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Research Interests

- Labor Economics • Economics of Education • Inequality

Education

August 2019 – present PhD Candidate in Economics
(Expected Completion: University of Oslo
June 2024)
Autumn 2011 – Autumn 2016 Master of Economic Theory and Econometrics
University of Oslo

Supervisors

Professor Edwin Leuven
University of Oslo

Professor Manudeep Bhuller
University of Oslo

Ongoing Research

Field of Study, Comparative Advantage, and College Admission Policies

Abstract:

College applicants with similar GPAs can possess vastly different field-specific skills. In this paper, I provide new evidence on systematic heterogeneity in the returns to different fields of study by college applicants' pre-admission field-specific skills. This evidence allows me to provide a rich description of the extent of comparative advantages in college education. Using regression discontinuity designs, I compare applicants located close to admission thresholds in Norwegian higher education institutions to estimate returns to different fields of study. Specifically, I focus on applicants' math and language skills extracted from high school diplomas, and provide evidence on heterogeneous impacts on graduation rates, time-to-completion, and post-graduate earnings. I find that marginal applicants with higher math grades have a significant comparative advantage in STEM fields, as compared to applicants with similar GPA but lower math grades. Whether and not policymakers should prioritize students based on their comparative advantage, however, depends on the collateral impacts of priority rules on the pool of available applicants to other programs. To shed light on this, I simulate counterfactual allocations of students to programs following a hypothetical reform that targets applicants with high math scores to STEM programs. This evidence has important implications for the optimal design of college admission policies.

Working Papers

The Anatomy of Mismatch in the College Market

Learning about Pay and Non-Pay Job Attributes from Vacancy Texts
(with Richard Audoly and Manudeep Bhuller)

Teaching

Fall 2022 University of Oslo; Mathematics 2
Seminar Tutor

Fall 2021 University of Oslo; Mathematics 1
Lecturer and Seminar Tutor

Spring 2021 University of Oslo; Microeconomics 1
Seminar Tutor

Fall 2020 University of Oslo; Mathematics 1
Course Responsible, Lecturer, and Seminar Tutor

Spring 2020 University of Oslo; Microeconomics 1
Lecturer

Fall 2019 University of Oslo; Mathematics 1
Seminar Tutor

Grants

2016 Frisch Scholarships for Master students

Presentations

2023 CESifo / Junior Workshop on the Economics of Education

2023 University of Oslo; PhD Workshop; Oslo PhD Initiative in Economic

2022 University of Oslo; Workshop; The Demand and Supply of Public
Education

2022 University of Oslo; PhD Workshop; Oslo PhD Initiative in Economic

2022 Lund University; PhD Workshop in the Economics of Education

2019 University of Stavanger, PhD Workshop on Economics of Education

Other

Software Stata, R, Latex, Python

Technical Skills Natural Language Processing, Computational Methods