

## Curriculum Vitae: Dr Angus Holford

### Senior Research Fellow at Institute for Social and Economic Research, University of Essex

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### Employment

October 2022- Senior Research Fellow, ISER, University of Essex

2017-2022 Research Fellow, ISER, University of Essex

2015-2017 Senior Research Officer, ISER, University of Essex

2012-2013 Research Fellow, Behavioural Insights Team, Cabinet Office

### Other appointments

March 2023 – Evaluation and Trials Advice Panel Member, Cabinet Office, UK Government

2017 Visiting Scholar, Department of Economics, Duke University

### Affiliations

Since 2014 Research Affiliate, IZA Institute of Labor Economics

### Qualifications

2023 **Fellow of the Higher Education Academy**

UK Professional Standards Framework for teaching and learning support in Higher Education, Fellowship reference PR270493, awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2023

2011-2015 **PhD in Economics**, University of Essex

ESRC '1+3' enhanced studentship in Economics, reference number ES/I025499/1

Thesis title: *'Peers, Parents and Productivity: Interactions and Investments in Children'*.

Examiners: Pedro Carneiro and Thomas Crossley

Passed PhD defence with no corrections, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015

2010-2011 **MSc Applied Economics and Data Analysis** University of Essex

Pass with Distinction

2007-2010 **BSc Economics**, University of Lancaster

First Class Honours

### Research Interests

My research agenda is focused on the mechanisms determining inequalities in health and human capital, especially for children and young people. I have analysed several large administrative and survey datasets including the National Child Measurement Programme, National Pupil Database, HESA Student Records and the Longitudinal Study of Young People in England under secure conditions, developing expert skill in causal analysis, and have managed the data security, management, and linkage procedures for longitudinal primary survey data collected on undergraduate students. I have a strong record in knowledge exchange and disseminating policy-relevant work with non-academic partners.

## Publications in Peer-Reviewed Journals

'Racial Representation among Academics and Students' Academic and Labor Market Outcomes', *Labour Economics*, 2025, 102745. With Sonkurt Sen <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2025.102745>

'Imprecise health beliefs and health behavior', 2025, *Journal of Health Economics*, forthcoming. With Adeline Delavande and Emilia Del Bono <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhealeco.2025.103003>

'Adapt-Ed: co-designing adaptations to a whole school intervention to improve the uptake and impact of food provision in special schools – scoping research for a future trial' [version 1: peer review: awaiting peer review], 2025, *NIHR Open Research*. 5:50. With Rebecca O'Connell, Amanda Ludlow, Laura Hamilton, Louca-Mai Brady, Lauren Denyer, Andy Feltham and David Wellsted. <https://doi.org/10.3310/nihropenres.13897.1>

'Universal free school meals and children's bodyweight. Impacts by age and duration of exposure'. *Journal of Health Economics*, 2024, 102937. With Birgitta Rabe. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jhealeco.2024.102937>

'The Effect of Foreign Students on Native Students' Outcomes in Higher Education', *European Economic Review*. 2023, 104595. With Julian Costas-Fernandez and Greta Morando <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.euroecorev.2023.104595>

Going universal. The impact of free school lunches on child body weight outcomes. *Journal of Public Economics Plus* 2022, vol 3, 100016. With Birgitta Rabe <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pubecp.2022.100016>

'Access to and Returns from Unpaid Graduate Work Experience', *LABOUR: Review of Labour Economics and Industrial Relations*, 35:3, 2021. <https://doi.org/10.1111/LABR.12196>

Academic and non-academic investments at university: The role of expectations, preferences and constraints. *Journal of Econometrics* 231:1, pp.74-97. With Adeline Delavande and Emilia Del Bono. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jeconom.2020.03.019>

'Youth Employment, Academic Performance and Labour Market Outcomes', *Labour Economics*, 2020, vol 63, doi: [10.1016/j.labeco.2020.101806](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2020.101806)

'Unpaid work and access to science professions', *PLOS ONE*, 2019. With A. Fournier, A. Bond and M. Leighton. doi: [10.1371/journal.pone.0217032](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0217032)

'Take-up of Free School Meals: Price Effects and Peer Effects'. *Economica*, 2015, vol 82: 976-993. doi: [10.1111/ecca.12147](https://doi.org/10.1111/ecca.12147)

'The Labour Supply Effect of Education Maintenance Allowance and its Implications for Parental Altruism'. *Review of Economics of the Household*. 2015, vol 13(3): 531-568. doi: [10.1007/s11150-015-9288-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11150-015-9288-7)

## Data collections

BOOST2018: *The Ground-Breaking Study of Student Life, 2015-2020: Secure Access*. (2022). UK Data Service. SN: 8877, DOI: 10.5255/UKDA-SN-8877-2

## Working Papers

Macho, More Mellow: The Malleability of Competitiveness 2024. <http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4833785> With Adeline Delavande, Emilia Del Bono and Patrick J. Nolen.

'University access: the role of background and COVID-19 throughout the application process'. ISER Working Paper 2022-07. With Emilia Del Bono, Laura Fumagalli and Birgitta Rabe <https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/research/publications/working-papers/iser/2022-07>

'Do parents 'tax' their children? Teenage labour supply and financial support', ISER Working Paper 2016-05 and IZA Discussion Paper (DP) 10040. <https://www.iza.org/publications/dp/10040/do-parents-tax-their-children-teenage-labour-supply-and-financial-support>

'Survey design and the determinants of subjective wellbeing: an experimental analysis'. *Understanding Society Working Paper* 2014-06, IZA DP 8760. [with Steve Pudney] <https://docs.iza.org/dp8760.pdf>

## Work In Progress

'Beyond Test Scores: How being the Top of your Class Affects Educational Attainments and Social and Emotional Development'. With Emilia Del Bono and Tommaso Sartori.

'Towards an Optimal Student Schedule', with Kevin Williams, Adeline Delavande and Emilia Del Bono

'Student Preferences over Fees, Loans and Grants', with Adeline Delavande and Emilia Del Bono.

'Skill Accumulation with Malleable Ability: Evidence from a Growth Mindset Intervention' with Adeline Delavande, Emilia Del Bono and Sonkurt Sen

'Ambiguity about COVID-related health risks and protective health behaviors among young adults', with Adeline Delavande and Emilia Del Bono

Can competitiveness be nurtured?, with Patrick Nolen, Adeline Delavande and Emilia Del Bono

## Research Reports and Articles for the Media

2025 Improving school food for children with SEND. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.18745/PB.25548>

2024 The impacts of Universal Free School Meal Schemes in England: Full report for Nuffield Foundation, and MiSoC Explainer both at: <https://www.iser.essex.ac.uk/research/projects/impacts-of-the-universal-free-school-meal-in-england> With Birgitta Rabe

2024 'The unexplored impacts of international students', blog for UK in a Changing Europe <https://ukandeu.ac.uk/the-unexplored-impacts-of-international-students/> with Greta Morando and Julian Costas-Fernandez

2023 MiSoC Explainer: 'Labour market contributions of UK and foreign-born PhD holders: implications for visa, immigration and tax policy', with Peter Jelfs and Tommaso Sartori. <https://doi.org/10.5526/misoc-2023-003>

2022 "Universal free school meals would make a huge difference to the cost-of-living crisis – here's how" *The Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/universal-free-school-meals-would-make-a-huge-difference-to-the-cost-of-living-crisis-heres-how-194781> 28/11/2022.

2022 "Student loans: Would a graduate tax be a better option?" *The Conversation* <https://theconversation.com/student-loans-would-a-graduate-tax-be-a-better-option-179253>

2022 MiSoC Explainer 'Impacts of local authority Universal Free School Meal Schemes on child obesity and household food expenditure'. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5526/misoc-2022-003>

2021 MiSoC Explainer 'University access: the role of background and Covid-19 throughout the application process' DOI: <https://doi.org/10.5526/misoc-2021-008>

2021 Coping with school closures: changes in home-schooling during COVID-19. ISER Research Report. <https://tinyurl.com/5s444k6v> With Emilia Del Bono, Laura Fumagalli and Birgitta Rabe

2021 Graduates' labour market and training expectations during COVID-19 <https://tinyurl.com/ev97nmvb> With Adeline Delavande and Emilia Del Bono

2020 Impact of the Universal Infant Free School Meal policy <https://tinyurl.com/42w8nf7x> With Birgitta Rabe

2018 'Student Preferences over Fees, Loans and Grants', ISER Research Report and MiSoC one-page explainer MiSoC/HE18/E01, <https://tinyurl.com/y7bhhfnh> . With Adeline Delavande and Emilia Del Bono

2018 'What explains ethnic and SES gaps in degree class and dropout?' MiSoC one-page explainer MiSoC/HE18/E02, <https://tinyurl.com/y82jokwo> . With Emilia Del Bono.

2018 'When it comes to fees, what do students think?', *New Statesman* <https://tinyurl.com/yb8lvdnw>

2017 'Students with BTECs do worse at university – here's how we close the gap', article for the *Guardian* Higher Education Network. <https://tinyurl.com/y89ax372>

### Research grants

2024 Co-I: Nuffield Foundation: Impact of school breakfast programmes. [£69,091]

2024 Co-I: National Institute for Health Research Applied Research Collaboration East of England Extension – University of Essex [£162,372]

2024 Co-I: National Institute for Health Research, 'Adapt-Ed: co-developing adaptations to a whole school approach to improve the uptake and impact of food provision in special schools ' [£149,106.33]

2022 Co-I: National Institute for Health Research, 'Free School Meals, Diet Quality and Food Insecurity in Secondary School Pupils: a Mixed Methods Study' [£1,186,969.20]

2021 PI: Nuffield Foundation: "The impacts of Universal Free School Meal schemes in England". PI [£57,165].

2020 Co-I: ESRC COVID-19 Rapid Response: "Mind the Gap: Educational Inequalities During Covid-19" [£140,874]

2019 Named Researcher: ESRC Research Centre on Micro-Social Change (5 years from October 2019) [£7,796,711]

2017 Co-I: Nuffield Foundation: "Impact of the Universal Infant Free School Meal Policy". [£56,238].

2017 Co-PI: University of St Andrews Gender, Diversity and Inclusion Fund, "Who Takes Unpaid Internships in Science?". [£1,160]

2015 University of Essex Outreach Office: "Student Financial Impact Study". Co-I [£6368.60].

2015 Named Researcher: ESRC Research Grants (open call): "Inequality in Higher Education Outcomes in the UK: Subjective Expectations, Preferences and Access to Information". Proposer of strand 'Trajectories of Academic Performance at University'. [£1,436,270].

### Academic awards and prizes

2016 Centre for Multilevel Modelling Jon Rasbash Prize for Quantitative Social Science: Runner-up 'Highly Commended'.

2013 Nominee for ESRC Celebrating Impact Prize, 'Outstanding Early Career Impact Award'.

### Teaching and Supervision

I deliver the one-day course "Introduction to Impact Evaluation" annually through the National Centre for Research Methods <https://www.ncrm.ac.uk/training/show.php?article=13785>

I have been the course convenor and lead lecturer for the MSc Module EC969 'Applications of Data Analysis' run jointly between the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Department of Economics at the University of Essex since July 2019.

I currently first-supervise PhD students [Stephanie Ruscillo](#) and [Ziyi Huang](#); and co-supervise [Dipanwita Ghatak](#). I co-supervised PhD students [Tommaso Sartori](#), [Sonkurt Sen](#) and [Joshua Fullard](#) to completion.

### Refereeing

2025: Nuffield Foundation; ESPE Conference Scientific Programme Committee; UK Household Longitudinal Study Fellowships; *Latin American Economic Review*.

2024: ESRC New Investigator Grant application; Nuffield Foundation grant application, *Review of Economics of the Household*; *European Economic Review*

2023 ESRC Policy Fellowships Shortlisting; ESPE Conference Scientific Programme Committee; Israel Science Foundation; *Review of Economics of the Household*

2022 Nuffield Foundation grant application; EEA Annual Congress Scientific Programme Committee member; *European Economic Review*, *Labour Economics*

2021 *Journal of Health Economics*, *Oxford Economic Papers*, *Education Economics*, *Economic Journal*

2020 *LABOUR*, *Journal of Population Economics*

2019 ESRC New Investigator Grant application; *Economics of Education Review*, *International Labor Review*, *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*.

2018 *Quantitative Economics*, *Oxford Bulletin of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization*, *Education Economics*.

2017 *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

2016 *Journal of Human Resources*

2015 *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society, Series B*

2014 *Journal of Applied Econometrics*

2013 *Oxford Economic Papers*

### **Seminars, Invited Talks, Conferences and Workshops**

July 2024 UCAS data symposium, University of Durham

June 2024 European Society for Population Economics Conference, Rotterdam

June 2024 NIHR ARC East of England: Celebrating Research and Shaping our Future Together, Norwich

May 2024 Workshop on economics of Higher Education, University of Bristol

May 2024 Synapse Lab Seminar Series, University of Stavanger

March 2024 Royal Economic Society Conference, Belfast

June 2023 European Society of Population Economists Conference, Belgrade

April 2023 Royal Economic Society Conference, Glasgow

November 2022 NIHR Prevention and Inequalities Symposium York

June 2022 NatCen 'Education and Inequality: Taking Stock and Finding Solutions' workshop <https://youtu.be/vhiwHIM2-8Q>, City University

June 2022 - NEON Summer Symposium, Keele

November 2021 Cabinet Office Open Innovation Team 'COVID Recovery Seminar': Ethnic differences in COVID-19 health behaviours: Health cognition and ethnic embeddedness

August 2021 European Economic Association conference

April 2021 Royal Economic Society Conference, Virtual

June 2020 EALE-SOLE-AASLE World Meeting, Virtual

July 2019 Understanding Society Scientific Conference, University of Essex

June 2019 European Society of Population Economists Conference, Bath

April 2019 Royal Economic Society Conference (Special Session), Warwick

April 2019 IZA/briq workshop on Behavioural Economics of Education, Bonn

June 2018 Event co-organizer: ISER Workshop on Economics of Higher Education

April 2018 Seminar in Applied Economics series, University of Sydney

April 2018 Seminar in Applied Economics series, University of Queensland



Nov 2017	Universities in the UK: Who applies, who stays, who achieves, what makes a difference? One day conference, Westminster
July 2017	Understanding Society Scientific Conference, University of Essex
July 2017	Knowledge Exchange workshop: Who Takes Unpaid Internships in Science? Access to Graduate Internships by Gender, Ethnicity and Family Background in the UK
July 2017	Seminar at Department for Economics and Finance, University of St Andrews
May 2017	Society of Labor Economists Annual Meeting, Raleigh NC.
April 2017	Seminar at Research and Statistics Division, Federal Reserve Bank of New York
April 2017	Seminar at Bryan Business School, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
April 2017	Seminar at Department of Economics, Duke University
Nov 2017	Applied Microeconomics workshop, Essex
Sept 2016	European Association of Labour Economists Conference, Ghent
April 2016	Equality Challenge Unit Conference on Inequality in Scottish Higher Education, Glasgow
March 2016	Huddersfield Business School seminar
Nov 2016	Lancaster University Economics Department seminar
Sept 2015	(Event co-organizer) ISER Family Economics Workshop
July 2015	IZA-Society of Labor Economists Transatlantic meeting, Munich
June 2015	European Association / Society of Labour Economists World Meeting, Montreal
Feb 2015	Employability and Careers workshop, Essex.
Sept 2014	European Association of Labour Economists Conference, Ljubljana
Aug 2014	European Economic Association Congress, Toulouse
June 2014	ZEW Summer Workshop in Microeconometrics and Programme Evaluation, Mannheim
May 2014	IZA Summer School in Labour Economics, Buch am Ammersee, Bavaria
March 2014	CASE Welfare and Policy Analysis series, London School of Economics
Feb 2014	Royal Holloway Family Economics Workshop
Nov 2013	(Event co-organizer) ESRC Festival of Social Science, Am I in Society?
Sept 2013	European Association of Labour Economists Conference, Turin

### **Selected dissemination activities**

- August 2024: "Male university students are less macho when sharing flats with women". *The Guardian* <https://tinyurl.com/5n77th9z>
- March 2024 Presentations on Universal Free School Meals to National Child Measurement Programme Board; Birmingham City Council Pupil Health Journal Club; School food Plan Alliance.
- March 2023 Presentation to National Education Union 'Free School Meals for All' conference.
- November 2022: Evidence Pack for Feed The Future Campaign launched at 'Superpowers of Free School Meals' event in London, 8th November 2022 <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/publication/superpowers-free-school-meals-evidence-pack>
- September 2022: Presentation to School Food Plan Alliance

November 2021	'Reforming the higher education admission system: what does the evidence tell us?', workshop with National Education Opportunities Network.
June 2021	'Building back healthier and fairer – is it time for universal school meals'. Online event hosted by Sustain Children's Food Campaign
Dec 2020	'Where next for children's food provision?' Online event hosted by the Nuffield Foundation
Sept 2019	The continuing case for extending Universal Infant Free School Meals. <i>New Statesman</i> event at Labour Party Conference fringe.
Jan 2019	The 21st Century University: How the Fourth Industrial Revolution can Transform Higher Education'. <i>New Statesman</i> Event at Portcullis House
Sept 2018	'Making the Case for Higher Education' <i>New Statesman</i> event at Labour Party Conference Fringe
June 2018	Interactive workshop on degree class and dropout, NEON Summer Symposium
Dec 2017	Response to BBC Freedom of Information request on declining numbers of children in part-time work. BBC news website, Radio 5 <i>Wake Up to Money</i> , recording for Radio 4, various BBC local stations, Talk Radio.
Nov 2017	ESRC MiSoC Event: <i>Universities in the UK: Who applies, who stays, who achieves, what makes a difference?</i> One day conference, Westminster
July 2017	'Unpaid Internships damage long-term graduate pay prospects', exclusive in <i>The Observer</i> , press release followed elsewhere. Radio interviews on LBC and BBC London. Television interview for CBC 'On the Money'.
March 2014	Knowledge Exchange case study for Economic and Social Research Council
April 2013	'Food for thought', ESRC <i>Society Now</i> Magazine
Dec 2012	'Encouraging Take-up of FSM', Every Child Update in Teaching Times
Oct 2012	'Policy and Politics Interview', Nursery World magazine