

René Karadakic

Last updated: November 9, 2022 [Latest Version](#)

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Research Interests:

Primary Fields: Labour and Health Economics
Secondary Fields: Economic History, Development Economics

Current Position

2018-2023 **PhD Candidate**, Norwegian School of Economics, FAIR - Centre for Experimental Research on Fairness, Inequality and Rationality, Bergen

Education

2022 **Visiting Scholar** Department of Economics, UC San Diego
2016-2018 **M.Sc. in Economics**, Uppsala University, Sweden
Thesis: Unemployment Benefit Generosity in a Life-Cycle Model with Endogenous Job-Search Effort
Master Thesis Award: Stipend from the Ingemar Carlsson Memorial Fund, Uppsala University
2012-2016 **B.Sc. in Economics and Social Sciences**, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria

References

Prof. Aline Bütikofer
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Prof. Alexander Willén
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Job Market Paper

Consequences of Rapid Structural Change - Evidence from Hydropower Expansions, [Current Draft](#)

The establishment of hydroelectric power plants resulted in a rapid structural transformation of Norwegian municipalities around the beginning of the 20th century. Using a novel dataset linking individuals born between 1890 and 1910 to historic death data, I find that experiencing childhood in rapidly transforming local areas leads to an increase of ten months in age at death for men. This effect is entirely driven by individuals born into higher socioeconomic status households. I find that incomes, manufacturing, immigration and economic inequality in local areas in the short/medium-term increase after the introduction of hydropower, while public health deteriorates at the same time. This suggests that, in the long term, economic development through structural transformation outweighs the negative consequences of a deteriorating public health environment and thereby increases the lifespan of individuals.

Publications

2021 **Inequality in Mortality between Black and White Americans by Age, Place, and Cause, and in Comparison to Europe, 1990-2018**. Joint with Hannes Schwandt, Janet Currie, et al. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 118(40). [Published Version](#) and [NBER WP](#)
Although there is a large gap between Black and White American life expectancies, the gap fell 48.9 % between 1990 and 2018, mainly due to mortality declines among Black Americans. We examine age-specific mortality trends and racial gaps in life expectancy in high- and low-income US areas and with reference to six European countries. Inequalities in life expectancy are starker in the United States than in Europe. In 1990, White Americans and Europeans in high-income areas had similar overall life expectancy, while life expectancy for White Americans in low-income areas was lower. However, since then, even high-income White Americans have lost ground relative to Europeans. Meanwhile, the gap in life expectancy between Black Americans and Europeans decreased by 8.3 %.

Black American life expectancy increased more than White American life expectancy in all US areas, but improvements in lower-income areas had the greatest impact on the racial life expectancy gap. The causes that contributed the most to Black Americans' mortality reductions included cancer, homicide, HIV, and causes originating in the fetal or infant period. Life expectancy for both Black and White Americans plateaued or slightly declined after 2012, but this stalling was most evident among Black Americans even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. If improvements had continued at the 1990 to 2012 rate, the racial gap in life expectancy would have closed by 2036. European life expectancy also stalled after 2014. Still, the comparison with Europe suggests that mortality rates of both Black and White Americans could fall much further across all ages and in both high-income and low-income areas.

2021 **Income Inequality and Mortality: A Norwegian Perspective.** Joint with Aline Bütikofer and Kjell G. Salvanes. *Fiscal Studies*, 42(1), 193-221. [Published Version](#) and [NHH WP](#)

While Norway has experienced income growth accompanied by a large decline in mortality during the past several decades, little is known about the distribution of these improvements in longevity across the income distribution. Using municipality-level income and mortality data, we show that the stark income gradient in infant mortality across municipalities in the 1950s mostly closed in the late 1960s. However, the income gradient in mortality for older age categories across municipalities persisted until 2010 and only flattened thereafter. Further, the infant mortality gap between rich and poor Norwegian families based on individual-level data persisted several decades longer than the gap between rich and poor municipalities and only finally closed in the early 21st century.

Working Papers

Intergenerational Mobility Trends and the Changing Role of Female Labor. Joint with Ulrika Ahrsjö and Joachim Kahr Rasmussen. *Submitted*. [Current Draft](#)

Using harmonized administrative income data from Scandinavia, we find that intergenerational rank associations in earnings have increased uniformly across Sweden, Denmark, and Norway for cohorts of children born between 1951 and 1979. Splitting these trends by gender, we find that father-son mobility has been stable, while correlations involving mothers or daughters trend upwards. Similar patterns appear in US survey data, albeit with slightly different timing. Based on evidence from records on occupations and educational attainments, we finally argue that the observed decline in intergenerational mobility is consistent with a development where female skills become increasingly valued in the labor market.

Mommy is Stuck in Traffic? Parenthood and the Gender-Gap in Commuting. Joint with Aline Bütikofer and Alexander Willén. Childbirth increases the opportunity cost of commuting and makes it difficult for parents to work far away from home. As childcare responsibilities tend to fall disproportionately on women, the effect of childbirth on commuting may be much more pronounced among mothers. Using Norwegian register data, we show that the commuting pattern of men and women diverge after childbirth and that the differences persist for many years. We show that this divergence in commuting exposes mothers to more concentrated labor markets with fewer job opportunities. These findings help explain a significant amount of the child penalty documented in the prior literature, and have important implications for the design of policies seeking to address the remaining gender wage gap.

Selected Work in Progress

Spillover Effects of Structural Transformation. Joint with Eirik Berger
Antimicrobial Prescription Guidelines and the Impact on Prescription Behaviour of GPs.

Teaching Experience

2021 Inequality, Intergenerational Mobility and Early Childhood - (Ph.D. level), GUEST LECTURE, Bergen Summer Research School, University of Bergen
 2021 Econometrics (M.Sc. level), TEACHING ASSISTANT, NHH
 2020 Labour Economics (M.Sc. level), TEACHING ASSISTANT, NHH
 2020 Empirical Methods and Applications in Macroeconomics and Finance (M.Sc. level), TEACHING ASSISTANT, NHH
 2019 Macroeconomic Theory and Policy (M.Sc. level), TEACHING ASSISTANT, NHH
 2019 Empirical Strategies for Causal Analysis (M.Sc. level), TEACHING ASSISTANT, NHH

Conferences, Seminars & Talks

2022 Austrian Economic Association Annual Meeting, FAIR Midway Conference, University of California San Diego Applied Micro Seminar
 2021 Stockholm University, Centre for Health and Fertility (Oslo), Workshop on Gender Inequality in Labour Markets (IAAEU - Trier), EALE Virtual (Padua), EEA-ESEM Virtual (Copenhagen) European Society of Population Economists Conference (Barcelona), Scandinavian PhD Seminar, European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (Copenhagen)
 2020 Institute For Fiscal Studies Special Issue Workshop (virtual)
 2019 ANR Workshop in Labour Economics at Paris School of Economics, FAIR CELE Workshop in Applied Microeconomics (Bergen)

Relevant Positions

2015-2016 RESEARCH ASSISTANT, [Institute for Advanced Studies](#) (IHS), Department of Health Economics and Health Policy, Vienna, Austria

Refereeing

Journal of Human Resources, Scientific Reports, International Tax and Public Finance

Stipends & Professional Activities

2020-2021 CO-ORGANIZER of the Scandinavian PhD Seminar

2018 STIPEND from the Ingemar Carlsson Memorial Fund, [Master Thesis](#), Uppsala University

2017-2018 PRESIDENT, Pareto Uppsala Economic Association

Computer Skills

PROGRAMMING: R (advanced), Shell (proficient), Stata (proficient), Python (basic)

TEXT EDITING: \LaTeX , Quarto, Markdown

Personal Information

BORN: December 21, 1991—Rosenheim, Germany

NATIONALITY: Austrian and German

LANGUAGES: German (native), English (fluent), Norwegian (basic), French (basic)