



Job Title: Research Associate
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Personal Information

Citizenship: German

Education

- The London School of Economics (LSE), London (U.K.) Oct.2002 to Feb. 2008
Ph.D. at the Development Studies Institute (completed without corrections)
▪ Thesis Title: An empirical investigation of the informal labor market, minimum wages and workfare programs at times of growth and crisis in urban Argentina, 1992-2005
Affiliated with STICERD (The Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines) EOPP Research program (Economic Organisation and Public Policy Programme)
Committee: Dr Diana Weinhold (Supervisor), Dr Oriana Bandiera, Dr Armando Barrientos
- University of Warwick, Coventry (U.K.) Oct.1998 to Oct.1999
Master of Science in Economics (distinction in econometrics and economic theory)
▪ Dissertation Title: Poverty, Income inequality and economic performance in the U.S. states-A panel data study, Supervisor: Prof. Andrew J. Oswald
- The London School of Economics, London (U.K.) Oct.1995 to July 1998
Bachelor of Science in Economics (upper second class honors)
- Gymnasium Schaurtestrasse, Cologne (Germany) June 1994
Abitur

Work Experience

Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA), Bonn (Germany) Research Associate	Feb. 2008 to present
Department for International Development (DFID), London (U.K.) Economist in International Trade Department/Growth and Investment Climate Team	March 2003 to Nov. 2007
The World Bank Group, Washington D.C. (U.S.A.) Consultant in Poverty Group (LAC region)	March 2006 to May 2007
The World Bank Country Management Unit, Buenos Aires (Argentina) Consultant in Human Development Group	April 2004 to May 2005
The World Bank Group, Washington D.C. (U.S.A.) Summer Internship/Consultant in Poverty Reduction Group Paper: Sources of slow growth in Africa: econometric investigation of the geography versus ethnolinguistic fractionalization argument	June 2002 to Sept. 2002
The International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington D.C. (U.S.A.) Research Assistant in the European I Department	May 2000 to Aug. 2001
Maxwell Stamp PLC, London (U.K.) Economic Consultant on Active and Passive Labor Market Policies for the European Commission	Nov. 1999 to May 2000

Teaching Experience

The London School of Economics, Development Studies Institute Seminar Teacher and Examiner for MSc/MPA course unit on Poverty measurement and multidisciplinary approaches to poverty analysis	Jan. 2006 to June 2006
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Papers (Submission Stage)

Comparative Advantage, Segmentation and Informal Earnings: A Marginal Treatment Effects Approach (Joint with Omar Arias, World Bank)

Does the minimum wage have a higher impact on the informal than on the formal labor market? Evidence from quasi-experiments.

Is informal sector work an alternative to workfare benefits? The case of pre-program expansion and economic crisis

Papers and Projects (Selection)

Risk Attitudes, Time Preferences and the Incidence of Informality among Workers: Evidence from a Transition Country (joint with Thomas Dohmen and Hartmut Lehmann)

Trafficking in Humans: A Cross-Country Analysis (joint with Randy Akee, Arnab Basu, Nancy Chau and Hilmar Schneider)

Happiness in the Americas (joint with David G. Blanchflower)

Publications

Khamis, Melanie. 2008. "Crisis and Recovery in Argentina: Labor Market, Poverty, Inequality and Pro-Poor Growth." In Stephan Klasen and Felicitas Nowak-Lehman (eds.), *Poverty, Inequality and Migration in Latin America*, Göttingen Studies in Development Economics, Vol.20, Peter Lang Verlag.

Award

LSE Research Studentship

2006-2007

Presentations

Poverty, Inequality and Policy in Latin America Symposium Universität Göttingen July 2005; STICERD, LSE June 2006; World Bank October 2006; 2nd IZA/World Bank Conference, Bonn June 2007; Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society, Bogota October 2007 (presented by Omar Arias); Royal Economic Society, Warwick March 2008; 3rd IZA/World Bank Conference, Rabat May 2008; Society of Labor Economists, NYC May 2008 (poster); 5th IZA Annual Migration Meeting (AM²) and Second IZA Migration Topic Week (discussant); Nordic Conference in Development Economics, Stockholm June 2008; IZA October 2008; Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association Annual Meeting, Rio de Janeiro November 2008; IPEA Rio de Janeiro November 2008; IZA Prize Conference, Bonn December 2008; 4th IZA/World Bank Conference, Bonn May 2009 (Scientific committee and presenter); IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting of Labor Economists, Ammersee May 2009; Latin American Studies Association, Rio de Janeiro June 2009 (presenter and discussant); IZA Mini Workshop on Migration, Bonn July 2009; IZA Bonn July 2009; The Shadow Economy, Tax Evasion and Social Norms Conference, Universitaet Muenster July 2009; EALE, Tallinn September 2009; 1st CIER/IZA conference, Beijing September 2009; IZA/Volkswagen Foundation Topic week on transition economies, IZA October 2009 (presenter and discussant); World Bank, October 2009; IZA Prize Conference, Washington DC October 2009; College of William & Mary, October 2009; Cornell University, October 2009; Rutgers University, November 2009; NEUDC, November 2009 (poster)

Refereeing

American Economic Review, B.E. Journal of Economic Analysis & Policy, Industrial & Labor Relations Review, International Journal of Manpower, Labour Economics, OECD Report “Is Informal Normal? Towards More and Better Jobs in Developing Countries”.

Organization of Research Workshops and Conferences

- 1st CIER/IZA Annual Workshop: Research in Labor Economics Beijing, China (September 2009)
- Postgraduate Workshop in Development Economics Bonn, Germany (October 2009)
- IZA Workshop: Legal and Illicit Immigration: Theory, Empirics and Policy Bonn, Germany (July 2010)

Computer Skills

- Microsoft Office, STATA, EViews, Aremos, Bloomberg, Datastream, HTML, ArcGIS (basic)

Languages

- German (native speaker), English (fluent), Spanish (good), French (intermediate)