

# Benjamin Elsner

---

## Contact Information

University College Dublin  
School of Economics  
Newman Building  
Belfield, Dublin 4  
Ireland

**Phone (office):** +353 1 716 8505  
**Phone (mobile):** +49 178 196 0717  
**E-mail:** [elsner@iza.org](mailto:elsner@iza.org)  
**Webpage:** [www.benjaminelsner.com](http://www.benjaminelsner.com)  
Updated: July 2018

---

## Fields of Interest

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

---

## Current positions

**Assistant Professor**, University College Dublin, School of Economics Since 2018  
**Deputy Program Director Migration**, IZA, Bonn, Germany, Since 2014

## Affiliations

**Research Fellow**, IZA, Bonn, Germany Since 2018  
**External Research Fellow**, CReAM, University College London, UK Since 2016  
**Research Fellow**, Geary Institute for Public Policy, University College Dublin, Ireland Since 2017

## Past positions

**Senior Research Associate**, IZA, Bonn, Germany 2014-2017  
**Research Associate**, IZA, Bonn, Germany 2012-2014

---

## Education

**PhD in Economics**, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland, 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

---

## Publications

8) **Tax Refunds and Income Manipulation: Evidence from the EITC** (joint with Florian Buhlmann and Andreas Peichl)  
*International Tax and Public Finance*, forthcoming.

7) **Migrant Networks and the Spread of Information** (joint with Gaia Narciso and Jacco Thijssen)  
*Oxford Bulletin of Economics & Statistics*, 2018, 80 (3), 659-688.

6) **Rank, Sex, Drugs, and Crime** (joint with Ingo Isphording)  
*Journal of Human Resources*, 2018, 53(2), 356-381.

5) **A Big Fish in a Small Pond: Ability Rank and Human Capital Investment** (joint with Ingo Isphording)  
*Journal of Labor Economics*, 2017, 787-828.

4) **Does Emigration Increase the Wages of Non-emigrants in Sending Countries?**  
*IZA World of Labor*, 2015.

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

2) **10 Years After: EU Enlargement, Closed Borders, and Migration to Germany** (joint with Klaus F. Zimmermann),  
*forthcoming* 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.

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)  
*reject & re-submit at the Journal of International Economics*
- 2) **Taking the Skill bias out of Global Migration** (joint with Costanza Biavaschi, Michał Burzyński and Joël Machado )  
*revise & re-submit at the Journal of Development Economics*
- 3) **Immigration, Voting, and Redistribution: Evidence from Post-War Germany** (joint with Arnaud Chevalier, Andreas Lichter and Nico Pestel)
- 4) **Achievement Rank Affects Performance and Major Choices in College** (joint with Ingo Isphording and Ulf Zölitz)
- 5) **The Limits of Natural Variation: the Distributional Treatment Problem in the Estimation of Peer Effects** (joint with Ingo Isphording)
- 6) **Radiation and Human Capital: Long-run Evidence from outside the Womb** (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*, forthcoming, 2018.

---

#### Grants

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>German Ministry of Education (BMBF)</b>   | 2017      |
| Research grant for a project on the determinants of college dropout (EUR 170,000; w. Ingo Isphording, Florian Wozny, Ulf Zölitz) |           |
| <b>IRCHSS Government of Ireland Postgraduate Scholarship (EUR 16,000)</b>  | 2011-2012 |

#### Honors and Awards

- |  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <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****2019**

Scheduled: Bicocca, Queen's University Belfast

**2018**

UCD Geary Institute, Trinity College Dublin, CERGE-EI Prague, Masaryk University Brno, Paris School of Economics, University of Potsdam, 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****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).

---

### Refereeing

Journal of Human Resources (2x), Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of the European Economic Association (3x), European Economic Review (2x), Industrial and Labor Relations Review, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (2x), Journal of Economic Dynamics and Control, Journal of Population Economics (3x), Labour Economics (3x), Regional Science and Urban Economics (2x), Scandinavian Journal of Economics, Economics of Education Review, Economic Policy, Journal of Regional Science, Review of Development Economics, Review of Income and Wealth, Review of International Economics, China Economic Review, Economic Systems, Empirical Economics, German Economic Review (3x), 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 Common Market Studies, Journal of Development Studies, Oxford Development Studies

**PhD examinations** CERGE-EI, Prague (reader) 2017

**Grant Reviews** GLM-LIC project (IZA and DFID, 2x), OeNB Jubiläumsfonds

**Editorships** **Managing Editor** (in substitution), IZA Journal of Labor Economics, Feb 2013-June 2013

**Selection Committees** DIAL conference "Barriers to Development" 2015, Annual Conference of the German Economic Association 2017

---

<b>Teaching Experience</b>	<b>University College Dublin</b>	
	Public Economics (B.Sc, lecture)	2019 (scheduled)
	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
	New Developments in Causal Inference (1-day course)	2018
	<b>University of Luxembourg</b>	
	Economics of Migration (PhD Course)	2017
	<b>European Business School, Wiesbaden</b>	
	Introductory Econometrics (PhD, lecture and lab)	2014-now
	European Labour Markets (lecture)	2014-now
	<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	
<b>Conferences organized</b>	<b>Annual Migration Meeting</b> (co-organizer), Cambridge, MA	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>Seminar Organizer</b> , IZA,	2013-2017
<b>Academic Service</b>	<b>Thesis Supervision:</b> Christoph Deuster (M.Sc, U Bonn, 2013)	
	<b>PhD Student Seminar Organizer</b> , Trinity College Dublin	2010-2012
	<b>PhD Class Representative</b> , Trinity College Dublin	2009-2010
	<hr/>	
<b>Skills</b>	<b>Software:</b> Stata, MatLab, R, MS-Office, $\LaTeX$	
	<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	
	<b>Family status:</b> married, 1 child (born 2017)	

---

## References

**Prof. Gaia Narciso**

Trinity College Dublin  
Department of Economics  
College Green  
Dublin 2  
Ireland  
Email: narcisog@tcd.ie  
Phone: +353 1 8961067

**Prof. Arnaud Chevalier**

Royal Holloway  
University of London  
Egham Hill  
Egham, Surrey  
TW20 0EX  
United Kingdom  
Phone: +44 1784 276394  
Email: Arnaud.Chevalier@rhul.ac.uk

**Prof. George Borjas**

Harvard Kennedy School  
79 JFK Street  
  
Cambridge, MA 02138  
United States  
Email: George\_Borjas@hks.harvard.edu  
Phone: +1 617-495-1393

**Prof. Frédéric Docquier**

IRES  
Université Catholique de Louvain  
3, Place Montesquieu  
B-1348 Louvain-La-Neuve  
Belgium  
  
Phone: +32 10 47 41 49  
Email: frederic.docquier@uclouvain.be