

Matt Dickson

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Current position

2023 – Professor of Economic and Social Policy, Institute for Policy Research, University of Bath, UK

Additional Roles

2019 – Research Affiliate, Centre for Education Policy and Equalising Opportunities (CEPEO), University College London, UK
2018 – 2023 Editorial Board membership: *Journal of Social Policy*
2018 – Editorial Board membership: *Journal of Education and Work*
2018 – 2021 Presenter, ‘Policy Matters’, monthly radio programme, Share Radio UK
2008 – Research Fellow, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA), Bonn, Germany
2000 – 2015 Research Associate, Centre for Market and Public Organisation (CMPO), University of Bristol, UK

Previous Positions

2017 – 2023 Reader in Public Policy, Institute for Policy Research, University of Bath, UK
2014 – 2017 Lecturer, Dept. of Social and Policy Sciences, University of Bath, UK
2012 – 2014 Prize (Research) Fellow, University of Bath, UK
2011 – 2012 Marie Curie Intra-European Research Fellow, UCD Geary Institute, University College Dublin, Ireland
2009 – 2011 ESRC Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, CMPO, University of Bristol, UK

Academic Qualifications

2017 Fellow of the Higher Education Academy
2004 – 2009 PhD Economics, University of Warwick, UK. Awarded February 2009
2002 – 2003 MSc Economics, University of Warwick, UK. Dissertation 82 (ranked #1 in year)
1997 – 2000 BSc (Hons) Economics & Politics (Class I), University of Bristol, UK

Publications in refereed journals

1. Bowman, S., Dickson, M., Howe, L., Hughes, A. and Morris, T. 2023. *Maternal depression and young people’s higher education*. **Journal of Affective Disorders**, forthcoming.
2. Davies, N., Dickson, M., Davey Smith, G., van den Berg, G. and Windmeijer, F. 2023. *The effect of education on adult mortality, health, and income: triangulating across genetic and policy reforms*, **International Journal of Epidemiology**, forthcoming.
3. Britton, J., van der Erve, L., Belfield, C., Vignoles, A., Dickson, M., Zhu, Y., Walker, I., Dearden, L., Sibieta, L. and Buscha, F. 2022. *How much does degree choice matter?*. **Labour Economics**, 79(2022) 102268, doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2022.102268>.
4. Hughes, A., Wade, K., Rice, F., Dickson, M., Davies, A., Davies, N., and Howe, L. 2021. *Common health conditions in childhood and adolescence and educational attainment, and the role of school absences*. **Nature Partner Journal: Science of Learning**, 6(1), doi: <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41539-020-00080-6>.

5. Harrison, S., Davies, A., Dickson, M., Tyrrell, J., Green, M., Katikireddi, S.V., Campbell, D., Munafò, M., Dixon, P., Jones, H., Rice, F., Davies, N., Howe, L. 2020. *The Causal Effects of Health Conditions and Risk Factors on Social and Socioeconomic Outcomes: Mendelian Randomization in UK Biobank*. **International Journal of Epidemiology**, vol. 49(5): 1661-1681.
6. Burgess, S., Dickson, M. and Macmillan, L. 2020. *Do Selective Schooling Systems Increase Inequality?* **Oxford Economic Papers**, vol. 72(1): 1-24.
7. Buscha, F. and Dickson, M. 2018. *A Note on the Wage Effects of the 1972 Raising of the School Leaving Age in Scotland and Northern Ireland*. **Scottish Journal of Political Economy**, vol. 65(5): 572-582.
8. Davies, N., Dickson, M., Davey Smith, G., van den Berg, G. and Windmeijer, F. 2018. *The causal effects of education on health outcomes in the UK Biobank*. **Nature Human Behaviour**, vol.2: 117-125.
9. Dickson, M., Gregg, P. and Robinson, H. 2016. *Early, late or never – when does parental education impact child outcomes?* **The Economic Journal**, vol. 126: F184-F231.
10. Dickson, M., Postel-Vinay, F. and Turon, H. 2014. *The Lifetime Earnings Premium in the Public Sector: The View from Europe*. **Labour Economics**, vol. 31: 141-161.
11. Sutherland, W. et al 2013. *100 Questions: Identifying Research Priorities for Poverty Prevention and Reduction*. **Journal of Poverty and Social Justice**, vol. 21(3): 189-205.
12. Dickson, M. 2013. *The Causal Effect of Education on Wages Revisited*. **Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics**, vol. 75(4): 477-498.
13. Buscha, F. and Dickson, M. 2012. *Raising the School Leaving Age: Returns in Later Life*, **Economics Letters**, vol. 117: 389-393.
14. Dickson, M. and Smith, S. 2011. *What Determines the Return to Education: an extra year or a hurdle cleared?* **Economics of Education Review**, vol. 30(6): 1167-1176.
15. Dickson, M. and Harmon, C. 2011. *Economic Returns to Education: What We Know, What We Don't Know, and Where We Are Going – Some Brief Pointers*. **Economics of Education Review**, vol. 30(6): 1118-1122.
16. Aassve, A., Burgess, S., Propper, C. and Dickson, M. 2006. *Employment, Family Union and Child-bearing Decisions in Great Britain*. **Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (Series A)**, vol. 169(4): 781-804.
17. Burgess, S., Propper, C. and Dickson, M. 2006. *The Analysis of Poverty Data with Endogenous Transitions*. **Fiscal Studies**, vol. 27(1): 75-98.

Handbook Chapters and related

1. Buscha, F. and Dickson, M. 2023. 'Returns to Education: Individuals' in Zimmermann, K.F. (eds) *Handbook of Labor, Human Resources and Population Economics*. Springer, Cham.
2. Buscha, F. and Dickson, M. 2022. 'Returns to education (human capital)' in Eriksson, T. (eds) *Encyclopaedia of Labour Studies*. Edward Elgar. *Forthcoming*.

Policy Reports and related publications

1. Dickson, M., Donnelly, M., Kameshwara, K. and Lazetic, P. 2023. *Graduate Underemployment in the UK and its scarring effects*. Institute for Policy Research.
2. Dickson, M. 2021. *Modelling the impact of raising the age of participation to 18*. Wales Centre for Public Policy.
3. Britton, J., Buscha, F., Dickson, M., van der Erve, L., Vignoles, A., Walker, I., Waltmann, B. and Zhu, Y. 2020. *The earnings returns to postgraduate degrees in the UK*. Department for Education Research Report DFE-RR996.
4. Dickson, M. and Macmillan, L. 2020. 'A methodological critique' in Furlong, J. and Lunt, I. (eds) *Social Mobility and Higher Education: Are grammar schools the answer?* Higher Education Policy Institute Occasional Paper 22.
5. Belfield, C., Britton, J., Buscha, F., Dearden, L., Dickson, M., van der Erve, L., Sibieta, L., Vignoles, A., Walker, I. and Zhu, Y. 2018. *The impact of undergraduate degrees on early-career earnings*. Department for Education Research Report DFE-RR808.
6. Belfield, C., Britton, J., Buscha, F., Dearden, L., Dickson, M., van der Erve, L., Sibieta, L., Vignoles, A., Walker, I. and Zhu, Y. 2018. *The relative labour market returns to different degrees*. Department for Education Research Report DFE-RR787.
7. Dickson, M. and Papps, K. 2016. *How the national minimum wage affects flows in and out of employment: An investigation using worker-level data*. Low Pay Commission Research Report.

Policy Briefs and related

1. Dickson, M. 2022. *Raising the age of participation in education or training to 18 in Wales*. Wales Centre for Public Policy.
2. Dickson, M. and Macmillan, L. 2020. *Inequality in Access to Grammar Schools*. Briefing Note no.3, Centre for Education Policy and Equalising Opportunities, University College London.
3. Economics Observatory video 'Labour market scarring on young people'; script writer and lead narrator.
4. 37 episodes of the 'Policy Matters' radio programme from Share Radio UK, hosted by Matt Dickson, available via Share Radio or via the IPR Policy Podcast series on Soundcloud.

Work in Progress

1. Dickson, M., Donnelly, M., Kameshwara, K. and Lazetic, P. 2023. *The scarring effects of graduate underemployment: evidence from the UK*.
2. Dickson, M., Forrester-Jones, R. and Skinner, T. 2023. *The dynamic effects of becoming disabled on work, wages, and wellbeing in the UK from 1991 - 2018*. Submitted.
3. Dickson, M. and Kameshwara, K. 2023. *The causal effect of education on political preferences: evidence from the UK's higher education expansion*.
4. Britton, J., Buscha, F., Dickson, M., van der Erve, L., Vignoles, A., Walker, I., Waltmann, B. and Zhu, Y. 2023. *Labour market returns to postgraduate degrees: Evidence from the UK*.

5. Adamecz, A., Dickson, M. and Shure, N. 2023. *The labour market returns to graduation: evidence from a UK cohort study.*
6. Buscha, F. and Dickson, M. 2015. *The wage returns to education over the life-cycle: Heterogeneity and the role of experience.*

Research Grants

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| 2023 | Nuffield Foundation , “The Raising of the Participation Age (RPA) to 18 in England has it worked?” PI. Award £357,978. Ref: EDO/FR-000024054. |
| 2023 | ESRC Research Grant , “Explaining ‘Unexplained’ Grade Inflation in the UK’s Universities”, with Robertas Zubrickas, Co-I. Award £210,228. Ref: ES/X006883/1. |
| 2022 | ESRC UK-South Korea Connections Grant , “Social security, the labour market and public health in the UK and South Korea: Lessons for post-pandemic recovery and reform”, with Yonsei University, South Korea and Wales Centre for Public Policy, Co-I. Award £35,124. Ref: ES/W010704/1. |
| 2022 | Quality-Related Strategic Priority Fund , “The dynamic effects of becoming disabled on work, wages and wellbeing in the UK and how these differ by gender and ethnicity” PI. Award £16,236. |
| 2022 | Quality-Related Strategic Priority Fund , “Further Education Colleges and the Levelling Up Agenda” Co-I. Award £22,354. |
| 2022 | Quality-Related Strategic Priority Fund , “The role of higher education graduate outcomes in the levelling-up agenda” PI. Award £6,000. |
| 2021 | ESRC Research Grant , “Risky Business: Understanding intergenerational persistence in entrepreneurship”, with University of Bath School of Management, Co-I. Award £685,409. Ref: ES/V016660/1. |
| 2020 | Wales Centre for Public Policy , “Modelling the impact of raising the age of participation to 18.” PI. Award £21,184. |
| 2020 | Quality-Related Strategic Priority Fund , “Addressing Risks of graduate un-/under-employment in the COVID-19 labour market.” PI. Award £21,210. |
| 2019 | Quality-Related Strategic Priority Fund , “Transforming Children’s Lives in BANES.” Co-I. Award £19,932. |
| 2019 | Nuffield Foundation , “Youth custody: Educational influences and labour market consequences”, with University of Westminster, London School of Economics, Rand Europe and Education Datalab, Co-I. Award £250,626. |
| 2017 | Health Foundation , “Social and economic consequences of health: causal inference methods and longitudinal, intergenerational data”, with University of Bristol, University of Cardiff, Public Health Wales, Co-I. Award £449,000. |
| 2017 | Department for Education Research Project , “An analysis of the employment and earning returns to Higher Education for graduates with first bachelor level degrees using administration data”, with the Institute for Fiscal Studies, Co-I. Award £100,559. |
| 2017 | Department for Education Research Project , “An analysis of the employment and earning returns to Higher Education for graduates with postgraduate degrees using administration data”, with the Institute for Fiscal Studies, Co-I. Award £81,065. |
| 2016 | ESRC Secondary Data Analysis Initiative, Department for Education Highlight Notice , “Early identification of young people at risk of poor educational and labour market outcomes: the role of educational institutions”, with Westminster Business School and Education Datalab. Co-I. Award £199,985. Ref: ES/P000975/1. |

- 2015 **Low Pay Commission Research Project**, “How the national minimum wage affects flows in and out of employment: An investigation using worker-level data”, with Kerry Papps. Co-I. Award £34,279.
- 2014 – 2017 **ESRC Seminar Series**, “Child Poverty and Social Mobility: Lessons for Research and Policy”, Co-I. Award £29,756. Ref: ES/M002179/1.
- 2014 **Bath and North East Somerset LA joint project with Institute for Policy Research**, Co-I. Award relating to MD work: £17,435.
- 2013 **University of Bath International Researcher Mobility Scheme**. PI. Award: £4,107.
- 2013 **South West Crucible**, interdisciplinary research project, PI. Award: £3,675.
- 2011 – 2013 **Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship**, PI. Award: €195,887.20. EC Framework FP7 programme, grant no. PIEF-GA-2010-275964.
- 2009 – 2011 **ESRC Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship**, PI. Award: £126,684.00. Grant no. PTA-026-27-2132.
- 2002 – 2007 **ESRC 1+3 Research Studentship**, PI. Grant no. PTA-030-2002-01677.

PhD supervision

- 2021 - Nadim Hamdan, thesis topic “The impact of COVID-19 on ethnic disparities in the UK labour market”. 2nd Supervisor.
- 2021 - Besuthu Hlafa, thesis topic “The impact of education on health behaviours and health outcomes in South Africa”. 3rd Supervisor.
- 2020 - Rachel Ambler, thesis topic “The impact of Early Childhood Development on Social Mobility in the UK”. Lead Supervisor.
- 2020 - Maxime Perrott, thesis topic “Exploring the relationship between relative school starting age, emotional development and ADHD diagnosis in England”. 2nd Supervisor.
- 2019 - 2023 Kalyan Kumar Kameshwara, thesis topic “Essays on Education Systems and Achievement: Evidence from Large-Scale Cross-National Assessments”. 2nd Supervisor.
- 2018 - Seren Essex, thesis topic “Do subject requirements of degree courses impose unfair or inappropriate constraints on who can apply, and impair efforts to widen access to higher education?”. Lead Supervisor.
- 2017 - 2022 Diana Teggi, thesis topic “End of Life Care in English Care Homes: Governance, Care Work and the Good Death”. Completed January 2022. Lead Supervisor.
- 2017 - 2020 Joe Chrisp, thesis topic “To what extent is a universal basic income politically feasible in advanced welfare states?”. Completed April 2020. 3rd Supervisor.
- 2017 - Qin Zhang, thesis topic “Urbanization and Public Policy in China”. 3rd Supervisor.

Invited Keynote Conference Presentations

- 2022 Inside Government Higher Education Conference: “Widening Participation and the Higher Education Bill: How Can Progress on Access be Delivered within the HE Reform Programme?”, 8 December 2022, London.
- 2022 Westminster Higher Education Forum, “Funding and regulation of undergraduate course provision in Englands universities - student choice, national economic needs, HEI capacity, finances and autonomy, and implications for social mobility”, 7 November 2022, London.
- 2021 International Conference on Different Aspects of Health, “The Future of Health: Multidisciplinary Approaches”, 26-28 May 2021.
- 2020 Westminster Higher Education Forum, “The graduate labour market post COVID-19: priorities for university careers services and the role of universities, employers and government in preparing students for employment”, 20 October 2020, London.

Invited Seminar Presentations

- 2022 University College London, Centre for Education Policy and Equalising Opportunities Seminar Series.
- 2021 University of Oxford, Quantitative Methods Hub Seminar series.
- 2019 Institute of Education, UCL, Intergenerational Mobility workshop; Warwick Business School, Widening Participation Symposium, Warwick.
- 2018 National Institute for Economic and Social Research, London, UK; Economics Dept., University of Dundee, UK; Economics Dept., University of Aberdeen, UK; UCL Institute of Education Workshop, London, UK.
- 2017 Geary Institute for Public Policy Analysis, UCD, Dublin; Economics Dept./Centre for Vocational Education joint seminar, University of Sheffield, UK.
- 2016 Fondazione Rodolfo De Benedetti, Sicily, Honorarium €1000.
- 2014 IAB Nuremberg, Germany; CMPO, University of Bristol, UK; Stellenbosch University, South Africa; Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany; Bristol–Bath Applied Micro Workshop, Bath, UK.
- 2013 Economics Dept., Newcastle University, UK; DIW Applied Micro Seminar, Berlin, Germany; Economics Dept., Lancaster University, UK.
- 2012 CHILD workshop, Collegio Carlo Alberto, Turin; National Institute for Economic and Social Research, London, UK; Scottish Institute for Research in Economics (SIRE) Workshop, University of Stirling, UK; Economics Dept., University of Surrey, UK; CMPO, University of Bristol, UK.
- 2011 Centre for Employment Research, University of Westminster, UK; Institute of Education, University of London, UK; CMPO Workshop on “Early life interventions and intergenerational mobility”, University of Bristol, UK.
- 2010 Economics Dept., University of Sheffield, UK; UCD Geary Institute, University College Dublin, Ireland.

International Conference Presentations

- 2023 Workshop on Labour and Family Economics (WOLFE), York, UK; International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education (IWAE), Catanzaro, Italy.
- 2022 European Association of Labour Economists (EALE), Padova, Italy; International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education (IWAE), Catanzaro, Italy; Social Policy Association Annual Conference (online); Royal Economics Society Annual Conference (online).
- 2021 Scottish Economics Society Annual Conference, online; Social Policy Association Annual Conference (online); International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education (IWAE) (online).
- 2019 European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) Annual Conference, Uppsala, Sweden; Social Policy Association Annual Conference, Durham, UK; European Society for Population Economics (ESPE) Annual Conference, Bath, UK.
- 2018 European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) Annual Conference, Lyon, France; European Society for Population Economics (ESPE) Annual Conference, Antwerp, Belgium; Royal Economics Society (RES) Annual Conference, Sussex, UK.
- 2017 Society of Labor Economists (SOLE) Conference, Raleigh, US; Scottish Economics Society Annual Conference (Special Session), Perth, Scotland; Social Policy Association Annual Conference, Durham, UK.
- 2016 Dondena Workshop on Public Policy, Bocconi University, Italy; EALE Annual Conference, Ghent; German Economic Association Annual Meeting, Augsburg.

- 2015 SOLE/EALE 4th World Meeting, Montreal, Canada; American Economic Association Annual Meeting, Boston, US.
- 2014 EALE Annual Conference, Slovenia; International Association for Applied Econometrics Annual Conference, UK; ESPE Annual Conference, Portugal.
- 2013 International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education, Catanzaro, Italy; Scottish Economics Society Annual Conference, Perth, Scotland; RES Annual Conference, RHUL, London.
- 2012 ZEW Workshop on Education and Equality of Opportunity, Mannheim, Germany; EALE Annual Conference, Bonn, Germany; Work and Pensions Labour Economics Study Group (WPEG) Annual Conference, Sheffield, UK; International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education, Catanzaro, Italy.
- 2011 EALE Annual Conference, Cyprus; 10th IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting of Labor Economists, Munich, Germany.
- 2010 Work and Pensions Labour Economics Study Group (WPEG) Annual Conference, Bristol, UK; SOLE/EALE 3rd World Meeting, London, UK; International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education, Catanzaro, Italy.
- 2009 EALE Annual Conference, Tallinn, Estonia; British Household Panel Survey Research Conference, Essex, UK; RES Annual Conference, Surrey, UK.
- 2008 IZA Summer School in Labour Economics, Munich, Germany.
- 2004 ESPE Annual Conference, Bergen, Norway.

University Service – Administrative Roles

- 2019 Local Organizing Committee, European Society of Population Economics Annual conference, Bath
- 2017 – 2018 Director of Studies, MRes Advanced Quantitative Methods
- 2017 – 2018 Pathway Lead, Inter-disciplinary PhD Pathway (Advanced Quantitative Methods), South West Doctoral Training Partnership
- 2012 – 2017 Deputy Director, Centre for Analysis of Social Policy (CASP), University of Bath

External Service – Policy related advisory roles

- 2022, 2023 Advisor to the Social Mobility Commission, multiple meetings
- 2020 Application assessor for Dept. for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (Business Basics Round 3); member of interview panel for short-listed applications
- 2016 Technical advisor to Dept. for Education re Programme Evaluation
- 2013 – Contributor to All Party Parliamentary Group on Social Mobility
- 2012 Presentation on early years education to Welsh Assembly Government
- 2008, 2009 Presentation on public pay determination to HM Treasury

External service – Refereeing

Journal of Political Economy, The Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Labor Economics, The Economic Journal, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, Journal of Human Resources, European Economic Review, Journal of the Royal Statistical Society (Series A), Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Human Capital, Journal of Health Economics, Economica, Health Economics, Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics, Oxford Economic Papers, Labour Economics, Research in Labor Economics, Economics of Education Review, CESifo Economic Studies, Fiscal Studies, Education Economics, Journal of Education and Work, Scottish Journal of Political Economy, The Manchester School, Social Science Research, Journal of Social Policy, Economics Bulletin, National Institute Economic Review, Oxford Review of Education, Social Policy and Administration.

External service – Reviewing Grant Applications

Grant reviewer for Nuffield Foundation, 2023

Member of ESRC/ADR “GUiE, LEO and ASHE-Census Fellowship” Assessment Panel, 2023.

Member of ESRC/ADR UK/Ofqual/Department for Education/UCAS “GRading and Admissions Data for England (GRADE) Research Fellowship” Assessment Panel, 2022.

Member of ESRC Peer Review College – have reviewed Research Grants, Small Grants and Post-doctoral Fellowships.

Grant reviewer for Riksbankens Jubileumsfond, Sweden.

External service – External Examiner

- 2023 – Royal Holloway University of London (RHUL), undergraduate economics programme.
- 2023 PhD final viva voce: University College London (March); Royal Holloway University of London (January).
- 2022 PhD final viva voce: University College London (October); Lancaster University (August); University of Strathclyde (July).
- 2020 PhD final viva voce: Newcastle University (August); University of Strathclyde (July).
- 2019 PhD final viva voce: University of Sheffield (August); University College London (February).
- 2018 PhD final viva voce: University of Westminster (May).

Association Memberships

Society of Labor Economists

Social Policy Association

European Association of Labour Economists

European Society for Population Economics

Royal Economics Society (plus Annual Conference Programme Committee, 2017)