Thomas Monk

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Citizenship: British

Field of Concentration: Labour Economics

Supervisors:
Professor Alan Manning
Professor John Van Reenen

Education:
Ph.D., Economics, London School of Economics, 2026 (expected)
MRes, Economics, London School of Economics, 2019 (*with distinction*)
M.Sc., Economics, University College London, 2017 (*with distinction*)
B.A., Philosophy, Politics and Economics, University of York, 2014 (*first class*)

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards:
LSE Research and Impact Support Fund (£5,000, PI), 2024
LSE Excellence in Education Award, School of Public Policy - 2022, 2023, 2024
LSE Class Teacher Award, School of Public Policy - 2023, 2024 *(Highly Commended)*
LSE Teaching Bonus Award, Department of Economics - 2021, 2023, 2024
London School of Economics Departmental Fellowship, 2019-2025
Economic and Social Research Council Doctoral Studentship, 2019-2023
Yale Doctoral Fellowship, Yale University, 2018
Cowles Foundation & Economic Growth Center Fellowship, 2018

Teaching Experience:

London School of Economics:
2022-2025, Teaching Fellow to Prof. Guy Michaels, Labour Economics (MSc Economics)
2021-2025, Teaching Fellow to Prof. Dr Jeremiah Dittmar & Prof Mark Schankerman, Quantitative Approaches and Policy Analysis (MPA)
2022-2025, Course Convenor & Lecturer, Introduction to Quantitative Methods for the MPA Programme (MPA)
2023, Course Convenor & Lecturer, Introduction to Data Science for Public Policy (MPA)
2021-2023, Teaching Fellow to Prof. Daniel Sturm, Empirical Methods for Public Policy (MPP)
Summer 2022, Teaching Assistant to Dr Kevin Sheedy, Intermediate Macroeconomics (UG)
Summer 2020-2022, Teaching Assistant to Dr Kevin Sheedy, Introductory Macroeconomics (UG)
2020-2021, Teaching Assistant to Prof Steve Pischke, Prof Taisuke Otsu, Dr Marcia Schafgans & Dr Canh Dang, Introduction to Econometrics (UG)

Research and Work Experience:

Research Assistant to Professsor Alan Manning, Center for Economic Performance, London School of Economics, 2020-2022
Research Assistant to Professor Camille Landais & Professor Johannes Spinnewijn, STICERD, London School of Economics, 2017-2018

Working Papers:

"*Occupational Skill Content and Technological Change*"
(This project is kindly supported by grants funded by the LSE's Research Impact and Support Fund 2024 and the Economic and Social Research Council.)

Technological change events fundamentally change the type of tasks performed by human labour within occupations. I develop a predictive model, utilising machine learning techniques, and find that occupational skill intensity data can predict, to a high degree of accuracy, technological change event exposure, as measured by indices developed by Webb (2020). I link these predictions to skills data from a library of newspaper job vacancy adverts to understand how skill intensities have changed over time, and use this this to predict historical occupational technological exposure. Change in occupational technological exposure, as predicted by changing skill intensities, is highly associated with important labour market outcomes.

"Public Opinion and Immigration"
(joint with Alan Manning)

Immigration in many high-income countries is often a fraught political issue. The share of migrants has been rising yet typically more people want lower than higher immigration, though views on the issue are often very polarised with strongly-held views on both sides. Given this, understanding public opinion on immigration is obviously important and there is a large and growing academic literature on the subject. These studies often investigate how attitudes vary with demographics among people in the same

country at the same point in time. But it is also likely that attitudes respond to country-level macro variables like the level and mix of immigration and the general state of the economy. To investigate the influence of macro-level variables requires data on multiple countries and years so that there is enough variation in the variables of interest. This data is relatively rare. To address this, we introduce a novel high-dimensional dataset, harmonising data on the 28 EU countries from Eurobarometer surveys over the period 2002-2019, and investigate the influences of macro-level variables on attitudes towards immigration.

"*Uncertain Health and Wealth Inequality*"
(Best Dissertation Prize, MSc Economics, University College London, 2017)

Precautionary saving is a key driver of wealth inequality within models of the Bewley-Huggett-Aiyagari canon. However, models with savings rates calibrated solely to idiosyncratic income risk find it difficult to replicate the vast wealth inequality empirically observed in the United States. This paper looks at a potential source of increased precautionary savings - idiosyncratic medical expenses shocks. This paper: i. establishes an identification procedure for medical expenditure shocks across the entire life cycle, ii. finds that idiosyncratic shocks are very highly persistent, iii. establishes the extent to which these shocks contribute to wealth inequality through the effect on savings behaviour.

Public Datasets & Code:

Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) 1939-1991 (in progress): a novel dataset fully digitising all Dictionary of Occupational Titles (DOT) editions published between 1939-1991. This dataset includes titles, descriptions and SOC codes at the occupation level, cross-walking across each edition. This this dataset allows for understanding the evolution of occupational skill requirements within-occupation over time.

Harmonised Eurobarometer 2003-2019 (forthcoming): this dataset harmonises responses from the 28 EU countries from Eurobarometer surveys over the period 2002-2019. We use the Standard Eurobarometer survey series, conducted in the Spring and Autumn of each year in a repeated cross-section, with around 1000 respondents from each EU country. The Standard surveys ask a range of repeated trend questions alongside a selection of rotating modules and individual demographic details, which have previously been difficult to understand across time and countries.

multe - multichoice logit estimator: a fast, Python implementation of an MLE estimator of the multichoice logit model, as described in Ophem, H.V., Stam, P. and Praag, B.V., 1999. Multichoice logit: modeling incomplete preference rankings of classical concerts. Journal of Business & Economic Statistics, 17(1), pp.117-128.