

# Lea Nassal

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## RESEARCH FIELDS

**Primary:** Labor Economics  
**Secondary:** Health Economics, Applied Microeconomics

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**University of Warwick** 2024 -  
*Postdoctoral Research Fellow*

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## AFFILIATIONS

**Rockwool Foundation Berlin** 2026 -  
*Research Affiliate*

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## EDUCATION

**University of Duisburg-Essen** 2024  
*Ph.D. Economics*  
**University of Bonn** 2017-2019  
*M.Sc. Economics*  
**University of Bonn** 2014-2017  
*B.Sc. Economics*

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## VISITING

**Tilburg University** Spring 2023

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## WORKING PAPERS

### **Job Loss and Retirement (*Job Market Paper*) - R&R at the *Journal of Labor Economics***

Abstract: This paper provides the first evidence of the long-term effects of job loss on age at retirement, pension benefits and lifetime income. Exploiting plant closures and using German administrative data, I compare displaced workers with similar non-displaced workers. I show that displaced workers delay their retirement in response to the shock and ineligibility for early pension claims is the main driver of this response. Despite adjustments in retirement behavior, displaced workers face significant losses in pension benefits and lifetime income. Compared to similar non-displaced workers, displaced workers experience losses in the present discounted value of their lifetime income of 25%.

### **Moving to Opportunity, Together**

*with Seema Jayachandran, Matthew Notowidigdo, Marie Paul, Heather Sarsons and Elin Sundberg*

Abstract: Many couples face a trade-off between advancing one spouse's career or the other's. We study this trade-off using administrative data from Germany and Sweden. Using an event study approach, we find that when couples move across commuting zones, men's earnings increase more than women's. To distinguish between men's greater potential earnings and a gender norm that prioritizes men's careers, we examine how the patterns differ when the woman has higher potential earnings than her husband. We then estimate a model of household decision-making in which households can (and do) place more weight on income earned by the man.

## **Primum Non Nocere? Mortality Effects of a Physician Strike in Germany**

*with Daniel Avdic, Martin Karlsson and Nina Schwarz*

**Abstract:** We study the consequences of a protracted and unanticipated physician strike in German university hospitals on patient mortality. To estimate the causal effect of the strike, we compare striking and non-striking hospitals in a difference-in-differences design using a comprehensive dataset of all hospital admissions in Germany linked to newly collected records of strike participation. Our results show that the strike led to a sharp decrease in hospital admissions and a significant increase in hospital mortality in striking hospitals. Applying a double selection LASSO algorithm to adjust for care rationing and patient selection, we show that around half of the mortality effect of the strike can be attributed to quality-of-care factors. Finally, we find spillover effects on admissions to nearby non-striking hospitals but no corresponding impact on hospital mortality. We conclude that prolonged industrial action in the healthcare sector may have severe consequences for patient safety unless appropriate risk mitigation protocols are established.

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## WORK IN PROGRESS

### **The “Price” of Breaking the Glass Ceiling**

*with Sonia Bhalotra and Rita Ginja*

### **Mental Health and Crime**

*with Sonia Bhalotra, Meltem Daysal and Mircea Trandafir*

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## PRESENTATIONS

### **2026**

CY Cergy Paris Université, CERGE-EI (Prague), Interdisciplinary Conference on Acknowledging Sexual Violence: Policy, Practice and Voice (London), University of Potsdam, University of Leeds, Newcastle University (online), Royal Holloway Workshop on the Economics of Health and Human Capital (London), University of Liverpool, University of St Andrews (online)

### **2025**

IZA/Leiden University/OECD Workshop: Recent Advances in Labor Economics Using Linked Employer-Employee Data (Leiden), Wellbeing, Health, and Human Behaviour Conference (Warwick), SOLE-EALE Annual Meeting (Toronto), RHUL-City University Family and Health Economics Research Workshop (London), Annual Meeting of the German Economic Association (Cologne)

### **2024**

SOLE Annual Meeting (Portland), 10<sup>th</sup> IRDES Workshop on Applied Health Economics and Policy Evaluation (Paris), University of Bergen, Vienna University of Business and Economics, IWH Halle, Rockwool Foundation Berlin (online)

### **2023**

EALE Annual Meeting (Prague), Essen Health Conference, RES and SES Annual Conference (Glasgow), GSS Seminar (Tilburg University), SEG Seminar (Tilburg University), Ph.D. Workshop Royal Holloway (London)

### **2022**

SOLE Annual Meeting (Minneapolis), 2nd Berlin Workshop on Empirical Public Economics: Gender Economics (Berlin), EEA-ESEM Annual Congress (Milan), DFG conference “The German Labor Market in a Globalized World: Trade, Technology, and Demographics” (Mannheim), Annual Conference of the European Society of Population Economics (ESPE) (Rende), Spring Meeting Young Economists (Orléans)

### **2021**

Annual Meeting of the German Economic Association (virtual), 7th Potsdam PhD Workshop in Empirical Economics (virtual), EEA-ESEM Annual Congress (virtual), BeNA Labor Economics Workshop (virtual), 1st Annual Southern PhD Economics Conference (virtual), 13th RGS Doctoral Conference (virtual)

## POLICY & MEDIA OUTPUTS

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Gender, Career Opportunities, and Relocation Decisions of Couples, NBER Digest, 2024.

<https://www.nber.org/digest/202412/gender-career-opportunities-and-relocation-decisions-couples?page=1&perPage=50>

Who Matters More in a Move: The Husband or the Wife? Wall Street Journal, 2024.

[https://www.wsj.com/lifestyle/careers/moving-couples-men-pay-increase-39b2d61b?st=fvPyyT&reflink=desktopwebshare\\_permalink](https://www.wsj.com/lifestyle/careers/moving-couples-men-pay-increase-39b2d61b?st=fvPyyT&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink)

Moving to Opportunity Together, BFI Research Briefs, 2024.

<https://bfi.uchicago.edu/insights/moving-to-opportunity-together/>

## REFEREEING

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American Economic Review: Insights, Demography, Industrial Relations, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization

## TEACHING

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<b>Econometrics (Master Business Administration), University of Duisburg-Essen</b> Lecturer	2023
<b>Macroeconomics (Bachelor), University of Duisburg-Essen</b> Teaching Assistant to Marie Paul	2022, 2024
<b>Seminar Economics (Bachelor), University of Duisburg-Essen</b> Teaching Assistant to Jens Wrona	2022-2024
<b>Supervision of Bachelor's theses, University of Duisburg-Essen</b>	2020-2024

## MISCELLANEOUS

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### Languages

German (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)

### Software

Stata, R, ArcGIS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

Last updated on May 29, 2026