

# Benjamin Elsner

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## Contact Information

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## Fields of Interest

**Labor Economics, Public Economics, International Economics, Microeconometrics**

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## Current positions

**Assistant Professor** with tenure, University College Dublin, School of Economics Since 2018

## Past positions

**Deputy Program Director Labor Mobility**, IZA, Bonn, Germany, 2014-2020  
**Senior Research Associate**, IZA, Bonn, Germany 2014-2017  
**Research Associate**, IZA, Bonn, Germany 2012-2014

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## Education

**PhD in Economics**, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, 2008-2012  
**Visiting PhD Student**, Bocconi University, Milan, Italy, Spring 2011  
**M.A. (Diplom), Economics, with Honors**, University of Regensburg, Germany, 2003-2008  
**Visiting Student**, University of Łódź, Poland, 2005-2006

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## Publications

- 8) **Taking the Skill bias out of Global Migration** (joint with Costanza Biavaschi, Michał Burzyński and Joël Machado )  
*Journal of Development Economics*, 2020, 142.
- 7) **Tax Refunds and Income Manipulation: Evidence from the EITC** (joint with Florian Buhlmann and Andreas Peichl)  
*International Tax and Public Finance*, 2018, 25(6), 1490-1518.
- 6) **Migrant Networks and the Spread of Information** (joint with Gaia Narciso and Jacco Thijssen)  
*Oxford Bulletin of Economics & Statistics*, 2018, 80(3), 659-688.
- 5) **Rank, Sex, Drugs, and Crime** (joint with Ingo Isphording)  
*Journal of Human Resources*, 2018, 53(2), 356-381.
- 4) **A Big Fish in a Small Pond: Ability Rank and Human Capital Investment** (joint with Ingo Isphording)  
*Journal of Labor Economics*, 2017, 787-828.
- 3) **Does Emigration Increase the Wages of Non-emigrants in Sending Countries?**  
*IZA World of Labor*, 2015.

2) **Emigration and Wages: The EU Enlargement Experiment**,  
*Journal of International Economics*, 2014, 91(1), 154-163.

1) **Does Emigration Benefit the Stayers? Evidence from EU Enlargement**,  
*Journal of Population Economics*, 2013, 26(2), 531-553.

#### Working Papers

- 1) **Let's be Selective about Migrant Self-selection** (joint with Costanza Biavaschi)
- 2) **Poor Voters, Taxation and the Size of the Welfare State** (joint with Arnaud Chevalier, Andreas Lichter and Nico Pestel) *submitted*
- 3) **Achievement Rank Affects Performance and Major Choices in College** (joint with Ingo Isphording and Ulf Zölitz) *revise & re-submit at Economic Journal*
- 4) **The Limits of Natural Variation: the Distributional Treatment Problem in the Estimation of Peer Effects** (joint with Ingo Isphording)
- 5) **The Cognitive Meltdown: Radiation and Human Capital after Early Childhood** (joint with Florian Wozny) *submitted*

#### Books edited

Editor of **Foundations of Migration Economics**, a book in honor of the IZA Prize in Labor Economics to George Borjas and Barry Chiswick.  
*Oxford University Press*, 2018.

#### Book Chapters

- 3) **Immigration and Redistribution** (joint with Jeff Concannon),  
in: Robert M. Sauer (ed.), "Handbook of Global Migration", World Scientific, *forthcoming*.
- 2) **The Economic Effects of Migration**,  
in: Brancaccio, T., Y. Deli, I. Pastine and C. Whelan, "Economics in Action: Topics and Resources", McGraw Hill, 2019.
- 1) **10 Years After: EU Enlargement, Closed Borders, and Migration to Germany** (joint with Klaus F. Zimmermann),  
in: Kahanec, M., and Zimmermann, K.F., "Migration and the Great Recession: Adjustments in the Labour Market of an Enlarged European Community", Edward Elgar, 2014.

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#### Grants

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|---|-----------|
| <b>Irish Research Council</b>   | 2020      |
| Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship<br>(EUR 48,000; Co-PI: Diego Zambiasi)   |           |
| <b>Irish Research Council</b>   | 2019      |
| Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship<br>(EUR 72,000; Co-PI: Emanuele Albarosa)  |           |
| <b>German Ministry of Education (BMBF)</b>  | 2017      |
| Research grant for a project on the determinants of college dropout<br>(EUR 170,000; w. Ingo Isphording, Florian Wozny, Ulf Zölitz) |           |
| <b>IRCHSS</b> Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship (EUR 16,000)   | 2011-2012 |

#### Honors and Awards

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| <b>Best Paper Award</b> Spring Meeting of Young Economists                         | 2018      |
| <b>Novartis Prize</b> Best paper in health economics, IEA conference               | 2018      |
| <b>Best Paper Prize</b> Warsaw International Economic Meeting                      | 2016      |
| <b>Labour Economics</b> Excellence in Refereeing Award                             | 2015      |
| <b>FEEM Award ("Young Economist Award")</b> European Economic Association,         | 2010      |
| <b>Strategic Innovation Fund</b> PhD Scholarship                                   | 2008-2011 |
| <b>Award for the best M.A. thesis</b> in economics at the University of Regensburg | 2008      |
| <b>Haniel Foundation</b> "Go East" scholarship for studies abroad                  | 2005      |
| <b>Erasmus</b> scholarship for studies abroad                                      | 2005-2006 |

#### Invited Seminars

**2020**

U Groningen (online), Graduate Institute Geneva (online), U St. Andrews (online), U Cardiff (online)

**2019**

Bicocca, Queen's University Belfast, ESRI, VU Amsterdam, U Vilnius, U Potsdam

**2018**

UCD Geary Institute, Trinity College Dublin, CERGE-EI Prague, Masaryk University Brno, Paris School of Economics, University of Trier, LISER

**2017**

University College Dublin, PSE, OECD, University of Freiburg, RWI Essen, IOS Regensburg, U Regensburg

**2016**

SOFI Stockholm, Maastricht University, U Mannheim (public lecture), U Cologne, U Colorado Denver, U Leicester, U Oxford, U Duisburg-Essen, U Kent, U Bayreuth, U Bonn

**2015**

University of Mainz, IAB Nuremberg, Modul University Vienna, WU Vienna, Concordia University, University of Mannheim, University of Regensburg, U Dusseldorf

**2014**

DIAL Paris, NIW Hannover, University of Hamburg, Temple University, George Washington University, University of Dusseldorf (DICE), University of Heidelberg, University of Freiburg, IRES-UC Louvain

**2013**

University College Dublin, University of Southern Denmark, IOS Regensburg, University of Münster

**2012**

University of Edinburgh, LMU Munich, IZA Bonn, University of Stirling

**2011**

University College Dublin, NUI Maynooth, SSE Riga, Bocconi, Fondazione Eni Enrico Mattei (Milan), Institute for East European Studies (Regensburg)

**2010**

Trinity College Dublin

#### Conference Presentations

**2019**

Workshop on Mobility and Migration (Bank of Italy, Rome)

**2018**

Irish Economic Association

**2017**

IZA Annual Migration Meeting (Bonn), IZA Workshop on the Environment and Labor Markets, EALE (St. Gallen), IZA Workshop on the Economics of Education

**2016**

SOLE Meetings (Seattle), EALE (Ghent), RGS/RWI Workshop on the Economics of Migration (Essen), IZA Workshop on the Economics of Education, ZEW Workshop on Migration (Mannheim)

**2015**

IZA Workshop "Inequality: Causes and Consequences" (Bonn), SOLE/EALE World Congress (Montreal), Workshop Health.Skills.Education (Essen), IZA/Worldbank Conference on Employment and Development (Bonn), EEA Meeting (Mannheim), Verein für Socialpolitik (Münster), Workshop "Immigration in OECD Countries" (Paris)

**2014**

FERDI Workshop "International Labor Mobility and Inequality across Nations" (Clermont-Ferrand), RES Annual Conference (Manchester), SOLE (Arlington, VA), Annual Migration Meeting (Bonn), EALE (Ljubljana)

**2013**

RES Annual Conference (RHUL, London), NORFACE migration conference (UCL, London), EALE (Torino), IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting (Munich), ESPE (Aarhus), Worldbank Migration Conference (Ifrane, Morocco), ETSG (Birmingham), CEMIR workshop on migration (Munich), IZA/ASE Workshop "EU Enlargement and the Labor Markets" (Bucharest), OECD workshop "Immigration in OECD Countries" (Paris)

**2012**

RES PhD Meeting (London), Irish Economic Association (Dublin), EEA Meetings (Málaga), ESEM (Málaga), German Economic Association (Göttingen), IZA/CEU Workshop on EU Enlargement and the Labor Markets (Budapest), Immigration in OECD Countries (Paris)

**2011**

Mainz Workshop in Labor Economics (Mainz), NORFACE Conference "Migration: Economic Change, Social Challenge" (London), German Economic Association (Frankfurt), Irish Society of New Economists (Dublin), 2nd TEMPO Conference on International Migration (Vienna), SAE (Málaga)

**2010**

EEA Meetings (Glasgow), Irish Society of New Economists (Dublin), RGS Doctoral Conference (Bochum), Irish Economic Association (Belfast)

**2009**

Irish Society of New Economists (Limerick)

**Media  
Appearances**

Deutsche Welle (internet; 22/01/2013); Wall Street Journal (internet; 08/05/2013); Spiegel online (internet; 08/05/2013); Rzeczpospolita (internet; 28/05/2013); Phoenix (tv; 2x: 28/05/2013, 04/07/2013); MDR jump (radio; 01/05/2014); BBC Capital (internet; 03/07/2018); Boston Globe (internet; 14/04/2018), Bloomberg Opinion (4/9/2018)

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**Refereeing**

American Economic Review (2x), Review of Economic Studies (2x), Journal of Human Resources (4x),

Journal of International Economics (2x), Journal of Labor Economics (3x), Journal of the European Economic Association (3x), Management Science, Review of Economics & Statistics, Canadian Journal of Economics, European Economic Review (2x), Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (3x), Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Economic Geography, Journal of Population Economics (3x), Labour Economics (3x), Regional Science and Urban Economics (3x), Scandinavian Journal of Economics, American Journal of Health Economics, Economics of Education Review (2x), Economic Policy, Health Economics, Journal of Regional Science, Review of Development Economics, Review of Income and Wealth, Review of International Economics, China Economic Review, Economic Systems, Empirical Economics (2x), German Economic Review (3x), International Journal of Manpower, International Migration Review, IZA Journal of Development and Migration, IZA Journal of European Labor Studies, IZA Journal of Labor Economics, IZA Journal of Migration, IZA World of Labor (3x), Journal of Applied Economics, Journal of Common Market Studies, Journal of Development Studies, Oxford Development Studies, Scottish Journal of Political Economy

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|-------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>PhD examinations</b>       | CERGE-EI, Prague (reader)   | 2018               |
| <b>Grant Reviews</b>          | GLM-LIC project (IZA and DFID, 2x), OeNB Jubiläumsfonds (Austrian National Bank), Czech Science Foundation (2x)   |                    |
| <b>Editorships</b>            | <b>Managing Editor</b> (in substitution), IZA Journal of Labor Economics,   | Feb 2013-June 2013 |
| <b>Selection Committees</b>   | DIAL conference "Barriers to Development" 2015, Annual Conference of the German Economic Association (2017, 2020) |                    |
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| <b>Teaching Qualification</b> | <b>Professional Certificate in University Teaching &amp; Learning</b> , UCD                                       | 2019               |
| <b>Teaching Experience</b>    | <b>University College Dublin</b>  |                    |
|                               | Public Economics (B.Sc, lecture)  | 2019-              |
|                               | Econometrics (Ph.D course)  | 2018-              |
|                               | Introduction to Econometrics (B.Sc, lecture)  | 2018               |
|                               | Economics Research Workshop (B.Sc, lecture)   | 2018-              |
|                               | <b>Central Bank of Ireland</b>  |                    |
|                               | Introduction to Causal Inference (1-day course)   | 2018, 2019         |
|                               | New Developments in Causal Inference (1-day course)   | 2018, 2019         |
|                               | <b>University of Luxembourg</b>   |                    |
|                               | Economics of Migration (PhD Course)   | 2017               |
|                               | <b>European Business School, Wiesbaden</b>  |                    |
|                               | Introductory Econometrics (PhD, lecture and lab)  | 2014-              |
|                               | European Labour Markets (lecture)   | 2014-2017          |
|                               | <b>Trinity College Dublin</b>   |                    |
|                               | Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics (M.Sc)   | 2009-2012          |
|                               | <b>University of Regensburg</b>   |                    |
|                               | Economics of Migration (B.Sc, M.Sc)   | 2018               |
|                               | Teaching Assistant, Macroeconomics, Microeconomics (B.Sc)   | 2006-2008          |
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| <b>Conferences organized</b>    | <b>Annual Migration Meeting</b> (scheduled; co-organizer), Dublin/Ireland   | 2019      |
|                                 | <b>Annual Migration Meeting</b> (co-organizer), Cambridge, MA   | 2018      |
|                                 | <b>Irish Postgraduate and Early Career Economics Conference</b> (co-organizer), Dublin/Ireland  | 2018      |
|                                 | <b>Annual Migration Meeting</b> (AM <sup>2</sup> ; co-organizer), Bonn/Germany  | 2017      |
|                                 | <b>Annual Migration Meeting</b> (AM <sup>2</sup> ; sole organizer), Bonn/Germany  | 2016      |
|                                 | <b>Annual Migration Meeting</b> (AM <sup>2</sup> ; co-organizer), Dakar/Senegal   | 2015      |
|                                 | <b>Irish Society of New Economists</b> (ISNE), Dublin/Ireland   | 2010      |
| <b>Academic Service</b>         | <b>Seminar Organizer</b> , IZA,   | 2013-2017 |
|                                 | <b>PhD Student Seminar Organizer</b> , Trinity College Dublin   | 2010-2012 |
|                                 | <b>PhD Class Representative</b> , Trinity College Dublin  | 2009-2010 |
| <b>Supervision</b>              | <b>PhD:</b> Emanuele Albarosa (UCD, 2018-), Diego Zambiasi (UCD, 2018-), Mohsin Javed (UCD, 2019-), Michele Gubello (UCD, 2019-), Stefano Ceolotto (TCD, co-advisor, 2019-) |           |
|                                 | <b>M.Sc:</b> Christoph Deuster (U Bonn, 2013), Anusha De (UCD, 2019), Rafan Alfrayyan (UCD, 2019)   |           |
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| <b>Skills</b>                   | <b>Software:</b> Stata, MatLab, R, MS-Office, $\LaTeX$<br><b>Languages:</b> German (native), English (fluent), French , Polish (very good), Italian, Czech, Russian (basic) |           |
| <b>Professional Memberships</b> | American Economic Association, European Economic Association, German Economic Association   |           |
| <b>Other</b>                    | <b>Citizenship:</b> German<br><b>Family status:</b> married, 1 child (born 2017)  |           |