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Jenny Peters

Website
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Education

PhD in Economics **Sept 2021 - Present**
The University of Edinburgh

Research Focus: Macroeconomics, households and family economics.
Supervisors: Maia Güell, Ludo Visschers

Visiting Researcher **Jan 2025 - Present**
CUNEF Universidad, Department of Economics

PhD Visiting Scholar **Jan 2024 - May 2024**
University Carlos III of Madrid, Department of Economics

MSc in Economics **Sept 2020 - Sept 2021**
The University of St Andrews

Final Grade: with Distinction, best student in MSc Economics

MA Soc. Sci. (Hons) in Economics and Politics **Sept 2016 - June 2020**
The University of Glasgow

Final Grade: with Honours of the First Class

Awards and Scholarships

Carnegie PhD Scholarship **Sept 2021 - Present**
The Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland

The John Henderson Prize for the Best Student in Economics **Sept 2021**
The University of St Andrews

Dean's List Scholar **Sept 2021**
The University of St Andrews

ECB Women in Economics Scholarship **Sept 2020 - Sept 2021**
European Central Bank

Membership in the Beta Gamma Sigma Society **Oct 2018 - Present**
The University of Glasgow

The Adam Smith Scholar Award of Excellence **July 2020**
The University of Glasgow

Working Papers and Work in Progress

Daddy's Home? Paternity Leave and Labour Market Outcomes. [Job Market Paper]
Abstract: Parenthood is a central source of gender inequality in labour market outcomes. To mitigate this, governments have introduced parental leave entitlements reserved for fathers. I develop a quantitative life-cycle model to study how leave design shapes household specialisation and parental labour supply, disciplining it with quasi-experimental estimates from administrative data on a Spanish paternity leave reform. In the model, couples trade off the benefits of taking leave together against extending childcare coverage through separate leave, while firms use fathers' leave-taking as a signal of labour-market attachment when setting wages. I find that extending fathers' leave has little effect on mothers' labour-market outcomes, as parents often take leave together. Model counterfactuals show that forcing all paternity leave after

maternity leave raises maternal employment by 13%, compared with a 2% increase from extending fathers' leave by eight weeks. Replacing non-transferable leave with a shared pool of weeks reinforces traditional household specialisation and reduces maternal employment by 11%.

It's a Long Way Back: Frictional Re-Entry and the Child Penalty
Abstract: I re-evaluate the determinants of the child penalty from the perspective of labour-market flows. Women are almost 2 times more likely than men to exit employment into non-participation instead of unemployment, and 4 times more likely when they have children. Re-entry into employment from non-participation requires returning to search and subsequently finding a job. The first step to unemployment involves an activation friction, while the second involves the standard matching friction. Men only face the matching friction. To quantify the contribution of these frictions to the child penalty, I develop a three-state search model with endogenous human capital accumulation and wage penalties arising from firms' expectations about job-match duration. Calibrating the model to U.S. data, I show that in general equilibrium, the friction on the way into search (activation friction) accounts for almost all of the employment gap. A full childcare subsidy increases mothers' employment by about 20 percent points, while job-protected unpaid maternity leave only achieves and increase of around 5 percentage points.

So alike, yet so different: A non-parametric variance decomposition of unstable employment cycles
Joint with Maia Güell, Cristina Lafuente, Manuel Sánchez, and Hélène Turon
Abstract: We examine employment instability in Germany and Spain, two countries with distinct labour market institutions and macroeconomic outcomes, but similar rates of unstable employment. We apply an extended variance decomposition methodology (ABS method) to disentangle the roles of individual heterogeneity, duration dependence, and aggregate conditions in transitions from unstable to stable employment. We find that, in Spain, the expected time in an unstable spell is 2.5 times higher than in Germany. However, being in unstable employment in Germany is a "trap": once you are in the unstable spell, you are stuck and the hazard of exiting falls with duration. In Spain, there is no strong "trap" effect.

Legislation, Cultural Change, and Gender Differences in the Labor Market
Joint with Albert Rodríguez-Sala and Virginia Sánchez Marcos
Abstract: How do institutions affect economic progress? How can culture foster or hinder growth? The social equilibrium among institutions, culture, and economic progress is a fundamental and particularly challenging question. In this project, we aim to shed light on this question through the study of one of the fundamental macroeconomic changes in the last century: the convergence in gender roles in the labor market. To this end, we use individual-level data from Germany to develop a theoretical model of intergenerational and instantaneous learning.

"What keeps you busy these days?" Fertility, labour force participation and the macroeconomy
Joint with Maia Güell
Abstract: Spain has the second-lowest total fertility rate among OECD countries, at 1.3 it has been named the "lowest of low" fertility. We aim to understand why Spain combines very low fertility with relatively weak labour-market outcomes. We will investigate how women in Spain allocate their market versus household production time relative to men. Then, we will put forward a theoretical household model in which there is bargaining over fertility and labour market participation to understand how the macroeconomy and policies aimed at gender equality and family well-being shape gender gaps in the labour market and fertility trends.

Teaching and Work Experience

Journal of the European Economic Association **Mar 2024–Present**
Data Replicator, JEEA Data Editor Office

Essentials of Econometrics **2023–2025**
Honours Course: Tutorials, office hours, exam and coursework marking, exam preparation

The Women in Economics Initiative **Oct 2022–Oct 2024**
Outreach Team Volunteer

Applications of Econometrics **2021–2023**
Honours Course: Tutorials and helpdesks

Undergraduate Tutoring **2020–2021**
Undergraduate tutoring during the MSc

PricewaterhouseCoopers GmbH **Dec 2018–Aug 2021**
Working Student, Global Family Business and EMEA EPB Office

Conferences and Seminar Presentations

2026 EALE Annual Conference; EAYE; CUNEF Workshop; Madrid Inequality Network (MADNEQ); SGPE Conference

2025 Catalan Economic Society Congress (CESC); Mend the Gap in Economic Opportunities Workshop, Bocconi University / EIEF / World Bank; SGPE Conference

2024 Simposio de la Asociación Española de Economía (SAEe); CEMFI School of Economics, "Current Issues in the Labor Market"; Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Macro Reading Group; University of Edinburgh, PhD Research Seminar

2023 Scottish Graduate Programme in Economics (SGPE) Conference

Skills

Programming	Python, MATLAB, R
Statistical Software	Stata, SPSS
Other Software	Git, GitHub, LaTeX, MS Office
Languages	German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), French (beginner)

Other

Referee for the Scottish Journal of Political Economy **Sept 2021**
The Scottish Journal of Political Economy (SJPE)

Classroom Representative for Research Students **Sept 2021 - Present**
The University of Edinburgh

Postgraduate Executive Representative **Sept 2020 - Sept 2021**
The University of St Andrews

Classroom Representative for Taught Students **Sept 2020 - Sept 2021**
The University of St Andrews

References

Maia Güell
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