

Natalia Vigezzi

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Email: natalia.vigezzi@mail.utoronto.ca**Website:** <https://www.nataliavigezzi.com/>**Citizenship:**

Italian; Canadian Permanent Resident

Research Interests:

Applied Microeconomics, Labour Economics, Health Economics,
and Economics of Migration

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Toronto	2026 (Expected)
<i>Committee:</i> Dwayne Benjamin (supervisor), Carolina Arteaga, Shari Eli	
<i>Parental leave:</i> Sept. 2023–May 2024	
M.A in Economics, Bocconi University	2018
B.Sc in Economics, Bocconi University	2015

WORKING PAPERS

Local Labor Market Conditions at Arrival and the Economic Integration of Refugees and Their Children (Job Market Paper)

More Than Just Neighbors: Immigrant Networks and Jobs in High-Paying Firms with Benoit Dostie and Rajshri Jayaraman

Health Spillovers: The Broad Impact of Spousal Health Shocks with Carolina Arteaga and Pilar García-Gómez, [NBER WP No. 33994](#)

The Opportunity Cost of a PhD: Spending your Twenties with Dwayne Benjamin and Boriana Miloucheva, [WP No. 802](#) – *Under review*

WORK IN PROGRESS

For Better or Worse? How Health Shocks Shape Marriage Dynamics with Carolina Arteaga, Pilar García-Gómez and Maartje van Wijhe

The Intergenerational Effects of Parental Health Shocks with Carolina Arteaga, Pilar García-Gómez and Maartje van Wijhe

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Ontario Graduate Scholarship (\$10,000)	2025–2026
Canadian Research Data Center Network Emerging Scholars Grant (\$1,200)	2023
University of Toronto, Recognition of Excellence Award (\$5,000)	2019
University of Toronto Doctoral Fellowship (\$12,000 × 5)	2019–2025

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant, University of Toronto	2019–present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ECO433: Gender and Family Economics• ECO411: Economics of Human Capital and Education• ECO369: Health Economics• ECO200: Microeconomic Theory• ECO101: Principles of Microeconomics• ECO102: Principles of Macroeconomics	
Teaching Assistant, Data Analytics for Managers (MBA), ESMT Berlin	2021
Research Assistant, University of Toronto	2021–2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Dwayne Benjamin• Prof. Carolina Arteaga• Prof. Rajshri Jayaraman	
Research Assistant, Prof. Tommaso Frattini, Centro Studi Luca d’Agliano	2017–2019
Intern at the European Commission, DG Migration and Home Affairs	2017

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Annual Conference of the Canadian Economics Association (Montréal)	2025
Canadian Health Economists’ Study Group Meeting (Montréal)	2025
Rockwool Foundation Migration Forum [poster session] (Berlin)	2025
14th Annual International Conference on Immigration in OECD Countries (Paris)	2024
Immigration Policy: Economic Issues Conference (Montréal)	2024
American Society of Health Economists [poster session] (St. Louis)	2023
RIDGE LACEA Workshop on Gender and Household Economics (Montevideo)	2023

POLICY AND INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS

University of Toronto, Time to Tenure and Promotion Report, Benjamin, D., Harrison, J., Vigezzi, N., Eames, T. (2025), Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty & Academic Life, UofT.

University of Toronto, Faculty Salary Equity Report, Benjamin, D., Harrison, J., Vigezzi, N., Eames, T. (2025), Office of the Vice-Provost, Faculty & Academic Life, UofT.

Immigrant Integration in Europe, Frattini, T., Vigezzi, N. (2019), Centro Studi Luca d’Agliano Migration Observatory Reports.

Immigrant Integration in Europe and in Italy, Frattini, T., Vigezzi, N. (2018), Centro Studi Luca d’Agliano Migration Observatory Reports.

LANGUAGES

Italian (Native), French (Native), English (Fluent), Spanish (Advanced), Maninka (Beginner)
Programming: Stata, R

REFERENCES

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Abstracts

Local Labor Market Conditions at Arrival and the Economic Integration of Refugees and Their Children

(Job Market Paper)

This paper studies how initial economic conditions shape refugees' long-term integration. I leverage the inability of refugees to time their arrivals to local labor market conditions—due to long processing times and quasi-random geographic placement—and use administrative landing records linked to annual tax data from 1995–2021 to follow them over their first decade in Canada. Refugees initially placed in regions with higher unemployment are persistently less likely to work and earn lower incomes. In contrast, looking at the second generation—who landed as children—I find no lasting effects on education, employment, or social assimilation outcomes such as citizenship and intermarriage. To reconcile these patterns, I show that adverse initial conditions induce parental adjustments: higher unemployment rates at arrival raise rates of secondary migration to stronger labor markets and increase post-arrival educational investments. These parental responses are linked to improved outcomes among the second generation.

More Than Just Neighbors: Immigrant Networks and Jobs in High-Paying Firms

with Benoit Dostie and Rajshri Jayaraman

We study whether neighborhood peers influence immigrants' access to high-paying employers. Using longitudinal employer–employee tax data linked to immigration records, we measure employer quality with firm-specific earnings premiums and exploit variation across neighborhoods within larger locales. We find that immigrant-peers raise employer quality, especially for job switchers, while native-peers have little effect. Peer effects are nearly twice as large when peers share a country of birth or mother tongue. Results are robust across specifications, underscoring identity-based neighborhood networks as a channel of immigrant labor market integration.

Health Spillovers: The Broad Impact of Spousal Health Shocks

with Carolina Arteaga and Pilar García-Gómez

In this paper we provide new evidence on the health spillover effects of health shocks within couples. Using administrative data from the Netherlands and a matching event-study framework, we estimate the causal effect of experiencing a health shock within a couple on the health of the initially unaffected partner. Our findings reveal a significant deterioration in the partner's health outlook, characterized by substantial increases in hospital visits, overnight stays, and mortality. The health decline is broad in scope, encompassing higher risk of infections, accidents, and digestive and cardiovascular conditions. This deterioration is accompanied by substantial increases in stress, anxiety and depression for both men and women, as well as sleep disorders for women. These effects are not driven by a heavy caregiving load, financial distress or worsening of health behaviors. On the contrary, the adverse outcomes persist despite suggestive positive changes, including increased exercise for both men and women, and reduced alcohol consumption among women.

For Better or Worse? How Health Shocks Shape Marriage Dynamics

with Carolina Arteaga, Pilar García-Gómez, and Maartje van Wijhe

This paper examines how health shocks affect marriage dynamics and household structure. Using administrative data from Statistics Netherlands, we study couples and singles experiencing unexpected hospitalizations between ages 25 and 55. The analysis is based on a matched event-study design that compares treated individuals to observably similar controls. For couples, a partner's health shock substantially increases the probability of separation, especially when the affected partner is a woman, the shock is more severe, or the household has low income. Health shocks also reduce fertility, but only when the affected partner is a woman, with effects concentrated among younger and lower-income couples. For singles, we extend the analysis to marriage formation and partner characteristics. These results highlight the causal role of health in shaping family stability and fertility, with marked asymmetries by gender and socioeconomic status.

The Opportunity Cost of a PhD: Spending your Twenties

with Dwayne Benjamin and Boriana Miloucheva

This paper examines the opportunity cost of pursuing a PhD by tracing the earnings trajectories of graduate students from undergraduate study through doctoral training and into the labour market. Using linked Canadian administrative and census data, we compare PhD graduates to those who complete a master's degree, to professional degree holders, and to individuals who enter but do not complete a PhD. We find that PhD graduates earn significantly less than their peers early in their careers due to delayed labour market entry. Over time, their earnings recover and eventually surpass those of master's graduates—but primarily among those who obtain academic positions and remain employed later in life. This “double premium” reflects both higher earnings conditional on full-time academic employment and longer labour force attachment. By contrast, the most substantial penalties accrue to non-completers who withdraw late from PhD programs. Finally, we document worsening outcomes for recent PhD graduates, driven largely by declining rates of academic employment. These findings highlight the central role of career timing, labour force attachment, and access to academic positions in shaping the economic returns to doctoral education.