MARTINA PONS

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EDUCATION

University of Bern, Ph.D., Economics (June 2020-May 2025). Supervisor: Blaise Melly
  Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Visiting Student (Sept 2023-June 2024).
  Study Center Gerzensee, Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics, 2021

University of Bern, M.Sc., Economics, *summa cum laude*, 2020.
  University of Copenhagen, Visiting Student, (Sept 2019-Jan 2020).

University of Bern, B.Sc., Economics, *insigni cum laude*, 2018.

HTW Chur, University of Applied Sciences, B.Sc., Tourism, 2016.

REFERENCES

Prof. Dr. Blaise Melly	**Prof. Dr. Anna Mikusheva**	**Prof. Dr. Bo Honoré**
Professor of Economics	Professor of Economics	Professor of Economics
University of Bern	MIT	Princeton University
Schanzeneckstrasse 1	The Morris & Sophie Chang Building	Julis Romo Rabinowitz Building
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RESEARCH

Research interest: Econometrics, Panel Data, Quantile Methods, Health Economics

Working papers

1. **Quantile on Quantiles [Job Market Paper]**. *Winner of the IAAE 2024 best student paper award*

   Distributional effects provide interesting insight into how a given treatment impacts inequality. This paper extends this notion in two ways. First, it recognizes that inequality spans multiple dimensions, for example, within and between groups, with treatments potentially influencing and creating trade-offs between both. Second, the paper addresses the nontrivial challenge of ranking heterogeneous groups, which heavily depends on the social welfare function of the policymaker. To this end, I introduce a model to simultaneously study distributional effects within and between groups while remaining agnostic about this social welfare function. The model consists of a quantile function with two indices, the first capturing heterogeneity within groups and the second addressing the between-group dimension. I propose a two-step quantile regression estimator involving within-group regressions in the first stage and between-group regressions in the second stage. I show that the estimator is consistent and asymptotically normal when the number of observations per group and the number of groups diverge to infinity. In an empirical application, I study the effect of training on the distribution of firms' performance within and between markets in Kenya. The results show large positive effects among the successful firms in the best-performing markets, suggesting potential complementarities between firms and market performance.

2. **Minimum Distance Estimation of Quantile Panel Data Models** (joint with Blaise Melly).

3. **The Apple Does Not Fall Far From the Tree: Intergenerational Persistence of Dietary Habits** (joint with Frédéric Kluser). (*Submitted*)

Publications

> **The Impact of Air Pollution on Birthweight: Evidence from Grouped Quantile Regression**. 2022, Empirical Economics 62, 279–296.

SEMINARS, CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

2024: Workshop on Recent Advances in Panel and Network Data (Oxford, UK), International Association for Applied Econometrics (IAAE) Annual Conference (Thessaloniki, Greece), Internaltional Panel Data Conference, (Orléans, France), European meeting of the Econometric Society, (Rotterdam, Netherlands).

2023: Econometrics Lunch (MIT), International Association for Applied Econometrics (IAAE) Annual Conference, (Oslo, Norway), Young Swiss Economists Meeting, (Zurich, Switzerland).

2022: 2nd International Econometrics PhD Conference (Rotterdam, Netherlands), COMPIE (COunterfactual Methods for Policy Impact Evaluation) Conference (Mannheim, Germa ny), International Panel Data Conference (Bertinoro, Italy), Lunch Seminar, University of Geneva (Geneva, Switzerland).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Best Student Paper Award (ex aequo), IAAE Thessaloniki, 2024

University of Bern, Doc Mobility Grant to visit the MIT, 2023

Prize for the best performance in the Swiss Program for Beginning Doctoral Students in Economics (ex aequo), Study Center Gerzensee, 2021

VWG Prize (Award for the Best Master Thesis), 2020

Award for the Best Master's Degree of the Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences, University of Bern, 2020

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

> University of Bern, World Trade Institute, Research Assistant for the DESTA Project, *May 2018-November 2018*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant

Bachelor	Workshop in Econometrics I[a] (2024) Econometrics I[a] (2020) Essential Mathematics for Economists[a] (2019)
Master/PhD	Seminar Workshop in Econometrics II[a] (2022, 2023) Econometrics II[a] (2020, 2021, 2022, 2024) Time Series Analysis II[a] (2021, 2022) Econometrics Sequences 1 & 3[b] (2023, 2024)

[a]: University of Bern, [b]: Study Center Gerzensee

REFEREE

Empirical Economics

SKILLS

Languages: Italian (native), German (fluent), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent)

Softwares: R, Stata, Latex, Git, Matlab