

Laura KHOURY

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

PUBLIC ECONOMICS: Social insurance, effect of taxes and benefits on behaviours, redistribution
LABOUR ECONOMICS: Optimal unemployment insurance, impact of unemployment benefits on labour supply, dismissal decisions, bargaining

REFERENCES

Pr. Luc Behaghel

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48 Boulevard Jourdan
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Pr. Antoine Bozio

Director, Institut des Politiques Publiques
48 Boulevard Jourdan
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Pr. Andrew Clark

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Pr. Andrea Weber

Central European University,
Dept of Economics, Nador utca 9
1051 Budapest, Hungary
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WeberA@ceu.edu

EDUCATION

- 2015- PhD in ECONOMICS, **Paris School of Economics**, Paris. Expected 2019.
Dissertation: “Contributory and redistributive aspects of the optimal unemployment insurance” | Supervisor: Luc BEHAGHEL
- 2015- Student-researcher under an Industrial Convention of Education through Research (**CIFRE convention**) at the FRENCH UNEMPLOYMENT AGENCY (**UNÉDIC**), Paris
- 2014 Master degree in ECONOMICS with distinction *magna cum laude*, **Paris School of Economics**, Paris
Thesis: “An assessment of the insurance and redistribution functions of unemployment benefits in France” | Supervisor: Antoine BOZIO
- 2012 Bachelor degree in SOCIAL SCIENCES, **University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne**, Paris

JOB MARKET PAPER

Unemployment Benefits and the Timing of Redundancies: Evidence from Bunching. ([Latest version](#))

Most of the empirical literature related to unemployment insurance (UI) has focused on its impact on outflows from unemployment rather than on inflows. In this paper, I show that workers respond to the design of UI while being employed. I exploit a discontinuity in the level of UI benefits at a particular value of tenure at current job. Using French administrative unemployment data, I analyse the concentration of workers in the tenure distribution at the relevant notch, a phenomenon known as bunching. The bunching mass is used to compute an elasticity of employment spell duration with respect to unemployment benefits. I find an estimate lying between 0.014 and 0.119, translating into a 0.5 to 4.3 days of extension for a 10% increase in the replacement rate. This estimate measures strategic behaviours attenuated by optimisation frictions. I identify the underlying mechanism as bargaining between employers and employees who maximise their joint surplus thanks to a state transfer. I find that the elasticity is the highest in the population facing the strongest incentives and in the highest occupations. This heterogeneity can be related to differences either in ability to bargain or in preferences.

This paper has received the Best Paper Award in the 2018 Workshop on Labour Economics from IAAEU, University of Trier, Germany.

OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS

Generosity versus Duration Trade-off and the Optimisation Ability of the Unemployed. ([Latest version](#))

In this paper, I exploit an uncommon setting of the French unemployment insurance (UI) scheme, the fact that the unemployed are let the choice between two UI entitlements when they experience a very large drop in income entering unemployment. It introduces a trade-off between the level and the potential duration of UI benefits, revealing some preferences of the unemployed over the level of insurance coverage desired. Using administrative unemployment data, I provide descriptive evidence to analyse the determinants of the choice. The presence of eligibility criteria allows to assess the labour market impact of the chosen scheme, through a fuzzy regression discontinuity design. The Wald estimate suggests that opting for higher benefits and a shorter duration is predicted to increase the subsequent paid unemployment spell duration by more than 5 months. This very large negative impact has to be qualified by the low effect found on the long-run total number of days on benefits.

An Assessment of the Insurance and Redistribution Functions of Unemployment Benefits in France. (Working paper available upon request)

This paper provides an overview of the redistributive feature and disincentive effects of the French unemployment insurance (UI) scheme. Using microsimulation techniques based on the coding on the UI legal parameters, I show that UI benefits do help in redistributing revenue, and that this effect is strengthened by the consideration of the interactions with the whole tax and benefit schedule, and by the differentiated probability of being unemployed across the population. It suggests that, although the primary objective of the UI is to ensure consumption smoothing over the positive and the adverse states, by securing a strong link between contributions and benefits, it also plays a redistributive role in favor of the low skill and low income population, distorting this contributory link to some extent.

The Impact of the Eligibility Criteria to Unemployment Benefits on Contract Length and Job Quality. (Ongoing research, joint with Clément Brébion (PSE) and Simon Briole (PSE))

A Big Fish in a Small Pond? Big-box Stores, Local Employment and City Shape. (Ongoing research, joint with Paul Brandily (PSE))

TEACHING AND SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

2018	Reviewer for the 24 th SPRING MEETING OF YOUNG ECONOMISTS, Paris
Fall 2017	Teaching assistant (Prof. Clément Malgouyres) at the INSTITUT D'ÉTUDES POLITIQUES DE PARIS (SCIENCES-PO), Paris Advanced public economics tutorials to Public Affairs master degree students
Fall 2016	Teaching assistant (Prof. Karim Azizi) at the UNIVERSITÉ PARIS I PANTHÉON-SORBONNE, Paris Economics tutorials to first-year bachelor degree students
Spring 2016	Teaching assistant (Prof. Jean-Pierre Landau and Philippe Martin) at the INSTITUT D'ÉTUDES POLITIQUES DE PARIS (SCIENCES-PO), Paris Support classes on the theoretical notions of international economics and governance to first-year master degree students
2016	Reviewer of research projects for the GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT NETWORK, Paris

WORK EXPERIENCE

2015	Research assistant at INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES PUBLIQUES, Paris
2014-2015	Research assistant at LIEGEY-MULLER-PONS, Paris
2014	Research assistant for Pr. Denis Cogneau (<i>Afristory project</i>) at PARIS SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS, Paris
2013-2014	Intern at INSTITUT DES POLITIQUES PUBLIQUES, Paris

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

2018	43 rd Symposium of the Spanish Economic Association (Madrid, Spain) Association of Southern-European Economic Theorists Conference (Florence, Italy) European Association of Labour Economics conference (Lyon, France) 67 th Meeting of the French Economic Association (Paris, France) 35 ^{mes} <i>Journées de Microéconomie Appliquée</i> (Bordeaux, France) Perspectives on (Un-)employment workshop, IAB (Nuremberg, Germany) Workshop on Labour Economics, IAAEU (Trier, Germany)
2017	IZA Summer School in Labour Economics , IZA Institute of Labour Economics (Buch, Germany) Applied Economics Seminar, Paris School of Economics (Paris, France) Dondena Workshop on Public Policy, Bocconi University (Milan, Italy) European Doctoral Program Jamboree, University of Bonn (Bonn, Germany) PhD workshop, Collegio Carlo Alberto (Turin, Italy) Work in Progress Seminar, Paris School of Economics (Paris, France) Little Informal Seminar, Paris School of Economics (Paris, France)
2016	Little Informal Seminar, Paris School of Economics (Paris, France) Rencontres d'Aussois du Labex OSE (Aussois, France)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Best Paper Award	2018 Workshop on Labour Economics, IAAEU, University of Trier, Germany
2018, Fellowship	6-months research grant Chaire Travail, Paris School of Economics
2018, Research grant	Labex OSE, <i>Ouvrir la Science économique</i> , Paris School of Economics
2017, Research grant	Labex OSE, <i>Ouvrir la Science économique</i> , Paris School of Economics
2015-2018, Doctoral Scholarship	Unemployment insurance organisation, UNEDIC, Paris, France

MEDIA & POLICY REPORTS

[“La dégressivité des indemnités chômage ralentit le retour à l’emploi”](#), Le Cercle, Les Echos,
March 23rd, 2017
[An evaluation of the “option right”](#), Unédic, 2018

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), Italian (intermediate)
STATA, SAS, Latex, MS Office