

# Sarah McNamara

RESEARCHER & PHD CANDIDATE

ZEW – Leibniz-Zentrum für Europäische Wirtschaftsforschung, L7 1, 68161 Mannheim, Germany

+49 1737232811 | Sarah.McNamara@zew.de | [linkedin.com/in/sarah-mcnamara-16477710a/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/sarah-mcnamara-16477710a/) | [zew.de/en/team/smn](http://zew.de/en/team/smn)

## Current Position

### Doctoral Researcher

ZEW Mannheim, Department “Labour Markets and Social Insurance”

Mannheim, Germany

Apr 2020-Present

### PhD Candidate

Utrecht University School of Economics

Supervisors: Anna Salomons, Ulrich Zierahn-Weilage, Elena Fumagalli, and Friedhelm Pfeiffer

Utrecht, Netherlands

exp. Defence 2025/2026

## Research Interests

Labor Economics - Regional Economics - Human Capital - Intergenerational Mobility - Geographic Mobility - Technological Change

## Education

### PhD Training/Summer Schools

**Identification Strategies in Econometrics** University of Mannheim CDSE/ZEW Mannheim (5 ECTS)

**Applied Theory** University of Mannheim CDSE/ZEW Mannheim (5 ECTS)

**Economics of Migration** University of Mannheim CDSE/ZEW Mannheim (5 ECTS)

**PhD Econometrics** University of Mannheim CDSE (8 ECTS)

**PhD Macroeconomics** University of Mannheim CDSE (8 ECTS)

**PhD Microeconomics** University of Mannheim CDSE (8 ECTS)

**PhD Mathematics** University of Mannheim CDSE (6 ECTS)

Mannheim, Germany

Aug 2021

Aug 2021

Aug 2020

Jan 2019

Jan 2018

Jan 2018

Nov 2017

### University of Mannheim

MSc in Economics

120 ECTS, Grade: 1.9

**Thesis:** “Individual Returns to Higher Education: a Double Machine Learning Approach”, Grade: 1

Mannheim, Germany

Sep 2017 - Jan 2020

### Queen’s University Belfast

BSc Hons in Economics

Graduated with First Class Honours

**Thesis:** “Availability or Entitlements: The East India Company and the Bengal Famine, 1770”, Grade: 1st

Belfast, Northern Ireland

Sep 2013 - Jun 2017

## Publications

### DISCUSSION PAPERS

**McNamara, Sarah, Guido Neidhöfer & Patrick Lehnert.** “Intergenerational Mobility of Education in Europe: Geographical Patterns, Cohort-Linked Measures, and the Innovation Nexus”, ZEW Discussion Paper No. 24-004.

**Sarah McNamara.** “Returns to Higher Education & Dropouts: a Double Machine Learning Approach”, ZEW Discussion Paper No. 20-084.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

**McNamara, Sarah, Maximilian Bach & Thilo Klein.** “The Effects of Grammar School Attendance: Evidence from Centralized Assignments”.

**Sarah McNamara.** “Close the Door Before You Go: Do Childhood Economic Circumstances and Intergenerational Mobility Affect Preferences for Social Redistribution?”.

**McNamara, Sarah & Ulrich Zierahn-Weilage.** “Regional Technological Resilience and Intergenerational Mobility in Germany”.

### POLICY REPORTS

**Bach, Maximilian, Guido Neidhöfer, Sarah McNamara and Friedhelm Pfeiffer. 2020.** “Rethinking Schooling, On the effects of school closures on the competence development of primary school children and the need for equality in education provision”, ZEW-Kurzexpertise Nr. 20-13.

**Lange, Martin, McNamara, Sarah and Philipp Schmidt. 2024.** “Recent Trends in Migrants’ Labour Market Integration in Europe”, Deliverable for EU Horizon 2020 Project: Welfare Systems and Labour Market Policies for Economic and Social Resilience in Europe .

## Professional Experience

---

### Research Assistant (*geprüfte wissenschaftliche Hilfskräfte*)

ZEW Mannheim, Department “Labour Markets and Personnel Management”

Mannheim, Germany

Feb 2020-Apr 2020

### Student Research Assistant (*studentische Hilfskräfte*)

ZEW Mannheim, Department “Labour Markets and Personnel Management”

Mannheim, Germany

Apr 2018-Feb 2020

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

|                              |   |
|------------------------------|---|
| <b>Reviewing</b>             | IEEP, Education Economics   |
| <b>Proofing/Copy-editing</b> | ZEW Mannheim, IAB, European Commission - JRC Italy (Monitoring, Indicators & Impact Evaluation Unit)  |
| <b>Seminar Organization</b>  | Organization of the weekly seminar at the department “Labour Markets and Social Insurance”, ZEW Mannheim  |
| <b>Workshop Organization</b> | Organizing committee for the SEEK-D3.2 Workshop on “Social Mobility and Economic Performance” (2021), and the 3rd International Workshop on “Immigration, Integration, and Attitudes” (2024, forthcoming) |

## SKILLS

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Computer Skills</b> | STATA, R (ggplot2), LaTeX, ArcGIS Pro, Matlab, Python (Pandas, PyTorch, NumPy, Scikit-learn. etc.), SAS, SQL |
| <b>Languages</b>       | English (Native), Spanish (Professional), German (Intermediate), Portuguese (Intermediate)                   |

## Research Network Membership

---

WeLaR Research Consortium - Living in Switzerland

## Select Seminar and Conference Presentations

---

|      |  |                  |
|------|--|------------------|
| 2024 | 2024 Conference on Mechanism and Institution Design                          | Hungary          |
| 2024 | XXXII Meeting of the Economics of Education Association (AEDE)               | Spain            |
| 2024 | Horizon Europe WeLaR Midterm Conference                                      | Belgium          |
| 2023 | European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society (EWMES)                   | England          |
| 2022 | VolkswagenStiftung Forum “Corona Crisis and Beyond”                          | Germany          |
| 2022 | Swiss Leading House on Economics of Education/University of Zurich (invited) | Switzerland      |
| 2022 | QUB 2022 Easter Workshop on School Choice                                    | Northern Ireland |
| 2021 | CIDER-LERN Conference 2021   | Germany          |
| 2021 | XXIX Meeting of the Economics of Education Association (AEDE)                | Spain            |

## Participation in Funded Projects

---

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| Integration of Migrants and Attitudes towards the Welfare State                                     | Dec 2023 - Ongoing  |
| EU Horizon: Welfare Systems and Labour Market Policies for Economic and Social Resilience in Europe | Dec 2023 - Ongoing  |
| Economic Upheaval and Human Capital Formation   | Jun 2022 - Ongoing  |
| Analyses of the Costs and Benefits of School Closures for the Containment of COVID-19               | Jan 2021 - Ongoing  |
| Improving School Admissions for Diversity and Better Learning Outcomes                              | Jun 2019 - Nov 2023 |
| SEEK Project 2019: Social Mobility and Economic Performance   | Jul 2019 - Mar 2021 |
| Design and Impact of Admissions Rules for Schools   | Jan 2019 - Jun 2022 |

## Scholarships and Awards

---

|      |   |                  |
|------|---|------------------|
| 2021 | <b>M. Jesús San Segundo Award</b> , XXIX Meeting of the Economics of Education Association (AEDE) | Spain            |
| 2017 | <b>Degree Plus</b> , Queen’s University Belfast   | Northern Ireland |