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Current Position

2021 - Professor of Economics, Institute for Social & Economic Research, University of Essex

Academic Affiliations

2017 - IZA Research Fellow
2018 - CESifo Network Fellow

Previous Employment

2007-2021 Senior Research Officer, Research Fellow, Senior Research Fellow and Reader, Institute for Social & Economic Research, University of Essex
2005-2006 Post-doc, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany
2001-2003 Post-doc, Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne, Germany
1998-2004 Chief Researcher, German Statutory Pension Insurance.
1994-1998 Research Fellow, Social Science Centre Berlin (WZB), Germany

Education

PhD Political Science and Economics, Free University Berlin (summa cum laude), 1999.
Diplom-Volkswirtin (MA in Economics), Free University, Berlin and Universidad Autonoma, Madrid (distinction), 1993

Journal Papers

Private response to information on school quality: Evidence from linked survey and administrative data, with Ellen Greaves, Iftikhar Hussain, Imran Rasul, *Economic Journal* 2023
Going Universal: The impact of free school meals on child body weight, with Angus Holford, *Journal of Public Economics Plus*, 2022, vol. 3, 1-19
Does more free childcare help parents work more?, with Mike Brewer, Sarah Cattan, Claire Crawford, *Labour Economics*, 2022, vol. 74, 1-24.
Quantity and quality of childcare and children's educational outcomes, with Jo Blanden, Emilia Del Bono, Kirstine Hansen, *Journal of Population Economics*, 2022, vol. 35, 785-828.
Sibling spillover effects in school achievement, with Cheti Nicoletti, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, 2019, vol. 34, 482-501.
Do school inputs crowd out parents' investments in their children? *IZA World of Labor*, 2019, 460, 1-9.

- The effect of school spending on student achievement: addressing biases in value-added models, with Cheti Nicoletti, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A (Statistics in Society)*, 2018, vol. 181(2), 487-515.
- Universal pre-school education: the case of public funding with private provision, with Jo Blanden, Emilia Del Bono, Sandra McNally, *Economic Journal*, 2016, vol. 126(May), 682-723.
- Inequality in pupils' test scores: how much do family, sibling type and neighborhood matter?, with Cheti Nicoletti, *Economica*, 2013, vol. 80(318), 197-218.
- Differences in Opportunities? Wage, employment, and house-price effects on migration, with Mark Taylor, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, 2012, vol. 74(6): 831-855.
- Dual-Earner Migration. Earnings gains, employment and self-selection, *Journal of Population Economics*, 2011, vol. 24(2), 477-497.
- Residential mobility, quality of neighbourhood and life course events, with Mark Taylor, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A (Statistics in Society)*, 2010, 173(3), 531-555.
- Occupational Pensions, Wages, and Job Mobility in Germany, *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, 2008, vol. 54(4), 531-552.
- The Role of Firm Pensions for Job Change in Germany, *Journal of Applied Social Science Studies*, 2005, vol. 125 (1), 63-74.

Working Papers and papers in progress

- Free school meals and children's bodyweight: the role of programme features, with Angus Holford
- Parental investments in private tutoring: Compensating or reinforcing?, with Konstantina Maragkou and Cheti Nicoletti
- Sibling spillover effects in bad behaviour at school (with David Contreras and Cheti Nicoletti)
- University Access: the Role of Background and COVID-19 Throughout the Application Process, with Emilia Del Bono, Laura Fumagalli, Angus Holford, *Working Papers of the Institute for Social and Economic Research* no. 2022-7, Colchester: University of Essex.
- Do secondary school inputs increase or decrease gaps in cognitive skills?, with Cheti Nicoletti
- The impact of Brexit on financial expectations and behaviours, with Bernhard Schmidpeter
- The effect of a school weighing programme on diet and physical exercise, with Yuliya Kazakova
- Breastfeeding and child cognitive outcomes: Evidence from a hospital-based breastfeeding support policy, with Emilia Del Bono, *Working Papers of the Institute for Social and Economic Research* no. 2012-29, Colchester: University of Essex.

Book chapters

- Childcare and children's development: features of effective programs, with Jo Blanden, in: *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance* 2021, Oxford University Press. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190625979.013.662>

- Schooling inputs and behavioural responses by families, in: S. Bradley and C. Green (eds.) *The Economics of Education, A Comprehensive Overview*, second edition 2020. London: Elsevier/Academic Press, p.217-227.
- Examining home movers and how they impact on ownership and housebuilding, with Brian Green, in: *Housing Market Intelligence Report 2012*, London: Housebuilder Media, p. 34-39.
- Moving home: wishes, expectations, and reasons, in: Stephanie L. McFall (Ed.): *Understanding Society: findings 2012*, University of Essex: Institute for Social and Economic Research p. 17-18.
- Local Environments, with Nick Buck, in: Stephanie L. McFall, Christine Garrington (Eds.): *Early findings from the first wave of the UK's household longitudinal study*. Colchester: Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex, 2011, p. 99-108.

Research reports, blogs and other output

- University access: the role of background and Covid-19 throughout the application process. With Emilia Del Bono, Laura Fumagalli, Angus Holford, December 2021, https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/files/misoc/reports/explainers/university_access_background_covid19.pdf
- Coping with school closures: changes in home-schooling during COVID-19. With Emilia Del Bono, Laura Fumagalli, Angus Holford, July 2021, <https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/files/news/2021/little-inequality-homeschool/coping-with-school-closures.pdf>
- School closures and parents' mental health. With Jo Blanden, Claire Crawford, Laura Fumagalli, May 2021, <https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/files/news/2021/school-closures/school-closures-mental-health.pdf>
- Scuole chiuse: attenzione ai danni psicologici. With Jo Blanden, Claire Crawford, Laura Fumagalli. *La Voce* April 2021, <https://www.lavoce.info/archives/73842/scuole-chiuse-attenzione-ai-danni-psicologici/>
- How have school closures affected children's mental health? With Jo Blanden, Claire Crawford, Laura Fumagalli. *Economics Observatory* 2021, <https://www.economicsobservatory.com/how-have-school-closures-affected-childrens-mental-health>
- School closures and children's emotional and behavioural difficulties, with Jo Blanden, Claire Crawford, Laura Fumagalli, https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/files/projects/school-closures/SDQnote2021_final.pdf
- Universal Infant Free School Meals, with Angus Holford. *Child Poverty Action Group, Poverty 167*: 10-13. 2020 <https://cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/files/policypost/CPAG-Poverty167-Universal-infant-free-school-meals-Oct-2020.pdf>
- What difference will the COVID Summer Food Fund make to children's lives? With Claire Crawford and Ellen Greaves. *Economics Observatory* 2020, <https://www.coronavirusandtheeconomy.com/question/what-difference-will-covid-summer-food-fund-make-childrens-lives>
- Understanding Society COVID-19 Survey April Briefing Note: Home schooling, with M Benzeval, M Borkowska, J Burton, TF Crossley, L Fumagalli, A Jäckle and B Read. *Understanding Society Working Paper No 12/2020*, ISER, University of Essex.

COVID-19 and educational losses: The case for sending the youngest back to school, with Jo Blanden. British Politics and Policy at LSE 2020, http://eprints.lse.ac.uk/104916/1/politicsandpolicy_covid_19_sending_the_youngest_back_to_school.pdf

Nursery attendance and children's outcomes, with Jo Blanden, Emilia Del Bono, Kirstine Hansen & Sandra McNally, *CentrePiece* - The Magazine for Economic Performance 524, 2018, Centre for Economic Performance, LSE

Understanding Society – a geographical profile of the sample population, with Jakob Petersen, *Understanding Society Working Papers* no. 2013-01, Colchester: University of Essex

Who Saves for Retirement?, with Mark Bryan, James Lloyd and Mark Taylor, Research Report, 2011, London: Strategic Society Centre.

Geographical identifiers in Understanding Society, Version 1. Understanding Society Working Papers no. 2011-01, Colchester: University of Essex.

Research Grants

Nuffield Foundation, Impact of the Universal Free School Meal policy, Co-Investigator [£57k], 9/2021-11/2022

UKRI-ESRC, Mind the Gap: Educational Inequalities during Covid-19, Principal Investigator [£141k], 10/2020-4/2022

Nuffield Foundation, COVID-19 and school availability: impact on parental labour supply and well-being, Principal Investigator [£70k], 10/2020-9/2021, plus extension [£37k], 10/2021-3/2022

ESRC, Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC), Co-Investigator [£6.2m], 10/2019-9/2024.

Office for Students, Reducing socio-economic inequalities in HE participation: the role of information, peers and mindset, Co-Investigator [£278k], 12/2018-7/2019

ESRC, MiSoC transition funding, Co-Investigator [£882k], 10/2019-9/2022

ESRC, Understanding Society wave 12, Co-Investigator [£15.8m], 10/2018-3/2023

Nuffield Foundation, Impact of the Infant Free School Meal policy, Principal Investigator [£57k], 1/2018-6/2019

ESRC, Understanding Society waves 9-11, Co-Investigator [£27.5m], 4/2016-3/2021

ESRC, NCRM Methodological Innovation Project, Understanding non-response on Understanding Society, Co-Investigator [£140k], 4/2013-9/2014

ESRC, The effect of free childcare on maternal labour supply and child development, Principal Investigator [£184k], 10/2012-3/2014

Prudential Insurance, Who saves for Retirement, Co-Investigator [£27k], 4-9/2011

Nuffield Foundation, The effects of school inputs on educational attainments, Principal Investigator [£18k], 10/2010-7/2012

ESRC, The effects of breastfeeding on children, mothers and employers, Co-Investigator, [£195k], 6/2009-5/2011

PhD supervision and examination

Current students: Hettie Burn (from 10/2021), Ziyi Huang (from 1/2022)

Graduated students: Lina Sanchez Cespedes (2014, first job World Bank), Stefanie Hoherz (2016, first job University of Southampton), Catalina Blanco Moreno (2017, first job government consultant), Ipek Mumcu (2019, first job University of Exeter), Franco

Bonomi Bezzo (2020, first job INED, Paris), Yuliya Kazakova (2020, first job INED, Paris), Paulino Font Gilabert (2021, first job King's College London).

Internal examiner: Lavinia Parisi (Essex, 2013), Sarkis Manoukian (Essex, 2013), Liza Benny (2021)

External examiner: Esther Arenas Arroyo (Queen Mary, London, 2017), Daniel Brown (Oxford, 2017), Danula Gamage (Queen Mary, London, 2021).

Professional Activities

Referee for: Economic Journal, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A, Oxford Economic Papers, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Economics of Education Review, Labour Economics, Education Economics, Journal of Population Economics, Feminist Economics, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy, Journal of Economic Geography, Environment and Planning A, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, Journal of European Social Policy, Journal of Pensions Economics and Finance, Population, Space and Place, Social Forces, Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Journal of Economic Geography, Labour.

Grant reviewer: ESRC Commissioning Panel member, Economic and Social Research Council, Nuffield Foundation, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, FWO Research Foundation Flanders, DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)

Department and University Service

2020 - 2021 Independent Chair for Essex PhD vivas
2019 Athena Swan Self-Assessment Team
2019, 2023 Essex Economics Dept. hiring committee
2018 - Director of Research Impact
2016 - Research Student Progress Board
2015-2019 Institute for Social and Economic Research hiring committees
2015 Essex Business School hiring committee
2011-2017 Internal Auditor for ISO 27001
2010-2011 ISER Working Paper editor
2009-2010 Information Security Oversight Committee
2008-2009 ISER Research Meeting Convenor

Scholarships and Awards

2022 Runner-up: Best UK Public Policy Impact Award, University of Essex
2020 Best UK Public Policy Impact Award, University of Essex
2005 – 2006 Volkswagen Stiftung research scholarship (not taken)
2005 – 2006 Lise-Meitner-Programme scholarship, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany
2001 – 2003 Max-Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne, Germany
2000 Joachim-Tiburtius-Prize (second place) for the best PhD thesis at any of the three Berlin Universities in 1999 across all disciplines. Laudatio: Professor Dr Schreyögg

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