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Doctoral Studies

Paris School of Economics

PhD Candidate

Advisor: Prof. Eric Maurin

Thesis Title: Analysis of the labor market consequences of technological change and migration flows.

Paris, France

Sep. 2017–Spring 2021 (expected)

London School of Economics - Centre for Economic Performance

European Doctoral Program (2019-2020)

Hosting scholar: Prof. Sandra McNally

London, UK

Sep. 2019–Apr. 2020

References

Eric Maurin

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Sandra McNally

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Research Fields

- **Primary:** Labor Economics.
- **Secondary:** Public Economics, Migration, Innovation.

Pre-Doctoral Studies

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| Paris School of Economics <i>Master in Public Policy and Development (Summa Cum Laude)</i> | Paris, France <i>Sep. 2016–Sep. 2017</i> |
| Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies <i>Master in International Economics (Magna Cum Laude)</i> | Geneva, Switzerland <i>Sep. 2012–Sep. 2014</i> |
| University of Geneva <i>Bachelor in International Relations (Magna Cum Laude)</i> | Geneva, Switzerland <i>Sep. 2008–Sep. 2011</i> |

Professional Experience

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| International Food Policy Research Institute <i>Senior Research Assistant</i> | Washington DC, USA <i>Apr. 2015–Jul. 2016</i> |
| The World Bank <i>Research Assistant</i> | Washington DC, USA <i>Feb. 2014–Mar. 2015</i> |
| Innovations for Poverty Action <i>Research Intern</i> | Manila, Philippines <i>Jun. 2013–Aug. 2013</i> |

Teaching and RA Experience

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|---|---|
| RA for Prof. Ariell Reshef <i>Short term contracts: long term trends and wage returns.</i> | Paris, France <i>Spring 2019</i> |
| SciencesPo Paris <i>Introduction to Public Economics, graduate level.</i> Lecturer for prof. Ghazala Azmat and Anton Granik. | Paris, France <i>Fall 2018, Fall 2017</i> |
| Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne <i>Introduction to Econometrics, undergraduate level.</i> TA of Prof. Catherine Doz | Paris, France <i>Spring 2018</i> |

Honors, Scholarships and Fellowships

- 4th year Doctoral Contract from the PSE Labor Chair. 2020.
- Young Labour Economist Prize at EALE 2019 for the paper "Do Skilled Migrants Compete with Native Workers?" (Award for best single-authored paper by junior economist).
- European Doctoral Program scholarship for visiting the LSE (tuition waiver). 2019.
- PSE Mobility grant (4600€). 2019.
- OECD Future of Work Fellowship (5000€). 2019.
- Doctoral Scholarship from PSE Labor Chair (3 years contract). 2017.
- Ranked 1st of cohort in the Masters of Public Policy and Development of PSE. 2017.

Job Market Paper

Do Skilled Migrants Compete with Native Workers? Analysis of a Selective Immigration Policy ([Final version](#))

Young Labour Economist Prize Winner - ([EALE 2019](#))

In recent years high-skill immigration has been often encouraged by governments aiming to support their economy, but its impact on native workers facing a direct increase in competition is still debated. This paper addresses the question by taking advantage of a reform facilitating the hiring of foreign workers within a list of technical occupations. The analysis relies on administrative employer-employee data and applies a difference-in-differences approach. Results show that the reform was successful in boosting migrants' hires without affecting native employment. Wages decrease following the supply shift but, in contrast with the standard model predictions, do so twice as much for migrants than for natives. I find that two channels explain this differential effect: imperfect degree of substitution in production and differences in bargaining power. Finally, I use worker-level panel data to show that the additional competition does not generate native flight.

Work in Progress

Too Constrained to Grow. Analysis of Firms' Response to the Alleviation of Skill Shortages. ([Current version](#))

Skill shortages are a growing concern in the context of rapid technological change, raising the question of their cost for the economy and of the effectiveness of policies aiming to reduce them. This paper evaluates the effect of a French reform facilitating the hiring of immigrant workers with highly-demanded competencies on the firms that were constrained by the scarcity of these skills. The analysis is based on administrative data and applies a difference-in-differences strategy. Results show that the firms most exposed to the reform react by hiring more workers in tight occupations. This leads to higher growth in their revenues and value added, and generates some crowding-in of other types of employment. Conversely, productivity and capital stock do not react to the policy in the short run. Findings confirm that shortages in key-competencies significantly hamper firms' growth potential, while immigration appears to be a viable solution against them.

Migration Reforms and Patenting within Multinational Firms: Causal Multi-country Evidence. *with D. Bahar, R. Choudhury, J. Sappenfield*

The international mobility of inventors is increasingly considered a key mechanism for the geography of knowledge production by MNEs, but evidence of this relationship remains thin. This study investigates whether and to what extent MNEs' subsidiary-level investments in innovation change following migration reforms that either ease or reinforce barriers to immigration into country. We leverage a unique dataset merging patent data with exhaustive information on business-related migration reforms taking place in 15 countries over 26 years, and a novel event study approach. Our results show that both positive and negative reforms significantly affect the innovation activities of MNEs within a country, and that mobile inventors generate significant spill-overs on the knowledge production of never-movers.

Technological Change and Domestic Outsourcing of High and Low Skill Occupations.

with A. Bergeaud, C. Malgouyres and C. Mazet-Sonilhac

Domestic outsourcing has grown substantially in developed countries over the past two decades. While some studies document its implications for earnings inequality, very little is known regarding the drivers of this phenomenon. This paper addresses this question by studying the impact of the staggered diffusion of broadband internet on job outsourcing by French firms. We adopt an event study design and rely on employer-employee data. Our results confirm that broadband technology is skill-biased, since it increases the relative demand for high-skill workers. Further, we show that BI led firms to outsource some non-core occupations to service contractors, both in the low and high skill segment. In both cases, we find that employment related to these occupations become increasingly concentrated in firms specializing in these activities, and less likely to become performed in-house within firms specialized in other activities. Finally, we provide suggestive evidence that high-skill workers experience salary gains from being outsourced, while low-skill workers lose.

Technological Change and the Decline in Internal Labor Markets.

with E. Maurin

Internal labor markets used to be an important channel to intra-generational mobility, allowing low-skill workers that had accumulated enough experience to climb the job ladder within the firm. In this paper we document how they have been deteriorating steadily since the beginning of the century across three industrialized countries: France, the US, and the UK. For France, we use administrative firm-level data to open the black box of how firms recruit, and we show that while in the beginning of the period internal recruitments were associated with important reorganizations of the skill structure, later on the latter are increasingly achieved through external hires. In the final section we discuss our findings in the light of the technological changes and the digitalization of the workplaces.

Publications

Climate and Poverty in Africa South of the Sahara ([Link](#))

with C. Azzarri

World Development (2020)

A Spatial Analysis of Land Use and Cover Change and Agricultural Performance: Evidence from Northern Ghana ([Link](#))

with C. Azzarri, B. Haile, Z. Guo

Environment and Development Economics (2019)

Welfare effects of weather variability: Multi-country evidence from Sub-Saharan Africa ([Link](#))

with C. Azzarri, B. Haile, T. Johnson

PLOS ONE (2018)

Policy Reports

Malnutrition and climate patterns in the ASALs of Kenya: A resilience analysis based on a pseudo-panel ([Link](#))

with C. Azzarri, C. Roberts. IFPRI Report. 2016.

Golden Aging: Prospects for Healthy, Active and Prosperous Aging in ECA region ([Link](#))

Contributor. Main authors: M. Bussolo, J. Koettl, E. Sinnott. World Bank Report. 2015.

Shared Prosperity: Paving the Way in Europe and Central Asia ([Link](#))

Contributor. Main authors: L. F. Lopez-Calva, M. Bussolo. World Bank Report. 2014.

Conferences and Seminars

2020:

- Summ. Sch. on Data & Algorithms for Science, Technology & Innovation studies. KU Leuven.
- 12th World Congress of the Econometric Society (ES). Virtual.
- 30th Congress of the European Economic Association (EEA). Virtual.
- Virtual Innovation Seminar (EPFL). Virtual.
- Applied young economists webinar (Warwick, Monash Business School). Virtual.
- Internal Seminar in Microeconomics (CREST, Ecole Polytechnique). Virtual.
- 3rd Workshop on Migration, Globalization and the Knowledge Economy (Bocconi). Virtual.
- Labor and Public Economics Seminar (PSE). Paris.

2019:

- PSE Annual Conference on Global Issues: Digital Transformations (PSE). Paris.
- CPB Research Seminar (CPB). The Hague.
- CEP Labour Market Workshop Series (LSE). London.
- CReAM Brown Bag Seminar (UCL). London.
- 31st European Association of Labour Economists Conference (EALE). Uppsala.
- IZA Summer School in Labour Economics (IZA). Munich.
- OECD Future of Work Fellowship Seminar (OECD). Paris.
- 1st Conference on Advances in Social Sciences Using Admin. Data (CASD-IAB). Paris.

Prior to 2019:

- 4th Annual Conference on Public Policy Evaluation (AFSE, DG Trésor). Paris 2018.
- Annual Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries (OECD). Paris 2017.
- CSAE Conference on Economic Development in Africa (Oxford University). Oxford 2016.

Seminar Organization

- International Junior Seminar on The Economics of Migration, Virtual 2020. ([website](#))
- Workshop "Labor Market Reforms : Lessons from Both Sides of the Alps". Paris 2019. ([website](#))