

# Esther Mirjam GIRSBERGER

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UTS Business School  
Department of Economics  
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Citizenship: Swiss, Australian

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[Google Scholar profile](#)

## RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

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Development, Labour & Public Economics, Structural & Applied Econometrics

## CURRENT & PAST ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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- 07/2023 – **Senior Lecturer (Advanced Assistant Professor):** University of Technology Sydney, UTS Business School, Department of Economics
- 08/2018 – **Lecturer (Assistant Professor):** UTS Business School, Department of Economics  
06/2023
- 12/2023 – **Research Fellow:** IZA Institute for Labor Economics, Bonn
- 11-2014 – **Research Affiliate:** IZA Institute for Labor Economics, Bonn  
12/2023
- 08/2014 – **Postdoctoral Research Fellow:** University of Lausanne, NCCR Lives & Department of  
07/2018 Economics
- Spring 2017, 2018 **Part-time lecturer:** University of Lausanne, Department of Economics

## VISITING APPOINTMENTS

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- 01 – 06/2023 **Visiting Assistant Professor:** University of New South Wales (UNSW), Business School, Department of Economics
- 04 – 05/2023 **Visiting Assistant Professor:** University of Oxford, Department of Economics

## EDUCATION

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- 2010 – 2015 **Ph.D. in Economics:** European University Institute, Florence (Italy)  
Thesis title: “Essays on Migration, Education and Work Opportunities”  
Committee: Jérôme Adda (advisor), Árpád Ábrahám (advisor), Jeremy Lise, Ahu Gemici
- 09 – 10/2012 **Visiting Assistant in Research:** Yale University, New Haven CT (USA)
- 2009 – 2010 **M.Res. in Economics:** European University Institute, Florence (Italy)
- 2006 – 2008 **M.Sc. in Economics:** University of Lausanne, Lausanne (Switzerland)
- 2003 – 2006 **B.Sc. in Economics:** University of Lausanne, Lausanne (Switzerland)
- 2005 – 2006 **Erasmus exchange student:** University of Carlos III, Madrid (Spain)

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Mothers at Work: How Mandating A Short Maternity Leave Affects Work and Fertility**, with Lena Hassani-Nezhad, Kalaivani Karunanethy and Rafael Lalive, *Labour Economics*, 2023, 84, 102364.

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**Interpersonal, cognitive and manual skills: How do they shape employment and wages?**, with Miriam Koomen and Matthias Krapf, *Labour Economics*, 2022, 78, 102235.

**Regional migration and wage inequality in the West African Economic and Monetary Union**, with Romuald Méango and Hillel Rapoport, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2020, 48(2), 385-404.

**On the economic impact of international sport events: microevidence from survey data at the EURO 2008**, with Michael J. Lamla and Martin Straub, *Applied Economics*, 2014, 46(15), 1693-1703.

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#### WORKING PAPERS

**Migration, Education and Work Opportunities** (Reject & Resubmit)  
IZA Discussion Paper No. 11028 (September 2017)  
*Previous version: Winner of the Young Economist Award of the SSES 2015*

**The Puzzle of Educated Unemployment in West Africa** (with Romuald Méango)  
(Reject & Resubmit)  
IZA Discussion Paper No. 15721 (November 2022)

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#### WORK IN PROGRESS

**Labour market expectations and job search of young graduates in Cote d'Ivoire**  
(with Romuald Méango and Richard Moussa) (status: pilot completed)

**Labour Market and Human Capital Effects of Commodity Price Booms** (with  
Valentina Duque and Juan Zurita) (status: presentation mode)

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#### MEDIA AND POLICY ARTICLES (not peer-reviewed)

[Boosting maternity leave payments would benefit the economy, not just parents](#),  
*The Conversation*, August 2023.

**Läuft die US-Konjunktur der Wirtschaftsentwicklung in Europa voraus?**, *KOF  
Analysen*, December 2008.

**The impact of globalization on employment** (with Michel di Pietro and Alain Vuille),  
report by the Swiss Federal Statistical Office, September 2007.

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#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

Coordinator & Instructor

Since 2020 Economics of the Environment, University of Technology Sydney, Bachelor.  
Since 2019 Introductory Econometrics, University of Technology Sydney, Bachelor.  
2017, 2018 Political and Institutional Economics, University of Lausanne, Master.

Teaching Assistant

2010 Macroeconomics 1, European University Institute, PhD.  
2007/08 Decision Analysis, University of Lausanne, Bachelor.

## Teacher Training

06/2013 Teaching Skills Week, European University Institute, Teacher Training for Higher Education

## STUDENT ADVISING (Master and honours students)

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2022 Jake Graceffo (first placement: graduate at NSW Treasury), Benaya Li (first: senior consultant at Ernst & Young)

2021 Erin Clarke (first: research assistant at ARTD Consulting; now: research economist at e61)

2019 Ramya Prabhakaran (first: evaluator at NSW Department of Education; now: Master in Development Studies at LSE)

2017 Julia Buensod (first: advisor data analytics at PwC; now: senior advisor at PwC)

## PAST PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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01 – 02/2009 **ANTBA** (local NGO for literacy promotion), Ougadougou, Burkina Faso, Volunteer

02 – 12/2008 **Konjunkturforschungsstelle der ETH Zürich (KOF)**, Research Internship

09/2006 – **Swiss Federal Statistical Office (BFS)**, Research Internship

08/2007

## SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS (\* incl. scheduled)

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2024 \*Australian National University.

2023 Monash University; University of New South Wales; University of Warwick; University of Oxford; McGill University; Université de Montréal.

2021 University of Lausanne (online); University of Technology Sydney.

2019 University of New South Wales; Royal Holloway University of London; Australian National University (Crawford Public Policy School); University of Melbourne; Melbourne Institute.

2018 University of Technology Sydney; Australian National University; University of Sydney; University of Queensland.

2017 University of St. Gallen; European University Institute, Florence; University of Geneva; University of Bristol.

2016 and before Macro Workshop, Lausanne; University of Zurich; BEER Lab Meeting & Micro Workshop, Lausanne; CREST, Malakoff (Paris); Tilburg University; University of Geneva; Toulouse School of Economics; Bocconi University; Micro Workshop, Lausanne; Microeconometrics Working Group, EUI, Florence; IEMS Seminars in Health and Labor Economics, Lausanne; Development Lunch Seminar, Yale University.

## PRESENTATIONS AT WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES

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2024 \*Econometric Society African Meeting, Abidjan.

2023 Econometric Society Australasian Meeting, Sydney; Macro Development Workshop, Melbourne.

2022 Australian Gender Economics Workshop, Canberra (online); Australian Development Economics Workshop, Sydney; Workshop on Natural Experiments, Melbourne; DSE Conference, Canberra.

2021	Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics (AASLE) Conference, Beijing (online); European Winter Meeting Econometric Society, Barcelona (online); Conference of Swiss Economists Abroad, Basel (online).
2019	CEPR/IGC/ILO/GSEM Conference on Labour Markets in Developing Countries, Geneva; Australian Development Economics Workshop, Perth; IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting for Labor Economists, Buch a/Ammersee; Australasian Labor Econometrics Workshop, Adelaide.
2018	Search & matching Conference, Cambridge; Annual Congress of the SSES, St. Gallen; IZA Junior/Senior Symposium, Bonn; Asian and Australasian Society of Labour Economics (AASLE) Conference, Seoul.
2017	CSAE Conference, Oxford; Annual Congress of the SSES, Lausanne; IZA Workshop Labor & Development, Bonn; EALE, St. Gallen; Spanish Economic Association, Barcelona.
2016 and before	Ski & Labor Economics Seminar, St. Anton; European Winter Meeting Econometric Society, Edinburgh; CSAE Conference, Oxford; Annual Congress of the SSES, Basel; IZA/World Bank Conference on Employment and Development, Bonn; SOLE/EALE World Meeting, Montreal; European Winter Meeting Econometric Society, Milan; IZA European Summer School in Labor Economics, Buch a/Ammersee; Annual Congress of the European Economic Association, Toulouse; EUI Alumni Conference in Economics, Florence; Conference of Swiss Economists Abroad, Zurich; 3rd year Researcher Forum, EUI, Florence; Augustin Cournot Doctoral Days, Université de Strasbourg.

#### GRANTS & AWARDS (for grants: PI = principal investigator, co-PI = principal co-investigator)

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2024	STEG large research grant (co-PI) (£100,000)
2023	STEG small research grant (co-PI) (£25,000)
2023	Africa Oxford Catalyst grant (co-PI) (£5,000)
2023	UTS Business School Research Grant (PI) (12,000 AUD)
2021	UTS Business School Research Grant (PI) (8,159 AUD, renewal from 2020)
2020	UTS Business School Research Grant (PI) (10,000 AUD, cancelled in March 2020)
2019 – 2020	UTS Parental Leave Research Support Funds (PI) (20,000 AUD)
2017 – 2018	Swiss National Science Foundation, 120% support grant (PI) (13,854 CHF ≈ 13,854 USD)
2016 – 2017	Swiss National Science Foundation, 120% support grant (PI) (19,820 CHF ≈ 19,565 USD)
2015 – 2016	Swiss National Science Foundation, 120% support grant (PI) (15,967 CHF ≈ 16,128 USD)
2015	Young Economist Award of the Swiss Society of Economics & Statistics (SSES)
2009 – 2014	PhD Scholarship, State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation, Switzerland
2004 – 2014	Fellowship, Swiss Study Foundation
2012	Financial Support by the EUI for Visiting Assistant in Research at Yale University
2012	3rd Best Paper Award, Augustin Cournot Doctoral Days, Strasbourg
2005 – 2006	Erasmus Student Exchange Grant

#### REFEREEING

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*Applied Economics, Applied Economics Letters, B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics, Education Economics, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Population Economics, Labour Economics, Review of Economic Design, Review of Economic Studies, Swiss Journal of Economics and Statistics.*

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*NCCR LIVES working paper series*

NSF ad-hoc panel member

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#### OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

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2024	Co-Organiser of invited sessions at the Econometric Society African Meeting, Abidjan (AfES)
2024	Scientific committee of the Australian Gender Economics Workshop (AGEW)
2023 –	Head Advisory Committee of Department of Economics, UTS Business School
2023	Co-Organiser of the 25 <sup>th</sup> Australian Labour Econometrics Workshop (LEW)
2023	Committee member for Review of Bachelor of Economics, UTS Business School
2022 –	Seminar coordinator, UTS Business School
2021 – 2023	Academic Integrity Working Group, UTS Business School
2020 – 2023	Member of the Faculty Board of UTS Business School
2019 –	Co-Founder and -organiser of the Sydney Development Economics Seminar/Workshop
2018 – 2019	Member of the PhD in Economics Committee, UTS
2015 – 2018	Member of the FREE-Board of NCCR Lives

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#### COMPUTER SKILLS

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MATLAB, STATA, EViews, Survey Solutions Designer, LATEX

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#### LANGUAGE SKILLS

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German (native), English (fluent), French (fluent), Italian (fluent), Spanish (advanced)

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#### MEDIA

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**Mothers at Work: How Mandating A Short Maternity Leave Affects Work and Fertility**

[The Economist](#), [The Regulatory Review](#), [The Medical News](#), [The Conversation](#), and many more

**Migration, Education and Work Opportunities**

[Junge Welt](#)

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#### REFERENCES

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Available upon request