

Yu Aoki-Beattie

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Citizenship: Japanese national, UK permanent resident

Contact Details

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Employment

Since 2012: University of Aberdeen, Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Economics,
jointly with the Health Economics Research Unit
(On maternity leaves from August 2019 to July 2020; and September 2022 to July 2023)

2009–2012: Teaching Assistant, University of Warwick

2010 Summer: Intern, Centre for Educational Research and Innovation, OECD, Paris

2006 Summer: Research Assistant for Prof. Yasuyuki Todo, Tokyo

Research Affiliation/Visit

Autumn term 2024: Department of Economics, University of Warwick, Research visit

Since 2017: Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA), Research Fellow

2012–2017: IZA, Research Affiliate

Higher Education

December 2012: PhD Economics, University of Warwick

Thesis Title: “Identification of Causal Effects using the 1995 Earthquake in Japan: Studies of Education and Health”

Advisors: Wiji Arulampalam, Robin Naylor, and Fabian Waldinger

Thesis Examiners: Sonia Bhalotra and Victor Lavy

2006 – 2007: MSc Economics, University of Warwick (Distinction in dissertation)

2004 – 2006: MA Economics/Economic Policy, Tokyo Metropolitan University (First class)

2000 – 2004: BA Economics, Tokyo Metropolitan University

Research Interests

Main fields: Labour Economics, Health Economics

Secondary fields: Applied Econometrics, Social Policy

Publications

“Where to live? English proficiency and residential location of UK migrants” (with Lualhati Santiago), 2024. *Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organisation*, Vol. 221, pp. 73-93. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jebo.2024.03.015>

“Speak better, do better? Education and health of migrants in the UK”, *Labour Economics*, 2018, Vol. 52, pp.1-17 (with Lualhati Santiago). <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2018.03.003>

“Donating time to charity: Working for nothing?” *Oxford Economic Papers*, 2017, vol. 69, issue 1, pp.97-117. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oeq/gpw048>

- **Media coverage:** BBC Radio Scotland, The Times, Daily Mail, Daily Express and Evening Express.
- **Award:** Cairncross Prize for the best paper by a young economist in the Scottish Economic Society (£1,000).
- **Accompanying academic blog:** “The power of volunteering: You make me happy and I make you happy”, *Oxford University Press Blog*, October 2016.

“Speak well, do well - English language proficiency and health and social outcomes of UK immigrants”, *Health Economics Research Unit Policy Brief*, University of Aberdeen, 2016.

“Are immigrants more likely to commit crimes? Evidence from France” (with Yasuyuki Todo), *Applied Economics Letters*, 2009, vol. 16, issue 15, pp. 1537 – 1541. <https://doi.org/10.1080/13504850701578892>

Working Papers

“Proximity to fast-food outlets and adolescent BMI: Accounting for persistent health dynamics” (with Wiji Arulampalam and Neil Lloyd), University of Warwick Department of Economics Working Paper No. 1601, February 2026. *Under Review*.

We estimate the causal effect of exposure to fast-food outlets on adolescent z-BMI using the UK Millennium Cohort Study linked to comprehensive geospatial data. We develop a novel approach to modelling BMI persistence by clustering early childhood BMI trajectories, allowing us to distinguish baseline obesity susceptibility from contemporaneous environmental effects. Identification exploits the near-universal transition from primary to secondary school, generating plausibly exogenous variation in exposure to fast-food outlets around schools. Adolescents with at least one major-brand outlet near school have, on average, a 0.158 standard-deviation higher z-BMI. Effects decline with distance and do not extend to other food outlets.

“Shaking criminal incentives” (with Theodore Koutmeridis). IZA Discussion Paper No. 12781, 2019.

We investigate criminal incentives using the unanticipated 1995 Kobe earthquake as a natural experiment. This disaster caused severe damage and thousands of deaths in several Japanese municipalities, while leaving others unaffected. Using data from 1990–2000, we find burglary rates declined disproportionately in affected areas, even after controlling for labour market conditions and police forces. The evidence suggests housebreakers responded to housing damages that lowered the value of potential loot. We tackle endogeneity concerns of housing damage by instrumenting the extent of damage with the distance from the earthquake epicentre, which arguably influences burglaries exclusively through devaluing the potential loot. This study is the first to comprehensively examine how changes in the economic value of takings influence crime patterns, including direct impacts and substitution across crime types.

Work in Progress

“Neighbourhoods and educational achievement: Role of income segregation in Nigeria” (with Benedikt Mihm)

“Have they worked? Evaluating homelessness prevention interventions in Britain” (with Marco Mello and Alexandros Zangelidis)

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“Unequal neighbourhoods, unequal childhoods: Income segregation and child labour in Nigeria” (with Benedikt Mihm)

“Housing and health effects of social housing availability in Britain” (with Marco Mello and Alexandros Zangelidis)

Resting Papers

“The intergenerational mobility of white working-class boys: Are they the most disadvantaged?” (with Harinder Battu and Patricio Valdivieso Massa). Discussion Papers in Economics and Finance, vol. 19-2, 2edn, University of Aberdeen Business School, pp. 2-39, 2019.

Scholarships, Awards, and Research Grants

- 2022: British Academy Small Grant (£10,000), with Wiji Arulampalam
- 2021: CAGE Research Fund, Warwick (£5,000), with Wiji Arulampalam
- 2020: Elphinstone Scholarship from University of Aberdeen, UK (£49,500)
- 2016: Elphinstone Scholarship from University of Aberdeen, UK (£41,400).
- 2015: Early Career Engagement Grant by the Scottish Institute for Research in Economics (£3,120)
- 2014: Research Grant by the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland (£2,366)
- 2013: Winner of the Cairncross Prize for the best paper by an early-career economist, Scottish Economic Society 2013 Annual Conference (£1,000)
- 2008: Study Abroad Programme Bursary for graduate students from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (£54,160)
- 2004: Scholarship for graduate studies from the Japan Student Services Organisation, Japan (£13,920)
- 2000: Scholarship for undergraduate studies from the Japan Scholarship Foundation, Japan (£14,720)

Teaching

Current

Postgraduate: Quantitative Methods; Health Economics for Professionals; Sustainability in Health and Labour
Undergraduate: Health Economics

Past

Postgraduate: Applied Econometrics; Topics in Health Economics and Econometrics; Economics of Health Workforce;
Undergraduate: Microeconometrics; Econometrics; Mathematics and Statistics

Teaching qualifications and achievements

- 2019: Shortlisted for the Best Postgraduate Taught Lecturer in the Principal’s Excellence Awards, University of Aberdeen.
- 2018-: Higher Education Academy (HEA) Fellow.

Relevant Professional Experiences

Refereeing

Journals: Journal of European Economics Associations; Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization; Labour Economics; Oxford Economic Papers; Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics; Economics and Human Biology; Applied Economics; National Tax Journal; BMC Public Health; Health Policy Open; Scottish Journal of Political Economy; IZA Journal of Labour Economics; Regional Science and Urban Economics; World Economy; Journal of Sports Economics; Spatial Economic Analysis.

Grant/fellowships: Leverhulme Grant; UK Research and Innovation (UKRI).

Administrative duties

2020-present: Programme Director of MA Economics (equivalent to BSc Economics), University of Aberdeen.

- Involved with accreditation and curriculum review, among others.

2013-2022: Business School external and internal seminar organiser; Health Economics Research Unit & Business School joint seminar organiser, University of Aberdeen.

2017-2019: Athena Swan committee member, University of Aberdeen.

2013-2019: Undergraduate student recruitment and life-cycle officer, University of Aberdeen.

Personal Information

Languages: Japanese (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)