

Contact Details

Department of Economics
Business School
University of Aberdeen
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Employment

Since 2012: University of Aberdeen, Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Economics,
jointly with the Health Economics Research Unit
(On maternity leaves from August 2019 to July 2020; and September 2022 to July 2023)

2009–2012: Teaching Assistant, University of Warwick

2010 Summer: Intern, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, OECD, Paris

2006 Summer: Research Assistant for Prof. Yasuyuki Todo, Tokyo

External Affiliation

Since 2017: Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA), Research Fellow

2012–2017: IZA, Research Affiliate

Higher Education

2007 – 2012: PhD Economics, University of Warwick (Completed in December 2012)
Thesis Title: “Identification of Causal Effects using the 1995 Earthquake in Japan: Studies of Education and Health”
Advisors: Wiji Arulampalam, Robin Naylor, and Fabian Waldinger
Thesis Examiners: Sonia Bhalotra and Victor Lavy

2006 – 2007: MSc Economics, University of Warwick (Distinction in dissertation)

2004 – 2006: MA Economics/Economic Policy, Tokyo Metropolitan University (First class)

2000 – 2004: BA Economics, Tokyo Metropolitan University

Research Interests

Main fields: Labour Economics, Health Economics

Secondary fields: Applied Econometrics, Economics of Crime

Publications

“Where to live? English proficiency and residential location of UK migrants” (with Lualhati Santiago), 2024. *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organisation*, Vol. 221, pp. 73-93. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2024.03.015>

“Speak better, do better? Education and health of migrants in the UK”, *Labour Economics*, 2018, Vol. 52, pp.1-17 (with Lualhati Santiago). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2018.03.003>

“Donating time to charity: Working for nothing?” *Oxford Economic Papers*, 2017, vol. 69, issue 1, pp.97-117. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oeq/gpw048>

- **Media coverage:** BBC Radio Scotland, The Times, Daily Mail, Daily Express and Evening Express.
- **Award:** Cairncross Prize for the best paper by a young economist in the Scottish Economic Society (£1,000).
- **Accompanying academic blog:** “The power of volunteering: You make me happy and I make you happy”, *Oxford University Press Blog*, October 2016.

“Are immigrants more likely to commit crimes? Evidence from France” (with Yasuyuki Todo), *Applied Economics Letters*, 2009, vol. 16, issue 15, pp. 1537 – 1541. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504850701578892>

Policy Papers

“Speak well, do well - English language proficiency and health and social outcomes of UK immigrants”, *Health Economics Research Unit Policy Brief*, University of Aberdeen, 2016.

“FDI and economic growth in less developed countries: A theoretical and empirical survey” (with Yasuyuki Todo), *OECD Journal General Papers*, 2008, vol. 2008, no. 1, pp. 1 – 186.

Working Papers

“Changing body weight of adolescents in Great Britain: The role of fast-food access” (with Wiji Arulampalam, Neil Lloyd and Sushil Mathew, University of Warwick), 2024.

This paper studies the role of availability of fast-food outlets within a proximity to residence and school, on BMI z-scores (zBMI) for adolescents aged 11 to 17. We use the UK Millennium Cohort Study data, linked to the locations of fast-food outlets at the postcode level. To account for time-invariant characteristics affecting zBMI, we use the K-means clustering method, and group children into clusters based on children’s zBMI at ages three to seven. We then create a dummy variable for each cluster, and use them in the subsequent analysis of the relation between adolescent zBMI and fast-food availability, to account for time-invariant unobserved characteristics affecting adolescent zBMI. We find that 45% of the variation in the observed zBMI at ages 11 to 17 can be explained by the cluster dummy variables, constructed based on the age three to seven zBMI. Another important finding is that availability of a Fish & Chips shop, a popular type of food outlet in the country, within a 5- to 10-minute walking distance from residence and school has a positive effect on zBMI.

“The intergenerational mobility of white working-class boys: Are they the most disadvantaged?” (with Harminder Battu and Patricio Valdivieso Massa, University of Aberdeen). Discussion Papers in Economics and Finance, vol. 19-2, 2edn, University of Aberdeen Business School, pp. 2-39, 2019.

We study the intergenerational mobility of the white working class relative to other ethnic and class groups in the United Kingdom, where mobility is captured using the occupation-based socioeconomic positions of fathers and their children. Using survey data, our results indicate that ethnic working-class boys are the poorest performing group in terms of social mobility, and that white working-class boys here achieve better social mobility outcomes than their ethnic peers, despite them having lower educational attainment. This we refer to as the ‘white working-class paradox’. We do not observe this paradox for girls.

“Shaking criminal incentives” (with Theodore Koutmeridis, University of Glasgow). IZA Discussion Paper No. 12781, 2019.

We study criminal incentives exploiting a historically unique source of exogenous variation, the unanticipated 1995 Kobe earthquake, which influenced several Japanese municipalities with thousands of deaths and building damages, while it left others unaffected. Natural experimental evidence between 1990-2000 indicates that the decline in burglaries post-earthquake is disproportionately large for affected municipalities, even after controlling for other key determinants, such as labour market conditions and police forces, possibly indicating the response of housebreakers to damages to housing that reduced the value of prospective takings. We tackle endogeneity concerns of housing damage by instrumenting the extent of damage with the distance from the earthquake epicentre, which arguably influences burglaries exclusively through devaluing the potential loot. This is the first comprehensive natural experimental study that explores the direct impact and potential substitution effects across different crime types in response to the changing economic value of prospective criminal takings, key but overlooked determinants of illegal behaviour.

Work in Progress

“The impact of Covid-19 lockdowns on body weight of adolescents” (with Wiji Arulampalam, Neil Lloyd and Sushil Mathew).

“Habit formation and children’s unhealthy food consumption: Evidence from Growing up in Scotland” (with Anne Ludbrook and Patricia Norwood).

Scholarships, Awards, and Research Grants

- 2022: British Academy Small Grant (£10,000), with Wiji Arulampalam
- 2021: CAGE Research Fund, Warwick (£5,000), with Wiji Arulampalam
- 2020: Elphinstone Scholarship from University of Aberdeen, UK (£49,500)
- 2016: Elphinstone Scholarship from University of Aberdeen, UK (£41,400).
- 2015: Early Career Engagement Grant by the Scottish Institute for Research in Economics (£3,120)
- 2014: Research Grant by the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland (£2,366)
- 2013: Winner of the Cairncross Prize for the best paper by an early-career economist, Scottish Economic Society 2013 Annual Conference (£1,000)
- 2008: Study Abroad Programme Bursary for graduate students from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (£54,160)
- 2004: Scholarship for graduate studies from the Japan Student Services Organisation, Japan (£13,920)
- 2000: Scholarship for undergraduate studies from the Japan Scholarship Foundation, Japan (£14,720)

Teaching

Current

Postgraduate: Quantitative Methods, Course coordinator; Health Economics for Health Professionals

Undergraduate: Health Economics, Course coordinator

Past

Postgraduate: Applied Econometrics; Topics in Health Economics and Econometrics; Economics of the Health Workforce;

Undergraduate: Microeconometrics; Econometrics; Mathematics and Statistics

Relevant Professional Experiences and Qualifications

Teaching qualifications and achievements

- 2019: Shortlisted for the Best Postgraduate Taught Lecturer in the Principal's Excellence Awards, University of Aberdeen.
- 2018-: Higher Education Academy (HEA) Fellow.

Refereeing

Journal of European Economics Associations; Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization; Labour Economics; Oxford Economic Papers; Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics; Economics and Human Biology; Applied Economics; National Tax Journal; Health Policy Open; Scottish Journal of Political Economy; IZA Journal of Labour Economics; Regional Science and Urban Economics; World Economy; Leverhulme Grant.

Administrative duties

- 2020-present: Programme Director of MA Economics (equivalent to BSc Economics), University of Aberdeen.
- Involved with accreditation and curriculum review, among others.
- 2013-2022: Business School external and internal seminar organiser; Health Economics Research Unit & Business School joint seminar organiser, University of Aberdeen.
- 2017-2019: Athena Swan committee member, University of Aberdeen.
- 2013-2019: Undergraduate student recruitment and life-cycle officer, University of Aberdeen.

Conferences and Seminars (2015 onwards)

- 2024: Third Scotland and Northern England Applied Microeconomics Workshop, Crieff; Scottish Economic Society conference, Glasgow; Stata Conference in Applied Econometrics, Marseille.
- 2022: Inaugural Scotland and Northern England Applied Microeconomics Workshop, Crieff; Scottish Economic Society & Royal Economic Society joint conference, Glasgow.
- 2021: University of Curtin Australia online; Scottish Economic Society online; ESPE Barcelona online.
- 2019/2020: University of Birmingham; ESPE at Bath; EALE-SOLE online; Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the European Union (IAAEU) online.
- 2018: EEA-ESEM at Cologne; International Association for Applied Econometrics Conference at Montreal; Scottish Economic Society at Perth; Glasgow University Workshop on Health Challenges.
- 2017: SOLE at Raleigh; EEA-ESEM at Lisbon; Oxford Workshop on Immigration, Health and Well-Being; ESPE at Glasgow; University of Dundee.
- 2016: IZA Migration Meeting at Bonn; International Association for Applied Econometrics Conference at Milan; University of Warwick.
- 2015: EALE-SOLE at Montreal; Alicante University Health Workshop; Essen Health Conference; Applied Economics of Education Workshop at Catanzaro Italy; University of Heriot-Watt; The CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis seminar.

Personal Information

Languages: Japanese (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)