

## CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

### University of Copenhagen

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, 2020 to present

Faculty Member, Center for Economic Behavior and Inequality, 2020 to present

## AFFILIATIONS

**Institute for Fiscal Studies**, International Research Associate, 2021 to present

Institute for Fiscal Studies, Visiting Scholar, 2018 to 2020

Norges Bank Research Department, Guest Researcher, 2020 to present

Danish Finance Institute, Research Fellow, 2020 to present

## EDUCATION

**PhD in Economics, University of Oxford**, 2016 to 2020

Dissertation: “Essays in Consumption, Household Finance, and Macroeconomic Policy”

Advisors: Hamish Low, Michael Keane, and Andrea Ferrero

Examiners: Ben Moll and Petr Sedláček

Visiting PhD Student: Yale University, 2017 to 2018

MPhil in Economics, University of Oxford, 2013 to 2015

BA in Economics, University of Chicago, 2009 to 2013

## INTERESTS

Macroeconomics, Applied Microeconomics, Household Finance, Household Heterogeneity

## PUBLICATIONS

“Estimating Temptation & Commitment over the Life-Cycle”, with Agnes Kovacs & Hamish Low, **International Economic Review**, Vol. 62, No. 1, February 2021, pp 101-139.

“Innovation, Productivity, and Monetary Policy”, with Albert Queralto **Journal of Monetary Economics**, Vol. 93, January 2018, pp 24-41.

## WORKING PAPERS

“Breaking the Commitment Device: The Effect of Home Equity Withdrawal on Consumption, Saving, and Welfare”, with Agnes Kovacs. CEPR Discussion Paper 16634.

This paper investigates the macroeconomic and welfare implications of permitting home equity withdrawal. We evaluate the trade-off between two opposing views: the benefit of improved consumption smoothing and the potential cost of weakened commitment. To disentangle their relative importance, we estimate a life-cycle model containing both channels. We find that the welfare cost of weakened commitment is substantial: approximately 1.7 times larger than the benefit of improved consumption smoothing. Both channels contribute equally to a 2.5 percentage point reduction in the personal saving rate. Welfare could be improved using state-contingent mortgages that better balance the trade-off between flexibility and commitment.

“Temptation and Incentives to Wealth Accumulation”, with Orazio Attanasio and Agnes Kovacs, NBER Working Paper 28938.

We propose a rich model of household behavior to study the effect of two important policies: mortgage interest tax deduction and mandatory mortgage amortization. These policies have attracted some controversy, first because they are conceived to increase overall saving, an objective that the literature does not agree they can achieve, and second because they incentivize illiquid savings and may thus increase the share of ‘wealthy hand-to-mouth’ households. We build a life-cycle model where housing may act as a commitment device to counteract present biases

arising from temptation. We show that the model matches several empirical facts, including the large share of wealthy hand-to-mouth households. We evaluate the effect of the two policies and find that they increase wealth accumulation by 7 and 10% respectively. Our results demonstrate that these policies not only induce portfolio re-balancing, as emphasized by the previous literature, but also increase savings by making commitment more accessible.

“Heterogeneity in Household Spending and Well-Being on Retirement”, with Martin O’Connell, Cormac O’Dea, and Francesca Parodi.

We study heterogeneity in spending patterns around the time of retirement. Using rich consumption data from the Panel Study of Income Dynamics, and exploiting within-household variation in spending, we systematically classify households into groups characterized by differences in consumption transitions at retirement. We decompose the overall spending changes into the contribution made by different sub-components of consumption. We find that the households who increase spending shift their budget away from food and towards transportation, recreation, and trips. In contrast, the households who cut spending reduce the share spent on transportation and restaurants, while increasing the share allocated to groceries and housing expenditures. Using a life-cycle model, we characterize the mechanisms capable of driving these observed patterns.

#### PRESENTATIONS

2021: VU Amsterdam, Aarhus University, Monash University, CEPR European Conference on Household Finance, Michigan Retirement and Disability Research Consortium, North American Meeting of the Econometric Society, Dynamic Structural Econometrics Conference, Society of Economics of the Household, CESifo Conference on Public Economics, European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, AREUEA Seminar, Virtual Australian Macroeconomics Seminar, American Law and Economics Association, 28th Finance Forum, EEA Annual Congress

2020: Stockholm School of Economics, HEC Montréal, University of Copenhagen, University of British Columbia, University of Western Ontario, Federal Reserve Board, University of Edinburgh, Simon Fraser University, Bank of Canada, Bank of Spain, Norges Bank, Sveriges Riksbank, Stanford Institute for Theoretical Economics (SITE), Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, CEPR Conference on New Consumption Data, Danish National Bank, US Treasury Office of Tax Analysis, Uppsala University, Peking University, Nordic Junior Macro Seminar, Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, UNSW & CEPAR Colloquium on Pensions and Retirement Research

2019: Federal Reserve Bank of New York, Institute for Fiscal Studies, Yale School of Management, National University of Singapore, Vigo Workshop on Macroeconomic Dynamics, Bank of England, University of Oxford, University of Copenhagen

2018: Yale School of Management (Whitebox Advisors Conference), Inter-American Development Bank, Norges Bank Research Department, University of Oxford, Statistics Norway (Conference on Micro Data and Macro Models)

2017: Yale University, International Economic Association, Reserve Bank of New Zealand (Conference on Housing, Household Debt & Policy), University of Oxford

#### TEACHING

Graduate Seminar on Inequality and Macroeconomics, University of Copenhagen, 2021

Graduate Macroeconomics, University of Oxford, Teaching Assistant, 2019

Graduate Macroeconomics, University of Oxford, Teaching Assistant, 2018

PREVIOUS EMPLOYMENT	Bank of England, Dissertation Intern (2018 to 2019) Norges Bank Research Department, Dissertation Intern (2018) Federal Reserve Board of Governors, Global Modeling Studies, Research Assistant (2015 to 2016) World Bank, Short Term Consultant (2014)	
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	CONFERENCES: Organizer of the session on “Housing and the Macroeconomy” at the AEA 2022 REFERENCEING: Review of Economic Studies, Journal of the European Economic Association, European Economic Review, Journal of Money, Credit and Banking DISCUSSIONS: European Commission Annual Research Conference 2021, CESifo Area Conference on Public Economics 2021, Urban Economic Association 2021, NuCamp PhD Workshop 2020	
HONORS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS	Grant from the SSA Retirement and Disability Research Consortium (Co-I, \$75,000) Edgeworth Prize for Outstanding Doctoral Thesis, University of Oxford David Walton Distinguished Doctoral Scholarship, University of Oxford Full Doctoral Funding, Centre of Excellence in Population Ageing Research David S. Hu Award for Outstanding Economics Thesis, University of Chicago Honors in Economics, University of Chicago General Honors, University of Chicago Deans List, University of Chicago	
REFERENCES	<b>Professor Hamish Low</b> University of Oxford hamish.low@economics.ox.ac.uk	<b>Professor Michael Keane</b> University of New South Wales m.keane@unsw.edu.au
	<b>Professor Andrea Ferrero</b> University of Oxford andrea.ferrero@economics.ox.ac.uk	<b>Professor Cormac O’Dea</b> Yale University cormac.odea@yale.edu
MISCELLANEOUS	Languages: Citizenship:	English (native), Spanish (proficient) United States of America