

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS

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TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS:

PRIMARY

Applied Economics
Labor Economics

SECONDARY

Migration
Intergenerational Mobility

GRADUATE STUDIES:

University College London, 2009-present

Principal Advisors: *Christian Dustmann and Uta Schönberg*

PRE-DOCTORAL STUDIES:

University of Bonn
UC Berkeley

DEGREE:

Diplom (MSc equivalent)
Visiting graduate student

DATE:

2003-2008
2006-2007

FIELD:

Economics
Economics

REFERENCES

Professor Christian Dustmann
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Professor Uta Schönberg
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Professor Anders Björklund
Department of Economics, Stockholm University
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Sweden
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Teaching Assistant, Department of Economics, University College London

2013/14 Econometrics (MSc Economic Policy)
2012/13 Econometrics (MSc Economic Policy)
2011/12 Econometrics (MSc Economic Policy)
2010/11 Labour Economics (BSc), various Cemmap masterclasses (William Greene, Alan Duncan, and Ron Smith)
2009/10 Microeconometrics (BSc), Labour Economics (BSc), Microeconomics (BSc)
Department of Economics Teaching Award: 1st prize

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT:

Fall 2007-Summer 2008 Student Assistant, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn
Summer 2007 Internship, Research Assistant, DIW Berlin, Berlin
Summer 2004-Summer 2006 Student Assistant, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS:

2010-13 UCL Impact Studentship, University College London
2010-12 Scholarship from the German National Academic Foundation (Studienstiftung)
2008/09 David Pearce Scholarship, University College London
2006/07 German Academic Exchange Service Scholarship (DAAD) for Postgraduate Studies at UC Berkeley

RESEARCH PAPERS:

Interpreting Trends in Intergenerational Mobility (Job Market Paper)

with Martin Nybom, Stockholm University

Shifts in the intergenerational transmission of economic status are commonly attributed to contemporaneous institutional, technological or social change. We argue that mobility trends may, instead, be caused by events in the more distant past. First, we examine the dynamic response of income mobility to structural changes in a theoretical model of intergenerational transmission. We find that mobility today depends on current but also past policies and institutions. Mobility variation across groups or countries can thus be due to former structural differences, and institutional reform or technological change may generate mobility trends that last over multiple generations. These trends are often non-monotonic – changing returns to skills or a shift towards a more meritocratic economy, for instance, tend to raise mobility initially while generating a negative trend over subsequent generations. Times of change are thus times of high mobility, and declining mobility today may reflect past gains rather than a recent deterioration of “equality of opportunity”. Second, we study a compulsory school reform in Sweden to test the dynamic implications of our model empirically. Exploiting register data over three generations we document a non-monotonic effect on income and educational mobility. Our results suggest that the reform reduced the transmission of economic disparities from parents to their offspring by up to one fourth in directly affected cohorts (born in the 1940/50s). However, the same policy increased measures of intergenerational persistence in the next generation. Of comparable magnitude, this second-generation effect is likely to persist up to very recent birth cohorts.

The Impact of Immigration on Local Labor Markets: Evidence from the Opening of the Czech-German Border

with Christian Dustmann and Uta Schönberg, University College London

Triggered by the fall of the iron curtain, German districts experienced a sudden and unexpected inflow of Czech workers that reached an employment share of up to ten percent along the border. We exploit this natural experiment to assess how immigration affects native workers, and to examine by which mechanisms labor markets adjust. We find that native wages and employment decrease strongly and rapidly, even in skill groups whose relative supply decreases. We document substantial heterogeneity in the response across age: native employment decreases most strongly among older workers, even though wage losses are smaller than in other age groups. We conclude that labor supply elasticities differ substantially across age. Finally, we find that native employment decreases predominantly through diminished inflows, while pre-existing native workers are far less affected by the local supply shock.

Mobility Across Multiple Generations: The Iterated Regression Fallacy

Empirical evidence on the degree of long-run mobility across multiple generations is scarce. Predictions are instead routinely derived by exponentiation of intergenerational measures, implying high long-run mobility even when intergenerational mobility is low. Such extrapolations however presume that regression implies perpetual regression, a statistical fallacy whose history and prevalence I briefly discuss. I then examine how elements of the transmission process affect the relation between intergenerational and multigenerational mobility. Considering the role of indirect transmission, multiplicity of skills, grandparents, and parental income I conclude that long-run mobility will likely be lower, possibly much lower, than predictions from intergenerational evidence suggest.

Heterogeneous Income Profiles and Life-Cycle Bias in Intergenerational Mobility Estimation

with Martin Nybom, Stockholm University

Using snapshots of income over shorter periods in intergenerational mobility estimation causes a so-called life-cycle bias if the snapshots cannot mimic lifetime outcomes. We use uniquely long series of Swedish income data and find that current empirical strategies do not eliminate such bias. We document that application of a widely adopted generalization of the classical errors-in-variables model improves OLS estimates of the intergenerational elasticity, but find that substantial bias remains. IV estimates show even stronger life-cycle effects and cannot provide reliable parameter bounds. Remaining inconsistencies stem from within-family correlation of income profile heterogeneity, with implications for other literatures that depend on measurement of long-run income.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES:

Journal Referee for *Economic Letters*, *European Economic Review*, *European Sociological Review*, *Journal of Labor Economics* (2x), *Journal of Population Economics*, *Scottish Journal of Political Economy*. Organizing Committee, *Norface Conference on Migration 2011* (London, April 6-9, 2011) and *Norface Conference on Migration 2013* (London, April 10-13, 2013). Co-organizer, *Economics Reading Group* at University College London (with Prof. Guy Laroque, 2011-present).

CONFERENCE AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS:

- 2013 Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University
Annual Conference of the European Association of Labour Economists (EALE), Torino
Annual Conference of the Royal Economic Society (RES), London
- 2012 3rd NORFACE Migration Workshop, University of Mannheim
IZA European Summer School in Labor Economics 2012, Buch am Ammersee
INSIDE-MOVE/NORFACE Workshop, Institute for Economic Analysis, Universidad Autònoma de Barcelona
- 2011 Annual Conference of the European Association of Labour Economists (EALE), Cyprus
Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University
- 2010 ENTER Conference, Toulouse School of Economics

OTHER INFORMATION:

Affiliation: Centre for the Study and Analysis of Migration (London), Institute for the Study of Labor (Bonn)
Languages: German, English (fluent), Spanish (basic)