model I estimate also differs in a number of ways from Bonhomme and Robin (2009)'s model. The outcomes of this exercise are two-fold. First, I have estimated the model for different cohorts (by birth-year) and can see how the determinants of wages in the model vary across these cohorts. I also plan to estimate the model with parameters fixed within panels rather than cohorts, allowing an analysis of how the determinants of wages have evolved over time. The second output is the estimated wage profiles themselves; using the estimated parameters I can estimate (expected) lifetime-earnings profiles for individuals for any subset of the variables in the LFS.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Sciences Po, Paris
Graduate Microeconomics 3, Teaching Assistant, 2017–2018.
Introduction to Econometrics (Undergraduate), Lecturer, 2018–2019.
Intermediate Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant, 2017–2019.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Department for Transport, London, England
Summer internship, Government Economic Service, 2016

Technopolis, Brighton, England
Economic consultant, 2014-2015

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Doctoral School Scholarship, Sciences Po, 2017–2020.
Summa cum Laude (top 2%), Sciences Po, 2015–2017.
Natural Sciences Award, University of Birmingham, 2009.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

2019: Sciences Po Lunch Seminar.
2018: Sciences Po Lunch Seminar.
2017: PhD Seminar, Sciences Po.

COMPUTER SKILLS

R, Stata, Julia.

LANGUAGES

English (native), French (conversational).