

BIRGITTA RABE

[email](#) ◇ [personal website](#) ◇ [X](#)

Professor of Economics

University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, CO4 3SQ, Colchester (UK)

CURRENT POSITION

Professor of Economics

Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS AND ROLES

IZA Research Fellow	2017 -
CESifo Network Fellow	2018 -
EALE Executive Committee	2023 -
ESPE Council Member	2023 -

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT

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

EDUCATION

PhD Economics and Political Science	Free University, Berlin	1999
<i>Summa cum laude</i>		
B.A. and M.Sc. in Economics	Free University, Berlin and Universidad Autonoma, Madrid	1993
<i>Distinction</i>		

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- Holford, A. and B. Rabe (2024), [Free school meals and children's bodyweight: impacts by age and duration of exposure](#), *Journal of Health Economics*, vol. 98, 102937.
- Burn, H., L. Fumagalli and B. Rabe (2024), [Stereotyping and ethnicity gaps in teacher assigned grades](#), *Labour Economics*, vol. 89, 102577.

- Greaves, E., I. Hussain, B. Rabe and I. Rasul (2023), [Private response to information on school quality: Evidence from linked survey and administrative data](#), *Economic Journal*, vol. 133 (654), 2334-2402.
- Holford, A. and B. Rabe (2022), [Going Universal: The impact of free school lunches on child body weight outcomes](#), *Journal of Public Economics Plus*, vol. 3, 1-19
- Brewer, M., S. Cattan, C. Crawford and B. Rabe (2022), [Does more free childcare help parents work more?](#), *Labour Economics*, vol. 74, 1-24.
- Blanden, J., E. Del Bono, K. Hansen and B. Rabe (2022), [Quantity and quality of childcare and children's educational outcomes](#), *Journal of Population Economics*, vol. 35, 785–828.
- Nicoletti, C. and B. Rabe (2019), [Sibling spillover effects in school achievement](#), *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, vol. 34, 482-501.
- Rabe, B. (2019), [Do school inputs crowd out parents' investments in their children?](#) *IZA World of Labor*, 460, 1-9.
- Nicoletti, C. and B. Rabe (2018), [The effect of school spending on student achievement: addressing biases in value-added models](#), *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A*, vol. 181(2), 487-515.
- Blanden, J., E. Del Bono, S. McNally and B. Rabe (2016), [Universal pre-school education: the case of public funding with private provision](#), *Economic Journal*, vol. 126(May), 682-723.
- Nicoletti, C. and B. Rabe (2013), [Inequality in pupils' test scores: how much do family, sibling type and neighborhood matter?](#), *Economica*, vol. 80(318), 197-218.
- Rabe, B. and M. Taylor (2012), [Differences in Opportunities? Wage, employment, and house-price effects on migration](#), *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, vol. 74(6), 831-855.
- Rabe, B. (2011), [Dual-Earner Migration. Earnings gains, employment and self-selection](#), *Journal of Population Economics*, vol. 24(2), 477-497.
- Rabe, B. and M. Taylor (2010), [Residential mobility, quality of neighbourhood and life course events](#), *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series A*, vol. 173(3), 531-555.
- Rabe, B. (2008), [Occupational Pensions, Wages, and Job Mobility in Germany](#), *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*, vol. 54(4), 531-552.
- Rabe, B. (2005), [The Role of Firm Pensions for Job Change in Germany](#), *Journal of Applied Social Science Studies*, vol. 125 (1), 63-74.

Book Chapters

- Blanden, J. and B. Rabe (2021), [Childcare and children's development: features of effective programs](#), in: *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Economics and Finance* 2021, Oxford University Press.
- Rabe, B. (2020), [Schooling inputs and behavioural responses by families](#), in: S. Bradley and C. Green (eds.) *The Economics of Education, A Comprehensive Overview*, second edition. London: Elsevier/Academic Press, p.217-227.

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

The adverse effects of weight reports in schools (with Yuliya Kazakova)

The motherhood penalty in mental health: evidence from school closures (with Jo Blanden, Claire Crawford, Laura Fumagalli)

Parental investments in private tutoring: Compensating or reinforcing? (with Konstantina Maragkou and Cheti Nicoletti)

Sibling spillover effects in bad behaviour at school (with Hester Burn and Cheti Nicoletti)

Breastfeeding and child cognitive outcomes: Evidence from a hospital-based breastfeeding support policy (with Nuno Braz and Emilia Del Bono)

The impact of Brexit on financial expectations and behaviours (with Bernhard Schmidpeter)

BLOGS, REPORTS, OTHER

Universal Free School Meals reduce child obesity and improve children's Reading scores, [Explainer](#), 2024.

The impacts of Universal Free School Meal schemes in England, [Report](#), February 2024.

Impacts of local authority Universal Free School Meal schemes on child obesity and household food expenditure, [Explainer](#), 2023.

University access: the role of background and Covid-19 throughout the application process, [Explainer](#), December 2021.

Coping with school closures: changes in home-schooling during COVID-19, [Report](#), July 2021.

School closures and parents' mental health, [Report](#), May 2021.

Scuole chiuse: attenzione ai danni psicologici, [La Voce](#), April 2021.

How have school closures affected children's mental health?, [Economics Observatory](#), 2021.

School closures and children's emotional and behavioural difficulties, [Report](#), March 2021.

Universal Infant Free School Meals, [Poverty](#) 167: 10-13, 2020.

What difference will the COVID Summer Food Fund make to children's lives?, [Economics Observatory](#), 2020.

Understanding Society COVID-19 Survey April Briefing Note: Home schooling, [Briefing Note](#), 2020.

COVID-19 and educational losses: The case for sending the youngest back to school, [British Politics and Policy](#) at LSE, 2020.

Impact of the Universal Infant Free School Meal Policy, [Report](#), 2020.

Nursery attendance and children's outcomes, [CentrePiece](#) - The Magazine for Economic Performance 524, LSE, 2018.

SUPERVISION

Current students

Hettie Burn (from 10/2021), Ziyi Huang (from 1/2022), Verena Dowsett (from 5/2024)

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).

OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee for academic journals: *Economic Journal, Journal of Health Economics, Journal of Urban Economics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Human Capital, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Population Economics, Review of Economics of the Household, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Labour Economics, Oxford Economic Papers, Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Economics of Education Review, Education Economics, Feminist Economics, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society Series A, Journal of Economic Inequality, Journal of Economic Geography*

Referee for funding bodies: *ESRC Commissioning Panel member, UKRI Economic and Social Research Council, UKRI Medical Research Council, Nuffield Foundation, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, FWO Research Foundation Flanders, DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service)*

Conference committees: SEHO 2022, 2023; ESPE 2011, 2012, 2017, 2019, 2023, 2024; EALE 2023, 2024, EEA 2023

Mentoring: RES Women's Committee Mentoring Programme 2023 and 2025; Christine de Pizan Mentoring Program 2023/24

GRANTS

Nuffield Foundation, Impact of school breakfast programmes, Principal Investigator [£69k], 12/2024-2/2026

ESRC, Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (MiSoC), Co-Investigator [£1.7m], 10/2024-9/2027

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, 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 Under-standing 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

HONOURS AND AWARDS

2024: FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX: Best Research Impact

2022: UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX: Runner-up, Best UK Public Policy Impact Award

2020: UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX: Best UK Public Policy Impact Award

2005 – 2006: VOLKSWAGEN STIFTUNG: Research Scholarship (not taken)

2005 – 2006: LISE-MEITNER-PROGRAMME: Research Scholarship

2001 – 2003: MAX-PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIETIES, COLOGNE, GERMANY: Research Scholarship

2000: BERLIN UNIVERSITIES: 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 Schreyoegg

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 - today: Director of Research Impact

2016 - today: 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