

Sarah McNamara

RESEARCHER & PHD CANDIDATE

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Current Position

Doctoral Researcher

ZEW Mannheim, Department “Labour Markets and Social Insurance”

Mannheim, Germany

Apr 2020-Present

PhD Candidate

Utrecht University School of Economics

Utrecht, Netherlands

exp. mid-2026

Supervisors: Wolter Hassink, Ulrich Zierahn-Weilage, Elena Fumagalli, Joost de Laat and Friedhelm Pfeiffer

Research Interests

Labor Economics - Regional Economics - Human Capital - Intergenerational Mobility - Geographic Mobility - Technological Change

Education

PhD Training/Summer Schools

Identification Strategies in Econometrics University of Mannheim CDSE/ZEW Mannheim (5 ECTS)

Mannheim, Germany

Aug 2021

Applied Theory University of Mannheim CDSE/ZEW Mannheim (5 ECTS)

Aug 2021

Economics of Migration University of Mannheim CDSE/ZEW Mannheim (5 ECTS)

Aug 2020

PhD Econometrics University of Mannheim CDSE (8 ECTS)

Jan 2019

PhD Macroeconomics University of Mannheim CDSE (8 ECTS)

Jan 2018

PhD Microeconomics University of Mannheim CDSE (8 ECTS)

Jan 2018

PhD Mathematics University of Mannheim CDSE (6 ECTS)

Nov 2017

University of Mannheim

Mannheim, Germany

MSc in Economics

Sep 2017 - Jan 2020

120 ECTS, Grade: 1.9

Thesis: “Individual Returns to Higher Education: a Double Machine Learning Approach”, Grade: 1

Queen’s University Belfast

Belfast, Northern Ireland

BSc Hons in Economics

Sep 2013 - Jun 2017

Graduated with First Class Honours

Thesis: “Availability or Entitlements: The East India Company and the Bengal Famine, 1770”, Grade: 1st

Publications

WORK IN PROGRESS

McNamara, Sarah, Maximilian Bach & Thilo Klein. “The Effects of Grammar School Attendance: Evidence from Centralized Assignments”

McNamara, Sarah, Guido Neidhöfer & Patrick Lehnert. “Intergenerational Mobility & Innovation in Europe”

Sarah McNamara. “Returns to Higher Education & Dropouts: a Double Machine Learning Approach”, ZEW Discussion Paper No. 20-084

Sarah McNamara. “Close the Door Before You Go: Intergenerational Mobility and Attitudes to Mobility-Oriented Policy in Germany”

POLICY REPORTS

Bach, Maximilian, Guido Neidhöfer, Sarah McNamara and Friedhelm Pfeiffer. 2020. “Rethinking Schooling, On the effects of school closures on the competence development of primary school children and the need for equality in education provision”, ZEW-Kurzexpertise Nr. 20-13

Professional Experience

Research Assistant (*geprüfte wissenschaftliche Hilfskräfte*)

ZEW Mannheim, Department “Labour Markets and Personnel Management”

Mannheim, Germany

Feb 2020-Apr 2020

Student Research Assistant (*studentische Hilfskräfte*)

ZEW Mannheim, Department “Labour Markets and Personnel Management”

Mannheim, Germany

Apr 2018-Feb 2020

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Seminar Organization Organisation of the weekly seminar at the department “Labour Markets and Social Insurance”, ZEW Mannheim

Proofing/Copy-editing ZEW Mannheim, IAB, European Commission - JRC, Italy (Monitoring, Indicators & Impact Evaluation Unit)

SKILLS

Computer Skills STATA, R (ggplot2), LaTeX, ArcGIS Pro, Matlab, Python (Pandas, PyTorch, NumPy, Scikit-learn. etc.), SAS, SQL

Languages English (Native), Spanish (Professional), German (Intermediate), Portuguese (Intermediate)

Participation in Funded Projects

EU Horizon: Welfare Systems and Labour Market Policies for Economic and Social Resilience in Europe *Dec 2023 - Ongoing*

Economic Upheaval and Human Capital Formation *Jun 2022 - Ongoing*

Analyses of the Costs and Benefits of School Closures for the Containment of COVID-19 *Jan 2021 - Ongoing*

Improving School Admissions for Diversity and Better Learning Outcomes *Jun 2019 - Ongoing*

SEEK Project 2019: Social Mobility and Economic Performance *Jul 2019 - Mar 2021*

Design and Impact of Admissions Rules for Schools *Jan 2019 - Jun 2022*

Seminar and Conference Presentations

2023 European Winter Meetings of the Econometric Society (EWMES) *England*

2022 VolkswagenStiftung Forum “Corona Crisis and Beyond” *Germany*

2022 Swiss Leading House on Economics of Education/University of Zurich (invited) *Switzerland*

2022 QUB 2022 Easter Workshop on School Choice *Northern Ireland*

2021 CIDER-LERN Conference 2021 *Germany*

2021 XXIX Meeting of the Economics of Education Association (AEDE) *Spain*

Scholarships and Awards

2021 **M. Jesús San Segundo Award**, XXIX Meeting of the Economics of Education Association (AEDE) *Spain*

2017 **Degree Plus**, Queen’s University Belfast *Northern Ireland*