

Laura KHOURY

Last update: November 29, 2021

Contact information

Norwegian School of Economics
Department of Economics, Office E238
+33 (0)7 83 74 66 85
Helleveien 30, 5045 Bergen, NORWAY
Citizenship: French
Date of birth: September 20th, 1992
laura.khoury@nhh.no
<https://sites.google.com/view/laurakhoury/home>

NHH placement officer

Kjell Salvanes
Kjell.Salvanes@nhh.no
+47 55 95 93 15

RESEARCH INTERESTS

PUBLIC ECONOMICS: Social insurance, taxes and benefits, redistribution
LABOUR ECONOMICS: Optimal unemployment insurance, layoffs, bargaining
ECONOMICS OF CRIME: Impact of incarceration, inmate allocation, crime networks
HEALTH ECONOMICS: Inequality in mortality, mental health

CURRENT POSITION

2019- Postdoctoral researcher in LABOUR ECONOMICS AND ECONOMICS OF CRIME,
FAIR - Centre for Experimental Research on Fairness, Inequality and Rationality
Norwegian School of Economics, Bergen, Norway.

EDUCATION

2015-2019 PhD in ECONOMICS, **Paris School of Economics**, Paris.
Dissertation: *Optimal Unemployment Insurance and On-the-Job Behaviours*
Supervisor: Luc BEHAGHEL
PhD Committee: Antoine BOZIO, Thomas LE BARBANCHON, Camille LANDAIS, Andrea WEBER
PhD Awards: French Economic Association (AFSE), *Chancellerie des Universités*, French Unemployment Insurance (*Pôle Emploi*)
2015-2019 Student-researcher under an Industrial Convention of Education through Research (**CIFRE convention**) at the **French Unemployment Agency (Unédic)**, Paris
2012-2014 Master degree in ECONOMICS with distinction *magna cum laude*, **Paris School of Economics**, Paris
Thesis: *An assessment of the insurance and redistribution functions of unemployment benefits in France* | Supervisor: Antoine BOZIO
2009-2012 Bachelor degree in SOCIAL SCIENCES, **University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne**, Paris

REFERENCES

Pr. Luc Behaghel

Paris School of Economics,
48 Boulevard Jourdan
75014, Paris, France
+33 (0)1 80 52 16 87
luc.behaghel@ens.fr

Pr. Antoine Bozio

Head of the *Institut des Politiques Publiques*
48 Boulevard Jourdan
75014, Paris, France
+33 (0)1 80 52 18 69
antoine.bozio@ipp.eu

Pr. Katrine Løken

Norwegian School of Economics
Dept of Economics, Helleveien 30
5045, Bergen, Norway
+47 41 66 15 91
katrine.loken@nhh.no

Pr. Kjell Salvanes

Norwegian School of Economics
Dept of Economics, Helleveien 30
5045, Bergen, Norway
+47 55 95 93 15
kjell.salvanes@nhh.no

JOB MARKET PAPER

Prison, Mental Health, Family Spillovers. (joint with Manudeep Bhuller and Katrine Løken, [Latest version](#))

Does prison cause mental health problems among inmates and their family members? Correlational evidence shows that the prevalence of mental health problems is much higher in the inmate population than in the general population, but it remains silent on causality. We exploit the strengths of the Norwegian setting and the richness of the data to accurately measure the impacts of incarceration on the health of the defendants and their family members. First, we use an event-study design around the case decision event. The event study is complemented with an instrumental variable (IV) strategy that takes advantage of the random assignment of criminal cases to judges who differ in their stringency. Both methods consistently show that the positive correlation is misleading: incarceration lowers the prevalence of mental health disorders among defendants as measured by mental-health related visits to health care professionals. We further demonstrate that this effect lasts long after release and is unlikely to be driven by a shift in health care demand. Family members also experience positive spillovers on their mental health, especially spouses.

PUBLICATIONS

A Poorly Understood Disease? The Impact of COVID-19 on the Income Gradient in Mortality over the Course of the Pandemic. Joint with P. Brandily, C. Brebion, S. Briole. *European Economic Review*, Volume 140, November 2021, pages 103923. ([Draft](#))

Mortality inequalities remain substantial in many countries, and large shocks such as pandemics could amplify them further. The unequal distribution of COVID-19 confirmed cases suggests that this is the case. Yet, evidence on the causal effect of the epidemic on mortality inequalities remains scarce. In this paper, we exploit exhaustive municipality-level data in France, one of the most severely hit country in the world, to identify a negative relationship between income and excess mortality within urban areas, that persists over COVID-19 waves. Over the year 2020, the poorest municipalities experienced a 30% higher increase in excess mortality. Our analyses can rule out the contribution of policy responses (such as lockdown) in this heterogeneous impact. Finally, we show that both labour-market exposure and housing conditions are major determinants of the direct effect of the epidemic on mortality inequalities, but that their respective role depends on the state of the epidemic.

Media coverage: [Le Monde](#), [L'Humanité](#), [Sud Ouest](#), [France Culture](#), [France Inter](#), [LCI \(00:52\)](#), [Le Figaro](#), [Le Grand Continent](#), [Huffington Post](#)

WORKING PAPERS

Unemployment Benefits and the Timing of Redundancies. *Revise and Resubmit* requested at the Journal of Public Economics. ([Latest version](#))

The literature on unemployment insurance (UI) has primarily focused on its impact on unemployment outflows. I show that inflows into unemployment also respond to the extent of UI. Using high-quality French administrative data combined with a discontinuity in UI benefits at one year of tenure, I estimate significant impacts of UI benefits on employment duration. Based on bunching estimates, the elasticity of the employment duration to UI benefits is estimated to be 0.014, translating into an average five-day increase in employment duration at the cutoff. Examining the mechanisms, the evidence suggests that bargaining between employers and employees over contract termination explains the bunching. Heterogeneity analyses indicate that employees with the strongest bargaining power and incentives to be on the high-benefit side have the highest elasticity. Taken together, employers and employees show sophisticated reactions to UI benefits with substantial effects on employment duration.

This paper has received the Best Paper Award in the 2018 Workshop on Labour Economics from IAAEU, University of Trier, Germany.

Choosing Unemployment Benefits: the Role of Adverse Selection and Moral Hazard. ([Latest version](#))

Most unemployment insurance (UI) schemes are nationally mandated. Not observing the workers making insurance choices prevents us from analyzing the empirical relevance of public intervention in UI. In this paper, I exploit a French UI program where workers are given the choice between two UI entitlements

that differ in terms of benefit generosity and duration. This program provides an ideal setup to evaluate both moral hazard and adverse selection into UI, because it allows to relate the entitlement choice with the characteristics of the insured and his future labor performance. Using high-quality administrative data and the existence of eligibility criteria, I find that opting for higher benefits for a shorter duration is predicted to increase the subsequent unemployment spell duration by more than five months. The evidence indicates that, although adverse selection is large, moral hazard is far more substantial in this context.

Entitled to Leave: the Impact of Unemployment Insurance Eligibility on Employment Duration and Job Quality. (Joint with Clément Brébion (PSE) and Simon Briole (PSE), [Latest version](#))

Entitlement conditions are a little explored dimension of unemployment insurance (UI) schemes. In this paper, we provide a comprehensive evaluation of a reform that softened the minimum employment record condition to qualify for UI benefits in France after 2009. Using administrative panel data matching employment and unemployment spells, we first provide clear evidence that the reform induced a separation response at the eligibility threshold. It appears both at the micro level – through a jump in transitions from employment to unemployment – and at the macro level – through the scheduling of shorter contracts, in line with the new eligibility requirements. Exploiting the reform as well as relevant sample restrictions, we then estimate the effects of receiving UI benefits on subsequent labour market outcomes using a regression discontinuity design. Our findings point to a large negative impact of UI benefits receipt on employment probability up to 21 months after meeting the eligibility criterion, which is not counterbalanced by an increase in job quality.

Media coverage: [Le Monde](#)

An Assessment of the Insurance and Redistribution Functions of Unemployment Benefits in France. (Working paper available upon request)

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

A Big Fish in a Small Pond? Big-box Stores, Local Employment and City Shape. (Ongoing research, joint with Paul Brandily (PSE))

Prison, Peer Effects and Criminal Networks (Ongoing research, joint with Julian V. Johnsen (FAIR, NHH))

The Redistributive Effects of Pension Reforms (Ongoing research, joint with Julian V. Johnsen (FAIR, NHH) and Alexander Willén (NHH))

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

GUEST LECTURES

October 2020 **University of Lausanne** – Economic Policy Seminar Inequality and Research in COVID-19 times

Seminar to acquaint students with policy-relevant issues in economics

September 2020 **Norwegian School of Economics** – Labour Economics Technology, Import Competition and Unemployment

The objective of the course is to introduce students in MSc in Economics and Business administration to topics in labour economics as well as contemporary empirical research in this field

TUTORIALS

- Fall 2017 **Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po)** – Advanced Public Economics (Prof. Clément Malgouyres)
Advanced public economics tutorials to Public Affairs master degree students
- Fall 2016 **University Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne** – Introduction to economics (Prof. Karim Azizi)
Introduction to Economics to first-year students of the Bachelor in Social and Economic Administration
- Spring 2016 **Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences-Po)** – International Economics (Prof. Jean-Pierre Landau and Philippe Martin)
Support classes on theoretical notions of international economics and governance to first-year students in Public Affair Master

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

- 2021
Seminar at the Swedish Institute for Social Research (SOFI), Stockholm University, Sweden (scheduled)
Seminar at Aix-Marseille School of Economics, Aix-Marseille, France (scheduled)
Seminar at the Center for Research in Economics and Statistics (CREST), Paris-Saclay, France
Economics Days (*Journées de l'Économie, JECO*), Lyon, France (scheduled)
Workshop on Policy and Societal Problems, Lucerne, Switzerland
IRVAPP Seminar, Trento, Italy
Seminar “Law, Institutions, Economics” at University Paris-Nanterre, France (scheduled)
OECD Webinar on COVID and Spatial Inequality, Paris, France
Annual Conference of the European Association of Labor Economics (EALE) Padova, Italy
International Institute of Public Finance Annual Congress, Reykjavík, Iceland
36th Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (EEA) Copenhagen, Denmark
20th *Journées Louis-André Gérard-Varet (LAGV)*, Aix-Marseille, France
34th Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics (ESPE), Barcelona, Spain
69th Congress of the French Economic Association, Lille, France
37th *Journées de Microéconomie Appliquée*, Annecy, France
European Labor Symposium for Early Career Economists, FAIR, Norwegian School of Economics (Bergen, Norway)
American Economic Association (ASSA) 2021 Annual Meeting
- 2020
Economics Days (*Journées de l'Économie, JECO*) (Lyon, France)
Emerging Research Seminar, Norwegian School of Economics (Bergen, Norway)
FAIR Seminar, Norwegian School of Economics (Bergen, Norway)
Workshop on Job Security and Employment Protection, IAAEU (Trier, Germany)
35th Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (Rotterdam, Netherlands).
2020 Conference on Labor Market Transitions, IAB (Nürnberg, Germany)
IZA Workshop on Labor Market Institutions (Bonn, Germany)
- 2019
Seminar at the Department of Economics, Linnaeus University (Växjö, Sweden)
31st Annual Congress of the European Association of Labour Economics (Uppsala, Sweden)
Statistics Norway Seminar (Oslo, Norway)
34th Annual Congress of the European Economic Association (Manchester, UK)
Munich Young Economists Meeting (Kochel, Germany)
68th Meeting of the French Economic Association (Orléans, France)

- 2018 43rd Symposium of the Spanish Economic Association (Madrid, Spain)
 Association of Southern-European Economic Theorists Conference (Florence, Italy)
 30th Annual Congress of the European Association of Labour Economics (Lyon, France)
 67th Meeting of the French Economic Association (Paris, France)
 35^{mes} *Journées de Microéconomie Appliquée* (Bordeaux, France)
 Perspectives on (Un-)employment workshop, IAB (Nuremberg, Germany)
 Workshop on Labour Economics, IAAEU (Trier, Germany)
- 2017 IZA Summer School in Labour Economics, IZA Institute of Labour Economics (Buch, Germany)
 Applied Economics Seminar, Paris School of Economics (Paris, France)
 Dondena Workshop on Public Policy, Bocconi University (Milan, Italy)
 European Doctoral Program Jamboree, University of Bonn (Bonn, Germany)
 PhD workshop, Collegio Carlo Alberto (Turin, Italy)
 Work in Progress Seminar, Paris School of Economics (Paris, France)
 Little Informal Seminar, Paris School of Economics (Paris, France)
- 2016 Little Informal Seminar, Paris School of Economics (Paris, France)
 Rencontres d'Aussois du Labex OSE (Aussois, France)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

DISSERTATION AWARDS

- 2020 Best Ph.D. Dissertation Award, French Economic Association (AFSE)
 2^{me} prize of the 2020 Best Ph.D. Dissertation Award in Economics & Management, *Chancellerie des Universités de Paris*
 2^{me} prize of the 2020 Best Ph.D. Dissertation Award on Labor Markets, French unemployment insurance (*Pôle Emploi*)
 Distinction from the jury, 2020 Ph.D. Dissertation Award, University *Paris-Sciences Lettres* (PSL)
 Best Paper Award, 2018 Workshop on Labour Economics, IAAEU, University of Trier, Germany

RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2020 Cepremap & Chaire Travail, **Paris School of Economics**
 2019 EUR-PgSE, **Paris School of Economics**
 2018 Labex OSE, *Ouvrir la Science économique*,
 Paris School of Economics
 2017 Labex OSE, *Ouvrir la Science économique*,
 Paris School of Economics
 2015-2019 Doctoral Scholarship, Unemployment insurance organisation, UNEDIC,
 Paris, France

MEDIA & POLICY REPORTS

- “La dégressivité des indemnités chômage ralentit le retour à l’emploi”, Le Cercle, Les Echos, March 23rd, 2017
[An evaluation of the “option right”](#), Unédic, 2018
[Le timing des licenciements économiques dépend-il des indemnités chômage ?](#), Note n°3 de la Chaire Travail, PSE, 2019
[Assurance chômage et durée des emplois](#), Note n°6 de la Chaire Travail, PSE, 2020

OTHER SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

2015, 2013-2014 Research assistant at the **Institut des Politiques Publiques**, Paris
2014-2015 Research assistant at **Liegey-Muller-Pons**, Paris
2014 Research assistant for Pr. Denis Cogneau (*Afristory Project*) at the **Paris School of Economics**, Paris

REFEREE

Scientific journals: *IZA Journal of Labor Economics*, *IZA Journal of Labor Policy*, *Oxford Economic Papers*

Research projects: 24th Spring Meeting of Young Economists, *Global Development Network*

SEMINAR ORGANIZATION

PSI-PSE, **Paris School of Economics**, 2017-2018

European Labor Symposium for Early Career Economists, **FAIR**, **Norwegian School of Economics** – April 2021

LANGUAGES & SKILLS

French (native), English (fluent), Spanish (intermediate), Italian (intermediate)

STATA, SAS, Latex, MS Office