

# GERARD DOMÈNECH-ARUMÍ

Boston University: Department of Economics

270 Bay State Road, Room 514

Boston MA 02215 USA

Cell: (857) 250-5597

Email: [domenech@bu.edu](mailto:domenech@bu.edu)

Web site: <https://sites.google.com/site/domenechweb/home>

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, Boston University, Boston MA, 2021 (expected)

Dissertation Title: *Three Essays on Empirical Microeconomics*

Dissertation Committee: M. Daniele Paserman, Raymond Fisman and Johannes Schmieder

M.A., Political Economy, Boston University, Boston, MA, 2018

M.A., Economics and Finance, CEMFI, Madrid, Spain, 2015

B.A., Economics (*Summa Cum Laude*), Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Cerdanyola del Vallès, Spain, 2013

## FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Public Economics, Political Economy

## WORKING PAPERS

**(Job Market Paper)** “Neighborhoods, Perceived Inequality, and Preferences for Redistribution: Evidence from Barcelona”, October 2020

“Bringing Them In or Pushing Them Out? The Labor Market Effects of Pro-cyclical Unemployment Assistance Reductions,” (with Silvia Vannutelli), July 2020

## WORK IN PROGRESS

“Neighborhoods, Perceptions, and Preferences for Redistribution: Social Mobility and Immigration”

“The Dynamic Effects of Immigration on Electoral Outcomes,” (with Cheonghum Park)

## PRESENTATIONS

The Tobin Project Inequality and Decision-Making Graduate Student Workshop, Cambridge, MA, 2020 (scheduled)

5<sup>th</sup> International EALE/SOLE/AASLE Conference, Berlin, Germany, 2020

31<sup>st</sup> EALE Conference, Uppsala, Sweden, 2019

Barcelona GSE Summer Forum, Barcelona, Spain, 2019

IEB Workshop on the Economics of Taxation & Social Expenditure, Barcelona, 2019

IAB Welfare and Unemployment Dynamics Workshop, Nuremberg, Germany, 2018

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Graduate Research Fellowship, The Tobin Project, 2020

Abdala Research Fellowship, Institute for Economic Development, 2020

Gitner Prize for Outstanding Economics Teaching Fellow, Boston University: Department of Economics, 2020

Research and Teaching Assistant Fellowship, Boston University: Department of Economics, 2017-20

Grant for Summer Research, the Institute for Human Studies, 2017

“la Caixa” Fellowship, Fundació Bancaria “la Caixa”, 2015-17

CEMFI Fellowship for Graduate Studies, CEMFI, 2013-15

Extraordinary Prize of Bachelor, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, 2013

**ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant for Prof. Daniele Paserman, Boston University, January 2017 to December 2018 & September 2020 to present

Research Assistant for Prof. Claudia Steinwender, MIT Sloan, September 2017 to August 2018

Research Assistant for Prof. Marcos Vera, Institute for Fiscal Studies, June & July 2014

Research Assistant for Prof. Pedro Rey, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, June to August 2013

**NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE**

Finance Assistant, Nestlé UK & I, September to December 2012

Accounts Receivable Assistant, Nestlé UK & I, January to April 2012

**REFEREE EXPERIENCE**

*Review of Economics and Statistics, Hacienda Pública Española/Review of Public Economics*

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Teaching Fellow, Empirical Microeconomics II, Boston University: Department of Economics, Summer 2020

Teaching Assistant, Intermediate Macroeconomics, Boston University: Department of Economics, Summer 2020

Head Teaching Fellow, Introductory Microeconomics, Boston University: Department of Economics, Fall 2019 & Spring 2020

Facilitator, Introductory Microeconomics, Boston University: Department of Economics, Summer 2019

Teaching Fellow, Introductory Microeconomics, Boston University: Department of Economics, Spring 2019

**LANGUAGES:** English (fluent), Catalan (native), Spanish (native), French (elementary), Portuguese (elementary)

**COMPUTER SKILLS:** STATA, R, QGIS, MATLAB, LaTeX

**CITIZENSHIP/VISA STATUS:** Spain/J1

**REFERENCES**

**Professor M. Daniele Paserman**  
Department of Economics  
Boston University  
Phone: (617) 353-5695  
Email: [paserman@bu.edu](mailto:paserman@bu.edu)

**Professor Raymond Fisman**  
Department of Economics  
Boston University  
Phone: (617) 358-6821  
Email: [rfisman@bu.edu](mailto:rfisman@bu.edu)

**Professor Johannes Schmieder**  
Department of Economics  
Boston University  
Phone: (617) 299-9841  
Email: [johannes@bu.edu](mailto:johannes@bu.edu)

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## **Neighborhoods, Perceived Inequality, and Preferences for Redistribution: Evidence from Barcelona** (Job Market Paper)

This paper combines various data sources and identification strategies to investigate whether neighborhoods are drivers of perceived inequality and preferences for redistribution. It first proposes a novel measure of local inequality, the Local Neighborhood Gini (LNG). The LNG is based on the spatial distribution of dwellings within a city, independent of preexisting administrative boundaries, and specific to *each* city's building. Secondly, it elicits perceptions and demand for redistribution from a large-scale survey conducted in Barcelona (Spain). Critically, the survey linked responses to participants' specific LNG through their home addresses. Finally, the paper exploits a within-survey experiment and the recent rise of new apartment buildings close to respondents' dwellings as an outside-the-survey quasi-experiment to identify the effects of neighborhoods on perceived inequality and preferences for redistribution. Results suggest that individuals living in more unequal local environments are more likely to perceive higher inequality, but only moderately more prone to demand more redistribution – with ideology playing a key role in the overall story. This paper's contribution falls within the growing strand of research exploring the causes and consequences of misperceptions.

## **Bringing Them In or Pushing Them Out? The Labor Market Effects of Pro-cyclical Unemployment Assistance Reductions**

*(with Silvia Vannutelli)*

We causally estimate the effects of pro-cyclical unemployment-assistance (UA) reductions on job search behavior and re-employment outcomes using reform-induced changes in UA durations for older workers in Spain. Benefit reductions are effective in bringing workers back to work and reduce non-employment duration, but also induce displacements out of the labor force and strong substitution patterns towards less generous UA programs, highlighting the social insurance role of long-term benefits during economic downturns. Despite the sharp drop in non-employment duration, we also document a large decrease in re-employment wages, consistent with a reduction in workers' reservation wages and limited duration dependence.