

Matthew Nibloe

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EDUCATION

University College London (UCL)

PhD Economics

2020–Date

- Thesis: The Labour Market Effects of Contractionary Fiscal Policy.
- Interests: Applied economics, causal analysis, public policy

MSc Economics, Distinction

2019–20

University of Nottingham *BSc Economics & Econometrics, First*

2016–19

RESEARCH PAPERS

“Levelling Down: The Distributional Consequences of Public Pay Caps”

Submitted to the Journal of Public Economics

Between 2010 and 2017, nominal wage growth in the UK public sector was capped at 1% for all workers earning above £21,000—the median annual salary in 2010. This paper examines the distributional consequences of this policy. We show that the cap reduced the return to observable characteristics in the public sector, coinciding with an 80% reduction in the public–private sector wage premium. Our counterfactuals suggest that the overall hourly P90–P50 ratio would have been 3.5 percentage points higher had public sector returns to characteristics moved in line with the private sector. Since public workers are disproportionately female and concentrated in the North, the policy substantially increased both the gender pay gap and the North–South divide. Over the same period, the public sector experienced relative declines in the share of degree-educated workers, prime-age workers, and high-skilled managers, further suppressing wage growth.

“Early Environment and Life Cycle Profiles of Earnings and Health”

With Pedro Carneiro and Sarah Cattan

We employ machine learning techniques to study lifetime trajectories of wages and health in the UK. We establish the presence of deep and persistent multidimensional inequality that is exacerbated over the life cycle. In particular, we highlight the existence of a significantly large group of deprived men and women who rarely enter employment and consistently score the lowest among their peers on common measures of mental and physical health. These trajectories are strongly correlated with cognitive, internalizing, and externalizing skills in childhood, which become increasingly important over time. Skills are especially strong predictors at later stages of development. Childhood environments are equally important: shocks to parental time, socioeconomic status, and hospitalization at age 11 all significantly reduce the probability of deprivation over the life cycle. A flexible neural network that takes skills, environments, and basic demographic factors as inputs can accurately predict deprivation, providing policymakers with a tool for targeted intervention.

RESEARCH PAPERS IN PROGRESS

“Capping Student Outcomes: The Long Run Effects of Public Sector Pay Freezes”

Job Market Paper

“Who Goes Public? A Cohort Analysis of Occupational Choice”

With Clara von Bismarck-Osten

“Worker Responses to Technological Shocks”

With Allen Shen and Jörn Onken

REFERENCES

Christian Dustmann
Economics Professor
University College London
c.dustmann@ucl.ac.uk

Uta Schönberg
Economics Professor
University of Hong Kong
schoenbe@hku.hk

EXPERIENCE

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

Consultant

2025–Date

- Coauthoring an academic project on the labour market effects of AI across OECD countries.
- Evaluating job destruction risks associated with structural changes from the green transition.

Economist Intern

April–Aug 2025

- Led analysis of the impact of AI on labour market outcomes for the 2027 Employment Outlook.

Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS)

Research Scholar

2021–Date

- Authoring policy reports for the Income, Work and Welfare team based on my original research.
- Applying clustering and neural networks to investigate the impact of early childhood investment on lifecycle trajectories of wages, mental and physical health outcomes.

Enrichment Student

2024–25

- Fully funded secondment to the IFS to collaborate with experts and further develop research.

ROCKWOOL Foundation Berlin (& CReAM)

2021–Date

Research Officer

- Participated in and coordinated an empirical analysis of the Ukrainian migration shock following the Russian invasion, which informed government refugee policy.
- Examined UK irregular migrant flows – research underpinned director’s meeting with Albanian PM.

Amazon

Jun–Sept 2022

Economist Intern

- Conducted causal inference analysis using large-scale datasets to inform pricing strategy.
- Presented findings to senior leadership (VP level); implemented strategy in a market worth £51bn.
- Selected as first intern in Europe.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ECON0021: Microeconometrics (UCL)

2021–

Prof. Aureo de Paula & Dr. Andrei Zeleneev

ECON0024: Economic Policy Analysis (UCL)

2021–24

Prof. Pedro Carneiro, Prof. Christian Dustmann, & Prof. Sir Richard Blundell

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Software: R, STATA, Python, Matlab, SQL.

Languages: English (native), German (basic).

AWARDS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

Awards	UCL Stone Centre Funding	2025–Date
	CReAM/RFBerlin Funding	2022–Date
	UCL PhD Scholarship	2021–Date
	IFS Funding	2024–25
	UCL Student Choice Award for Inspiring Teaching Delivery (Roll of Honour)	2024
Presentations:	UCL Economics: Best Final Year Undergraduate Teaching Assistant	2022, 2023
	Econometric Society World Congress, OECD, HEC Paris PhD Conference*, Warwick CAGE Conference*	2025
	AASLE, UCL Applied Research Day, CReAM Annual Conference, IFS, UCL, Stone Centre Annual Conference, Rockwool Foundation Berlin	2024
Organisation:	CReAM Topics in Labor Economics Annual Conference	2024
Reports:	Economic Lessons from 25 Years of National Devolution (Resolution Foundation)	2024
Uni Societies:	Finance , <i>Investment Fund Manager</i> : active investment in equities	2018–19
	Current Affairs , <i>President</i> : hosted debates and partnered with The Economist	2018–19
	Social Experiments , <i>Founder & President</i> : conducted student-led experiments	2018–19

* - project presented by a coauthor