

ASSESSING THE RETURNS TO UNIVERSITY MEDIATED LABOUR MARKET ENTRY

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BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATIONS

- “Employability Agenda” feature of university policy in anglosphere and European Union
- Proliferation of employability functions, such as careers advise, workplace-based learning, and formation of non-academic skills
- Evidence neither representative nor robust (Scandurra et al, 2024)
 - Stark contrast with active labour market policies
- Expect positive effect of careers advise: matching or selection?
- Compare earnings of graduates in Catalonia that entered labour market with support of university to those that entered through other routes
- Observe wage premia that is robust to detailed controls
- Use exposure instrument to deal with selection on unobservables
- Pattern of gender differences and fadeout: what does that mean?

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| | full sample | women | men |
|-------------------------|-------------|----------|---------|
| OLS | 0.088*** | 0.128*** | 0.051* |
| IV | 0.082*** | 0.146*** | 0.033 |
| IV - no working exp. | 0.157*** | 0.172** | 0.132** |
| IV - 2 yrs working exp. | 0.023 | 0.135** | -0.067 |

CONCLUSION

- Observe substantial wage premium for those that enter labour market through university careers services
 - Partially explained by observed features
- IV estimates suggest no effect for men on average
- Effects driven by women and men with no job experience
- Suggests careers services almost close gender pay gap
- Wonderful to have data that captures backgrounds, study, engagement with employability activities and labour market outcomes
- Crucially lack more detail on occupational destinations and search strategy