

# Majda Benzidia

Aix-Marseille Univ. (Aix Marseille School of Economics)

<https://majdabenzidia.wordpress.com>

## Office Contact Information

Bureau 2-55,  
5 Boulevard Bourdet  
13205 Marseille cedex 01  
(+33)4 13 55 26 04  
(+33)6 19 07 35 54  
majda.benzidia@univ-amu.fr

Birth: August 27th, 1991  
Citizenship: French, Moroccan

## Position

**2017 –**                    **Aix-Marseille School of Economics** .  
Research Scholar and Teaching Assistant.

## Education

**2014 – 2017**            **Ph.D. in Economics.**  
Aix-Marseille Univ. (Aix Marseille School of Economics).  
Completion Date: December 4, 2017.  
Thesis: *Three Essays in Economics of Education: An Econometric Approach*.  
Jury: Karim Abadir (referee), Stephen Bazen (chairman), Michel Lubrano (advisor),  
Christian Robert (examiner), Mareva Sabatier (referee).

**2011 – 2014**            **Magistère Ingénieur-Économiste, with honors.**  
(*Double Degree: Engineering Economics*).  
Aix-Marseille Univ. (Aix Marseille School of Economics).

**2012 – 2014**            **Master in Econometrics (Research), with honors.**  
Aix-Marseille Univ. (Aix Marseille School of Economics).

**2011 – 2012**            **BA in Economics and Management, with honors.**  
Aix-Marseille Univ. (Aix Marseille School of Economics).

**2009 – 2011**            **Classes préparatoires, Hypokhâgne-Khâgne B/L, Social Sciences.**  
(*Higher School Preparatory Classes*).  
Lycée Notre-Dame/Saint Sigisbert, Nancy.

## Fields of Interest

**Economics of Education, Gender Studies, Applied Econometrics, Labor Economics.**

## Experience

**May-July 2013**            ***Health National Report* (Research Intern).**  
Data treatment and econometric analysis on the working life of persons suffering from chronic diseases.  
Inserm-ORS PACA.

**Apr-June 2012**            ***Estimating a non-marketable good* (Research Intern).**  
Study commissioned by the French government, regarding the creation of the Calanques National Park.  
GREQAM.

## Teaching Assistant

**Oct 14–Oct 17**            Mathematics, BA in Economics (1st Year) and "Classes préparatoires".  
Probability, BA in Economics (2nd year).  
Statistics, BA in Economics (2nd year).  
Aix Marseille School of Economics.

## Skills

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- **Languages:** French(native), English(fluent), Moroccan(fluent), German(basics).
- **Softwares:** · Mathematical packages: SAS, R, STATA, SPSS.  
· Office Support: L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft Office, VBA.
- **Data Analysis:** Large Scale Assessment Database (PISA), ACS (American Community Survey), ELSI (Elementary Secondary Information System) .

## Grants

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- 2014–2017**                      Doctoral Fellowship, Aix-Marseille School of Economics..

## Research Papers

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- **If I Were a Boy: A Study of Gender Stereotypes at School.**  
*Job Market Paper.*
- **A Bayesian Look at American Academic Wages: Where are the Super-stars?, with Michel Lubrano .**  
(*Under Review: Journal of Economic Inequality*).
- **Education Politics, Schooling Choice and Public School Quality: Does Income Polarisation Matter?, with Paolo Melindi-Ghidi and Michel Lubrano.**

## Conferences and Seminars

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### *Winter school:*

- 2015**                      - Tenth Winter School on Inequality and Collective Welfare Theory (IT10).  
University of Verona.

### *Presentations:*

- 2015**                      - AMSE Ph.D Seminar Aix-Marseille University (AMSE).  
- The RCEA 9<sup>rd</sup> Rimini Bayesian Workshop (Rimini Center for Economic Analysis).  
- 7<sup>th</sup> French Econometrics Conference (Orléans).
- 2016**                      - AMSE Ph.D Seminar Aix-Marseille University (AMSE).  
- 21<sup>st</sup> Spring Meeting of Young Economists (ISCTE-IUL Lisbon) .  
- The Dynamics of Inequalities and their Perception (GREQAM, Marseille).  
- 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the French Economic Association(AFSE Nancy) .
- 2017**                      - AMSE Ph.D Seminar Aix-Marseille University (AMSE).  
- The Fourth Lisbon Research Workshop on Economics, Statistics and Econometrics of Education .  
- 16<sup>th</sup> Journées Louis-Andrée-Gérard-Varet (LAGV),(AMSE).  
- Africa Meeting of the Econometric Society, Algiers.

### *Organisation:*

- 2015 & 2017**                      - 14<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Journées Louis-Andrée-Gérard-Varet (LAGV) .  
Aix-Marseille University (AMSE).

## References

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**Prof. Michel Lubrano**  
Aix Marseille School of Economics  
5 Boulevard Bourdet  
CS 50498  
13205 Marseille cedex 01  
michel.lubrano@univ-amu.fr

**Prof. Stephen Bazen**  
Aix Marseille School of Economics  
5 Boulevard Bourdet  
CS 50498  
13205 Marseille cedex 01  
stephen.bazen@univ-amu.fr

**Prof. Karim Abadir**  
Imperial College London  
Room 3.03  
53 Prince's Gate  
South Kensington Campus  
k.m.abadir@imperial.ac.uk

**- If I Were a Boy: A Study of Gender Stereotypes at School.**

This paper aims at quantifying gender stereotypes at school. How does self-perceptions and gendered- oriented-expectations of others influence children's self perception of their capabilities? Using PISA data with a specific focus on mathematics, I first construct an index of self-confidence using multiple correspondence analysis. In a second step, I regress this index over PISA scores and other control variables and apply a decomposition method in order to see which part of the difference between boys and girls self-confidence is explained by characteristics and which part is not. Despite the high number of explanatory variables, the decomposition highlights a substantial part in differences between girls and boys that can be attributed to stereotypes and not to characteristics.

**- A Bayesian Look at American Academic Wages: Where are the Superstars?, with Michel Lubrano .**

*(Under Review: Journal of Economic Inequality).*

The paper investigates academic wage formation and develops tools in order to detect the presence of superstars. We model wage distributions using a hybrid mixture formed by a lognormal distribution for regular wages and a Pareto distributions for higher wages, using a Bayesian approach, particularly well adapted for inference in hybrid mixtures. The presence of superstars is detected by studying the shape of the Pareto tail. Contrary to usual expectations, we did find some evidence of superstars, but only when recruiting assistant professors. When climbing up the wage ladder, superstars disappear. For full professors, we found a phenomenon of wage compression as if there were an upper bound, which is just the contrary of a superstar phenomenon. Moreover, a dynamic analysis shows that many recruited superstars did not fulfill the university expectations as either they were not promoted or left for lower ranked universities.

**- Education Politics, Schooling Choice and Public School Quality: Does Income Polarisation Matter?, with Paolo Melindi-Ghidi and Michel Lubrano.**

Do communities with the same level of inequality but a different level of income polarisation perform differently in terms of public schooling? To answer this question, we extend the theoretical model of schooling choice and voting developed by de la Croix and Doepke (2009), introducing a more general income distribution characterised by a three-member mixture instead of a single uniform distribution. We show that not only income inequality, but also income polarisation, matters in explaining disparities in public education quality across communities. Public schooling is an important issue for the middle class, which is more inclined to pay higher taxes in return for better public schools. Contrastingly, poorer households may be less concerned about public education, while rich parents are more willing to opt out of the public system, sending their children to private schools. Using micro-data covering 724 school districts of California and introducing a new measure of income polarisation, we find that school quality in low-income districts depends mainly on income polarisation, while in richer districts it depends mainly on income inequality.