

Velichka Dimitrova

University College London (UCL) — Social Research Institute
55-59 Gordon Sq, WC1H 0NU London, United Kingdom
E-mail: uctpvnd@ucl.ac.uk
Website: <https://vndimitrova.net/>

| | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------|
| Education | <i>Ph.D. Economics</i> | 2017-2023 |
| | University of Warwick, Supervisors: Manuel Bagues, James Fenske, Ludovica Gazze. Committee: Arun Advani and Ana Rute Cardoso. | |
| | <i>MSc Economics (distinction)</i> | 2015-2016 |
| | University College London, Supervisor: Steve Machin | |
| | <i>MPhil Environmental Policy</i> | 2010-2011 |
| | Cambridge University, Supervisor: Ian Hodge | |
| | <i>BSc Economics</i> | 2007-2010 |
| | Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Germany. Supervisor: Bengt-Arne Wickström | |
| Work Experience | <i>Associate Lecturer in Economics</i> | 2023-2024 |
| | University College London (UCL), Social Research Institute | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Module leader for SOCS0030 "Introduction to Economics I".• Seminar leader for SOCS0077 "Economics of Developing Countries".• Supervisor of undergraduate dissertations and undergraduate tutor. | |
| | <i>Quantitative Researcher</i> | 2018-2019 |
| | BBC Media Action | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Worked on analysing the impact of the BBC World Service, including projects on sanitation in India, polio vaccinations in Afghanistan, post-earthquake reconstruction in Nepal and political participation and governance in Zambia. | |
| | <i>Fast Stream Economist</i> | 2014-2015 |
| | UK Department of Health | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Joined the UK Government Economic Service (GES) and worked in the analytical team of the Medicines, Pharmacy and Industry Group. The work involved impact assessments, business cases, and data analysis on medicines, pharmacy and health policies.• Appointed as a principal responsible analyst for the policy on the pharmacists' education and training.• Worked on policies of reforming the pharmacies reimbursement and remuneration system, the Seven Day NHS service, Ebola screening at airports. Set up analysis to explain variations in prescribing in the UK. | |
| | <i>Senior Researcher</i> | 2012-2013 |
| | Open Knowledge Foundation | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Managed the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation project for reproducibility and data sharing in economics, organising a community of senior academics, funders, journal editors and data publishers. | |

- Worked on a Google-commissioned project on creating a data standard for fiscal data
- Authored policy reports on open data and data portals for international clients and consulted governments and civil society on the use of technological tools for access to data.

Research

Working papers

The fertility impact of mass return migration (job market paper)

The psychological gains from COVID-19 vaccination: who benefits the most?, joint with Manuel Bagues. R&R Journal of Public Economics (Previously: CAGE WP 594, CEPR Discussion Paper No. DP16694, IZA DP No. 14826)

Prescribing cost-effective treatments under financial constraints in the English NHS, joint with Hiba Sameen — Health Econometrics and Data Group (HEDG), The University of York WP 22/15

Research in progress

Return migration and human capital accumulation, joint with João Pereira dos Santos

Baby busts, marriage ‘squeeze’ and labour market outcomes, joint with Manuel Bagues

Other publications

Technology for Transparent and Accountable Public Finance by L. Chambers, V. Dimitrova and R. Pollock. A Report by the Open Knowledge Foundation (2012).

Open Research Data in Economics. In: Moore, S. A. (ed.) Issues in Open Research Data. Pp. 141–150. London: Ubiquity Press (2014).

Academic Affiliations

Visiting researcher 2022
Instituto de Ciências Sociais da Universidade de Lisboa

Teaching Experience

Senior Graduate Teaching Assistant 2019 - Present
University of Warwick

2022/2023: EC336 International Trade, 2021/2022: Warwick Summer School (Behavioural Economics), EC345 Behavioural Economics: Theory and Applications (4.4/5), EC336 International Trade (4.5/5, Teaching award); 2020/2021: EC345 Behavioural Economics: Theory and Applications, EC203 Applied Econometrics, EC336 International Trade; 2019/2020: EC132 The Industrial Economy: Strategy, EC336 International Trade

Teaching Assistant 2016-2017
Royal Holloway University of London

EC1102 - Quantitative Methods in Economics

Teaching Assistant 2010, 2013, 2014, 2018
Humboldt Universität zu Berlin

Panel Data – Summer Schools in Economics and Management in Havana, Cuba.

| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Conference Presentations | <p>2023: LSE Wellbeing Seminar – London, UK (February, invited), CAGE Warwick Economic History Workshop – Coventry, UK (March), Royal Economic Society (RES) conference – Glasgow, Scotland (April), IBEROMETRICS conference – Lisbon, Portugal (May), Society of Economics of the Household SEHO annual meeting – Copenhagen, Denmark (June), European Society for Population Economics ESPE annual conference – Belgrade, Serbia (June), Migration and Family Economics Workshop – 2nd edition – Paris, France (June), The 9th World Congress of Cliometrics – Dublin, Ireland (July), EEA-ESEM in Barcelona, Spain (August), European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) annual conference – Prague, Czech Republic (September), QSS seminar at UCL (October, invited), LACEA-LAMES in Bogota, Colombia (November).</p> <p>2022: CAGE workshop on mental health in economics (October) – Coventry, UK; The World Bank / AFD 15th International Conference on Migration and Development – Carcavelos, Portugal (September); European Workshop on Econometrics and Health Economics (EHEHE)– Fribourg, Switzerland (September); EEA-ESEM – Milano, Italy (August); European Health Economics Association (EuHEA) Conference – Oslo, Norway (July); Health Economists’ Study Group (HESG) Summer Conference – Sheffield, UK (June).</p> <p><i>Pre PhD</i></p> <p>2017: Annual Conference of the European Association of Labour Economists (EALE) in St. Gallen, Switzerland (September); VIII Workshop on Economics of Education at the University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain (September); 11th Annual Meeting of the Portuguese Economic Journal (PEJ2017) in Vila Real, Portugal (July); Meeting of the Economics of Education Association (AEDE) in Murcia, Spain (June); Eighth International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education (IWAE) in Catanzaro, Italy (June); Royal Economic Society Conference in Bristol, UK (April).</p> |
| Awards | <p>2022: Teaching award, Department of Economics, University of Warwick</p> <p>2022: Research funding, Department of Economics, University of Warwick</p> <p>2017-2023: Scholarship for graduate studies, Department of Economics, University of Warwick</p> <p>2017: María Jesús San Segundo Award for the best paper (1st place), awarded by the Spanish Association of the Economics of Education (AEDE)</p> <p>2010-2011: Heinrich Böll Award and Scholarship for undergraduate and MPhil studies</p> |
| Referee service | Economica |
| Software skills | Stata, R, Python, Flourish (data visualisation & storytelling), QGIS |
| Citizenship | Bulgaria, United Kingdom |
| Languages | Bulgarian (native), English (fluent), German (fluent), Portuguese (intermediate, DEPLE certificate), Spanish (intermediate), Swedish (basic, SFI certificate) |

References

Manuel Bagues

Department of Economics
University of Warwick
CV4 7AL, United Kingdom
M.Bagues@warwick.ac.uk

James Fenske

Department of Economics
University of Warwick
CV4 7AL, United Kingdom
J.Fenske@warwick.ac.uk

Ludovica Gasse

Department of Economics
University of Warwick
CV4 7AL, United Kingdom
L.Gasse@warwick.ac.uk

Research abstracts

The fertility impact of mass return migration

Return migration is common, yet identifying its impact is difficult because of selection and confounding factors in destination and source countries. A unique natural experiment – the Portuguese revolution of 1974 – triggered a mass exodus of colonists from the former overseas territories. Combining a new municipal panel from several archival sources for Portugal between 1940 and 1990, I study the fertility impact of return migration using event study and instrumental variable methodologies. As an instrument, I use historical outward migration to overseas territories, while controlling for total emigration. A percentage point increase in the number of returnees relative to overall population resulted in 1.3 to 2.8 additional births per thousand women, driven primarily by non-migrant fertility. The main explanation is women leaving the labour force, with younger women disproportionately affected. I rule out alternative explanations via demographic composition effects, marriage markets, and changes in remittance flows.

The psychological gains from COVID-19 vaccination: who benefits the most?, joint with Manuel Bagues. R&R Journal of Public Economics (Previously: CAGE WP 594, CEPR Discussion Paper No. DP16694, IZA DP No. 14826)

We quantify the impact of COVID-19 vaccination on psychological well-being using information from a large-scale panel survey representative of the UK population. Exploiting exogenous variation in the timing of vaccinations, we find that vaccination increases psychological well-being by 0.12 standard deviation, compensating for around one half of the overall decrease caused by the pandemic. This effect persists for at least two months, and it is associated with a decrease in the perceived likelihood of contracting COVID-19 and higher engagement in social activities. The improvement is 1.5 times larger for mentally distressed individuals.

Prescribing cost-effective treatments under financial constraints in the England, joint with Hiba Sameen. Health Econometrics and Data Group (HEDG), The University of York WP 22/15

Financial constraints of public sector institutions may impact the delivery of public services. We assess whether hospital trusts running budget deficits prescribe differently cost-effective but expensive new treatments for Hepatitis C. This is of particular interest, as Hepatitis C is a communicative disease whose treatment generates long-term benefits. We assemble a novel panel dataset of hospital trusts providing acute care in England, linking detailed information on financial statements, workforce statistics, prescribing volumes, hospital activity and quality of care. We use two complementary identification strategies: two-way fixed effects and an instrumental variables approach, where we instrument current financial positions with historical deficits and hospital activity in large disease groups. We find evidence of lower prescribing in hospitals in worse financial positions: a 10% of a standard deviation increase in the trust's surplus (£2 million) increases prescribing of new medicines for Hepatitis C treatments by 1.7-2.7%. We rule out several mediating mechanisms including staff mix, drug cost and quality of care.