

**CONTACT DETAILS DENI MAZREKAJ**

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**WORK EXPERIENCE**

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

**EDUCATION**

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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**

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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**

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Languages Serbo-Croatian (Native), Dutch (Near native),  
English (Cambridge C2 Proficiency Certificate), French (Conversational).

Digital competence Stata, R, Microsoft Office, and LaTeX.

**WORKING PAPERS**

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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**

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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*.

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* 51: 79-91.

Mazrekaj, Deni, Kristof De Witte, and Sarah Vansteenkiste. 2019. "Labour Market Consequences of a High School Diploma." *Applied Economics* 51 (21): 2313-2325.

**POLICY REPORTS**

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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.

**THE PRESS**

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The Washington Post. 6 February 2019. "Children raised by same-sex couples do better in school, new study finds."

**PRESENTATIONS (RECENT)**

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*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.

*RES 2019 – Conference of the Royal Economic Society.*

17 April 2019. University of Warwick. United Kingdom: Coventry.

*PAA 2019 – Conference of the Population Association of America.*

10 April 2019. JW Marriott Austin. United States: Austin, Texas.

*Stanford University – Sociology Seminar.*

4 April 2019. United States: Stanford, California.

*AEA 2019 – Conference of the American Economic Association.*

4 January 2019. Atlanta Marriott Marquis. United States: Atlanta, Georgia.

**TEACHING**

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2018–2019 Methods of economic policy analysis, Bachelor of Economics, KU Leuven

2017–2018 Theses supervision, Master of Economics, KU Leuven

**RESEARCH VISITS**

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Sept. 2019 – Nov. 2019 VATT Institute for Economic Research (Helsinki, Finland) – Prof. dr. Mika Kortelainen

Sept. 2016 – April 2017 Maastricht University (Maastricht, The Netherlands) – Prof. dr. Sofie Cabus

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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Journal reviewer American Sociological Review, European Sociological Review

**REFERENCES**

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- Kristof De Witte (*advisor*) Professor of Economics, Director of Leuven Economics of Education Research  
KU Leuven, Naamsestraat 69, 3000 Leuven, Belgium  
[kristof.dewitte@kuleuven.be](mailto:kristof.dewitte@kuleuven.be); +32 16 32 66 56
- Sofie Cabus (*co-author*) Labour Market Research Coordinator, HIVA Research Institute  
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- Daniel Horn (*co-author*) Associate Professor of Economics  
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