

Contact Details

Department of Economics
Business School
University of Aberdeen
Aberdeen, AB24 3QY, UK

Email: y.aoki@abdn.ac.uk
Phone: +44 (0)1224 272182
+44 (0)1224 437185

Employment

Since 2012: University of Aberdeen, Lecturer (Assistant Professor) in Economics,
jointly with the Health Economics Research Unit
(*On maternity leave from August 2019 to July 2020*)

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

External Affiliation

Since 2017: Institute for the Study of Labour (IZA), Research Fellow
2012–2017: IZA, Research Affiliate

Higher Education

2007 – 2012: PhD Economics, University of Warwick (Completed in December 2012)
Thesis Title: “Identification of Causal Effects using the 1995 Earthquake in Japan: Studies of
Education and Health”
Advisors: Prof. Wiji Arulampalam, Prof. Robin Naylor and Prof. Fabian Waldinger
Thesis Examiners: Prof. Sonia Bhalotra and Prof. 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

Publications

- “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/oenp/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.
- “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>

Research Interest

Main fields: Labour Economics, Health Economics

Secondary fields: Applied Econometrics, Economics of Education, Economics of Crime

Working Papers

“Where to live? English proficiency and residential location of UK immigrants” (with Lualhati Santiago), 2020.

This article analyses the causal effect of English proficiency on residential outcomes of migrants using a natural experiment. Based on the phenomenon that young children learn a new language more easily than older children, we construct an instrument for English proficiency exploiting age at arrival in the United Kingdom for childhood migrants. Using a unique dataset, we construct various measures of the extent of residential segregation aimed at capturing different dimensions of enclaves, and find a negative impact of better English skills on residency in a language enclave, but a positive impact on ethnic-enclave residency. We also find strong evidence of an impact of poorer English proficiency on living in a neighbourhood of lower quality.

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

We study criminal incentives exploiting a historically unique source of exogenous variation, the unanticipated 1995 Kobe earthquake, which influenced several Japanese municipalities with thousands of deaths and building damages, while it left others unaffected. Natural experimental evidence between 1990-2000 indicates that the decline in burglaries post-earthquake is disproportionately large for affected municipalities, even after controlling for other key determinants, such as labour market conditions and police forces, possibly indicating the response of housebreakers to damages to housing that reduced the value of prospective takings. 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 is the first comprehensive natural experimental study that explores the direct impact and potential substitution effects across different crime types in response to the changing economic value of prospective criminal takings, key but overlooked determinants of illegal behaviour.

“The intergenerational mobility of white working-class boys: Are they really the most disadvantaged?”

(with Harminder Battu and Patricio Valdivieso Massa). Discussion Papers in Economics and Finance, vol. 19-2, 2edn, University of Aberdeen Business School, pp. 2-39, 2019. *Under review*

We study the intergenerational mobility of the white working class relative to other class and ethnic groups in the United Kingdom, where mobility is captured using the occupation-based socioeconomic positions of fathers and their children. Using the Understanding Society survey data, our results on the mobility of boys indicate that the poorest performing group is the ethnic working class and not the white working class. The mobility patterns for females are very similar to males, indicating that ethnic working-class girls perform poorer than their white peers. We also find that whilst white working-class boys perform the poorest with respect to educational attainment, they outperform ethnic working-class boys in terms of income. This we call the “white working-class paradox”. We do not observe this paradox for girls.

“A longitudinal analysis of parents’ influence on children’s unhealthy food consumption” (with Zoe Ejebu, Anne Ludbrook, and Patricia Norwood), 2020.

Parents play a key role in influencing the frequency and intake of children’s discretionary food consumption. This paper uses cohort panel data from Scotland with information on parents’ health-related behaviour, socioeconomic characteristics, and children’s health-related behaviours to examine the impact of those factors on children’s frequency of discretionary food consumption. Using the logit fixed effects model and blow-up-and-cluster model, we find that the frequency of discretionary food consumption rises with children’s TV viewing but reduces when eating with adult family members. These results suggest that parents can influence the frequency of children’s discretionary food consumption by modifying their own and their child’s behaviour, leading important policy implications to tackle the challenge of childhood obesity.

Work in Progress

“The impact of Covid-19 lockdowns on body weight of adolescents” (with Wiji Arulampalam).

“Childhood obesity and academic performance: Evidence from Millennium Cohort Study” (with Wiji Arulampalam).

“Habit formation and children’s unhealthy food consumption: Evidence from Growing up in Scotland” (with Anne Ludbrook and Patricia Norwood).

“Intergenerational aspects of English proficiency: Language skills of parents and socioeconomic outcomes of second-generation immigrants” (with Lualhati Santiago).

Policy Papers

“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.

“FDI and economic growth in less developed countries: A theoretical and empirical survey” (with Yasuyuki Todo), *OECD Journal General Papers*, 2008, vol. 2008, no. 1, pp. 1 – 186.

Scholarships, Awards, and Research Grants

Scholarships

2008 – 2011: Study Abroad Programme Bursary for graduate students from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (£54,160)

2004 – 2006: Scholarship for graduate studies from the Japan Student Services Organisation, Japan (£13,920)

2000 – 2004: Scholarship for undergraduate studies from the Japan Scholarship Foundation, Japan (£14,720)

Grants and Awards

2022: British Academy Small Grant (£10,000), with Wiji Arulampalam

2021: CAGE Research Fund, Warwick (£5,000), with Wiji Arulampalam

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)

Teaching

Current

Postgraduate: Health Economics for Health Professionals; Applied Econometrics, Course coordinator

Past

Postgraduate: Quantitative Methods; Topics in Health Economics and Econometrics; Economics of the Health Workforce

Undergraduate: Microeconometrics; Econometrics; Mathematics and Statistics; Health Economics

Relevant Professional Experiences and Qualifications

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.

Administrative duties

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

- Involved with accreditation and curriculum review, among others.

2013-: 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.

Refereeing

Journal of European Economic Association; Journal of Economic Behaviour and Organization; Oxford Economic Papers; Labour Economics; Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics; Economics and Human Biology; Applied Economics; National Tax Journal; Health Policy Open; Scottish Journal of Political Economy; Leverhulme Grant.

Conferences and Seminars (2015 onwards)

2021: University of Curtin Australia online; Scottish Economic Society online; ESPE Barcelona online.

2019/2020: University of Birmingham; ESPE at Bath; EALE-SOLE online; Institute for Labour Law and Industrial Relations in the European Union (IAAEU) online.

2018: EEA-ESEM at Cologne; International Association for Applied Econometrics Conference at Montreal; Scottish Economic Society at Perth; Glasgow University Workshop on Health Challenges.

2017: SOLE at Raleigh; EEA-ESEM at Lisbon; Oxford Workshop on Immigration, Health and Well-Being; ESPE at Glasgow; University of Dundee.

2016: IZA Migration Meeting at Bonn; International Association for Applied Econometrics Conference at Milan; University of Warwick.

2015: EALE-SOLE at Montreal; Alicante University Health Workshop; Essen Health Conference; Applied Economics of Education Workshop at Catanzaro Italy; University of Heriot-Watt; The CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis seminar.

Personal Information

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