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WORK EXPERIENCE

2015–Present Doctoral Researcher in Labour Economics
Subfields: Education Economics and Family Economics
KU Leuven, Leuven Economics of Education Research (LEER), Leuven, Belgium

EDUCATION

2015–2019 PhD in Economics
KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
Thesis: “An Economic Perspective on School Dropout”
2013–2014 Master of Advanced Studies in Economics cum laude
KU Leuven, Leuven, Belgium
2012–2013 Master of Business Administration magna cum laude
University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium
2009–2012 Bachelor of Business Administration magna cum laude
University of Antwerp, Antwerp, Belgium

AWARDS AND GRANTS

2019 OECD Youth ResearchEdge Competition – Winner
2016–2020 Research Foundation Flanders (FWO) – Ph.D. Fellowship
2013–2014 KU Leuven – Dean’s list of best students in Economics and Business
2012–2013 University of Antwerp – Dean’s list of best students in Economics and Business

PERSONAL SKILLS

Languages Serbo-Croatian (Native), Dutch (Near native),
English (Cambridge C2 Proficiency Certificate), French (Conversational).
Digital competence Stata, R, Microsoft Office, and LaTeX.

WORKING PAPERS

Mazrekaj, Deni, Kristof De Witte, and Sofie Cabus. “School Outcomes of Children Raised in Same-Sex Families: Evidence from Administrative Panel Data.” *Revise and Resubmit. American Sociological Review*.
Mazrekaj, Deni, and Sofie Cabus. “Does a High School Diploma Matter? Evidence Using Regression Discontinuity Design.” *Submitted*.
Mazrekaj, Deni, Fritz Schiltz, and Vitezslav Titl. “Identifying Politically Connected Firms: A Machine Learning Approach.” *Submitted*.
Mazrekaj, Deni, Kristof De Witte, and Thomas Triebs. “Mind the Gap: Measuring Academic Underachievement with Stochastic Frontier Analysis.”
Mazrekaj, Deni, Mika Kortelainen, and Kristof De Witte. “Should Children Attend a Public or a Private High School? Quasi-Experimental Evidence from Finland.”

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

International Journals

Mazrekaj, Deni, and Kristof De Witte. 2019. "The Effect of Modular Education on School Dropout." *British Educational Research Journal*. <https://doi.org/10.1002/berj.3569>

Schiltz, Fritz, Kristof De Witte, and Deni Mazrekaj. 2019. "Managerial Efficiency and Efficiency Differentials in Adult Education: A Conditional and Bias-Corrected Efficiency Analysis." *Annals of Operations Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10479-019-03269-0>

Schiltz, Fritz, Deni Mazrekaj, Daniel Horn, and Kristof De Witte. 2019. "Does It Matter When Your Smartest Peers Leave Your Class? Evidence from Hungary." *Labour Economics* 59: 79-91. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2019.04.001>

Mazrekaj, Deni, Kristof De Witte, and Sarah Vansteenkiste. 2019. "Labour Market Consequences of a High School Diploma." *Applied Economics* 51 (21): 2313-2325. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00036846.2018.1543939>

Journals in Dutch

Mazrekaj, Deni, Kristof De Witte, and Fritz Schiltz. Forthcoming. "Het rendement van ondernemerschapsonderwijs op de Vlaamse arbeidsmarkt [The returns to entrepreneurship education on the Flemish labour market]." *Over.Werk. Tijdschrift van het Steunpunt Werk*.

Mazrekaj, Deni, Kristof De Witte, and Sarah Vansteenkiste. 2017. "Het rendement van een diploma middelbaar onderwijs op de Vlaamse arbeidsmarkt [The returns to a diploma secondary education on the Flemish labour market]." *Over.Werk.Tijdschrift van het Steunpunt Werk* 27 (1): 10-15.

De Rick, Katleen, Deni Mazrekaj, and Kristof De Witte. 2016. "Hoe kunnen we weten of opleidingen in het beleidsdomein Werk renderen? [How can we know whether programs in policy area Work pay off?]." *Over.Werk. Tijdschrift van het Steunpunt Werk* 26 (2): 83-90.

De Witte, Kristof, and Deni Mazrekaj. 2016. "Vroegtijdig schoolverlaten in het (deeltijds) beroepsonderwijs [Early school leaving in (part-time) vocational education]." *Over.Werk. Tijdschrift van het Steunpunt Werk* 26 (1): 111-119.

POLICY REPORTS

International Policy Reports

European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop). 2017. *On the way to 2020: data for vocational education and training policies. Country statistical overviews – 2016 update*. Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union.

Policy Reports in Dutch

De Witte, Kristof, Deni Mazrekaj, and Fritz Schiltz. 2019. *Economisch effect van SYNTRA-opleidingen [The Economic Effect of Entrepreneurship Programs]*. Brussels: SYNTRA Flanders.

Juchtmans, Goedroen, Deni Mazrekaj, Christina Meert, Katleen De Rick, and Kristof De Witte. 2017. *Schoolverzuim in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest [Truancy in Brussels]*. Brussels: Perspective.Brussels.

De Rick, Katleen, Deni Mazrekaj, and Kristof De Witte. 2016. *Het rendement van opleidingen in het beleidsdomein "Werk" [The returns to programs in policy area "Work"]*. Brussels: Flemish Ministry of Work and Social Economy.

De Witte, Kristof, and Deni Mazrekaj. 2015. *Vroegtijdig schoolverlaten: meer ambitie nodig om een verloren generatie te vermijden [Early school leaving – More ambition is necessary to avoid a lost generation]*. Brussels: Itinera.

BOOKS / BOOK CHAPTERS

- Book Chapters in Dutch De Witte, Kristof, and Deni Mazrekaj. 2017. "Vroegtijdig schoolverlaten: Evidence based aanbevelingen [Early school leaving: Evidence based recommendations]." In *De Geslaagde School [The Successful School]*, by Kristof De Witte and Jean Hindriks, 85-117. Brussels: Itinera; Ghent: Skribis.

THE PRESS

- International Press The Washington Post – New York Post – The Boston Globe – National Post – San Francisco Chronicle – Hartford Courant – Orlando Sentinel – The Connecticut Mirror – The Times-Picayune – The London Free Press. 6 February 2019. "Children raised by same-sex couples do better in school, new study finds."
- National Press Knack. 1 September 2017. "Wat zijn de zwakke plekken van ons onderwijs? [What are the weaknesses of our education system?]"
- De Standaard. 2 June 2017. "Geen diploma? Dat kost u later 37 procent loon [No diploma? That will cost you 37 percent of your salary in the future]."
- Trends – De Tijd – Het Nieuwsblad – Gazet Van Antwerpen - L'Echo – Le Soir – La Libre. 10 November 2015. "Vroegtijdig schoolverlaten: meer ambitie nodig om een verloren generatie te vermijden [School Dropouts: more ambition is necessary to avoid a lost generation]."

PRESENTATIONS

- Seminars *Stanford University*. 4 April 2019. United States: Stanford, California.
- Loughborough University*. 20 February 2019. United Kingdom: Loughborough.
- University of Antwerp*. 24 May 2017. Belgium: Antwerp.
- Maastricht University*. 17 January 2017. The Netherlands: Maastricht.
- Hungarian Academy of Sciences*. 8 December 2016. Hungary: Budapest.
- KU Leuven*. 1 October 2015. Belgium: Leuven.
- Conferences *AEA 2020 – Conference of the American Economic Association*. 4 January 2020. San Diego Marriott Marquis. United States: California, San Diego.
- EALE 2019 – Conference of the European Association of Labour Economists*. 20 September 2019. Uppsala University. Sweden: Uppsala.
- EEA 2019 – Conference of the European Economic Association*. 26 August 2019. University of Manchester. United Kingdom: Manchester.
- ASA 2019 – Conference of the American Sociological Association*. 10 August 2019. Sheraton New York. United States: New York City, New York.
- APPAM 2019 – Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management*. 29 July 2019. Pompeu Fabra University. Spain: Barcelona.
- ESPE 2019 – Conference of the European Society for Population Economics*. 20 June 2019. University of Bath. United Kingdom: Bath.
- EURO 2019 – Conference of the Association of European Operational Research Societies*. 23 June 2019. University College Dublin. Ireland: Dublin.
- SEHO 2019 – Conference of the Society of Economics of the Household*. 27 May 2019. University of Lisbon. Portugal: Lisbon.
- RES 2019 – Conference of the Royal Economic Society*. 17 April 2019. University of Warwick. United Kingdom: Coventry.

- Conferences (cont.) *PAA 2019 – Conference of the Population Association of America.*
10 April 2019. JW Marriott Austin. United States: Austin, Texas.
- AEA 2019 – Conference of the American Economic Association.*
4 January 2019. Atlanta Marriott Marquis. United States: Atlanta, Georgia.
- EALE 2018 – Conference of the European Association of Labour Economists.*
13 September 2018. Lyon Convention Centre. France: Lyon.
- ESPE 2018 – Conference of the European Society for Population Economics.*
26 June 2018. University of Antwerp. Belgium: Antwerp.
- ESPE 2017 – Conference of the European Society for Population Economics.*
16 June 2017. University of Strathclyde. United Kingdom: Glasgow.
- LAGV 2017 – International Conference in Public Economics.*
12 June 2017. Aix-Marseille School of Economics. France: Aix-en-Provence.
- IAAE 2016 – Conference of the International Association for Applied Econometrics.*
22 June 2016. University of Milano-Bicocca. Italy: Milan.
- Workshops *BERD 2019 – Belgian Entrepreneurship Research Day.* 3 May 2019. Université Catholique de Louvain. Belgium: Louvain-la-Neuve.
- LESE 2019 – Lisbon Workshop on Economics, Statistics and Econometrics of Education.* 24 January 2019. University of Lisbon. Portugal: Lisbon.
- EdEN 2018 – Education Economics Network Workshop.* 22 November 2018. Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Hungary: Budapest.
- BIWB–WB 2018 – Bank of Italy – World Bank International Research Workshop.*
16 November 2018. Bank of Italy. Italy: Rome.
- COMPIE 2018 – European Commission Workshop for Counterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation.* 27 September 2018. Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin. Germany: Berlin.
- BDLE 2018 – Belgian Day for Labour Economists.* 7 June 2018. Université Libre de Bruxelles. Belgium: Charleroi.
- LEER 2018 – Leuven Economics of Education Research Workshop on Education Economics.* 28 March 2018. KU Leuven. Belgium: Leuven.
- TIER 2017 – Top Institute for Evidence Based Education Research Workshop on Education Economics.* 13 December 2017. Maastricht University. The Netherlands: Maastricht.
- EEW 2017 – Equity in Education Workshop.* 1 December 2017. KU Leuven. Belgium: Leuven.
- CVER 2017 – Workshop of the Centre for Vocational Education Research.*
11 September 2017. London School of Economics and Political Science. UK: London.
- IWAEE 2017 – International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education.*
19 June 2017. Best Western Perla Del Porto. Italy: Catanzaro.
- BDLE 2017 – Belgian Day for Labour Economists.* 5 May 2017. Université Catholique de Louvain. Belgium: Louvain-la-Neuve.
- LEER 2017 – Leuven Economics of Education Research Workshop on Education Economics.* 30 March 2017. KU Leuven. Belgium: Leuven.

- Workshops (cont.)
- ORBEL 2017 – Workshop of the Belgian Operational Research Society.*
2 February 2017. KU Leuven. Belgium: Brussels.
- LESE 2017 – Lisbon Workshop on Economics, Statistics and Econometrics of Education.* 26 January 2017. University of Lisbon. Portugal: Lisbon.
- EE 2016 – Workshop on Efficiency in Education.* 21 October 2016. Politecnico di Milano. Italy: Milan.
- CVER 2016 – Workshop of the Centre for Vocational Education Research.*
6 September 2016. London School of Economics and Political Science. UK: London.
- AEDE 2016 – Meeting of the Economics of Education Association.*
30 June 2016 and 1 July 2016. Universidad de Extremadura. Spain: Badajoz.
- TIER 2016 – Top Institute for Evidence Based Education Research Workshop on Education.* 23 March 2016. Maastricht University. The Netherlands: Maastricht.
- EEBD 2015 – Efficiency in Education and the Use of Big Data Workshop.*
19 November 2015. KU Leuven. Belgium: Leuven.
- DW 2015 – Doctoral Workshop in Economics.* 5 May 2015. Université Catholique de Louvain. Belgium: Louvain-la-Neuve.

PROJECTS

- 2017–2019 SYNTRA Flanders. *Effectiviteit en Efficiëntie van Ondernemerschapsonderwijs [Effectiveness and Efficiency of Entrepreneurship Education].*
- 2017–2018 Perspective.Brussels. *Schoolverzuim in het Brussels Hoofdstedelijk Gewest [Truancy in Brussels].*
- 2016–2018 European Commission. *Horizon 2020 Twinning Project: Education Economics Network (EdEN).*
- 2017 European Centre for the Development of Vocational Training (Cedefop). *On the way to 2020: data for vocational education and training policies – Country statistical overviews – 2016 update.*
- 2016 Flemish Ministry of Work and Social Economy. *Leerrendement van opleidingen in het beleidsdomein “Werk”: een conceptuele analyse en ontwikkeling van een meetsysteem [Returns to learning of programs in policy domain “Work”: a conceptual analysis and development of a measurement system].*
- 2015 Flemish Ministry of Education and Training. *Evaluatieonderzoek van het decreet “Leren en Werken” [Evaluation study of the decree “Learning and Working”].*

TEACHING

- 2018–2019 Methods of economic policy analysis, Bachelor of Economics, KU Leuven
- 2017–2018 Theses supervision, Master of Economics, KU Leuven

RESEARCH VISITS

- Sept. 2019 – Nov. 2019 VATT Institute for Economic Research (Helsinki, Finland) – Prof. dr. Mika Kortelainen
- May 2017 Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest, Hungary) – Prof. dr. Daniel Horn
- Sept. 2016 – April 2017 Maastricht University (Maastricht, The Netherlands) – Prof. dr. Sofie Cabus

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Journal reviewer American Sociological Review, European Sociological Review
- Memberships American Economic Association (AEA), European Economic Association (EEA), Royal Economic Society (RES), European Society of Labour Economists (EALE), American Sociological Association (ASA), Population Association of America (PAA), European Society for Population Economics (ESPE).

REFERENCES

- Kristof De Witte (*advisor*) Professor of Economics, Director of Leuven Economics of Education Research
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- Daniel Horn (*co-author*) Associate Professor of Economics
Eötvös Lóránd University Budapest, Egyetem tér 1, 1053 Budapest, Hungary
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