

# Pamela QENDRAI

## Personal Information

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IZA - Institute of Labor Economics  
Schaumburg-Lippe-Str. 5-9  
53113 Bonn, Germany  
[qendrai@iza.org](mailto:qendrai@iza.org)

Citizenship: Albanian, 16 July 1991  
Languages: Albanian (native), English &  
French (fluent), German & Italian (good)

## Employment

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From Sep. 2017                      Resident Research Affiliate, Institute of Labor Economics (IZA),

## Education

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Sep. 2016 - 2022 (exp.)              Ph.D. Candidate, **Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany**  
Advisor: Prof. Dr. Reyn van Ewijk, Dr. Ingo E. Isphording

Oct. 2014 - Sep. 2016                M.Sc. in Economics, **University of Bonn, Germany**

Oct. 2010 - Jul. 2013                B.Sc. in Economics, **University of Tirana, Albania**

## Research Area

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Primary                                  Labor Economics, Education, Migration

Secondary                                Demographic, Innovation

## Publications

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[“Demographic Change and Regional Labour Markets”](#) (with Michael Böhm, Terry Gregory and Christian Siegel). Forthcoming in **Oxford Review of Economic Policy**, 2021, 7 (1)

# Research Work

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## Working papers and Research in progress

“Work permit regulations and labor market outcomes of non-EU graduates in Germany” (with Lennart Kraft)

**Abstract.** Policies designed to attract highly educated migrants might have unintended consequences and impact migrants’ integration in the destination country. This paper studies how the introduction of a new work permit, the so-called Blue Card, as an employment visa targeted to highly educated labor, affects the labor market outcomes of non-EU migrants graduating from universities in Germany. Non-EU migrants need to only pass a salary threshold of e45000 in 2012 signaling high productivity in order to be eligible. We leverage a difference-in-difference approach and unique data on international graduates in Germany from more than 60 universities between 2011-2014. We find that the introduction of the Blue Card increases the graduates’ entry-wages by approximately 2 percent and that it does not affect the decision to stay in Germany after graduation. The Blue Card operates thus via unintended channels. We provide suggestive evidence that the Blue Card salary threshold acts as a reference point for the non-EU graduates who set their reservation wage to the level of Blue Card salary threshold.

“Standardized exams, college performance and STEM Choice” (with Ingo E. Isphording)

“Peer effects in human capital decisions, aspirations and the transition to work” (with Ingo E. Isphording)

## Policy Reports

“[Gender Differences in Student Dropout in STEM](#)” (with Ingo E. Isphording). IZA Research Report No. 87

## Teaching and Relevant Activities

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From Nov.2017      *Managing Editor of IZA Journal of Labor Economics, IZA*

Jan.2020 - Dec.2020      *Research Assistant, Goethe University Frankfurt*

Oct.2018 - Apr.2019      *Teaching Introductory Econometrics (Master course),  
Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz, Germany*

From Sep. 2015      *Editorial Office of IZA Journal Series, IZA*

## **Presentations**

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2021	IZA/ECONtribute Human Capital Meeting (Virtual)
2020	IZA Brown Bag Seminar (Virtual); Goethe University Applied Micro Seminar (Frankfurt)

## **Honors & Awards**

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2016 – 2018	Scholarship Deutschlandstipendium
2016	Award, Albanian Governor Price for the Best Diploma of 2016
2014 - 2016	DAAD Scholarship for Graduate Studies
2013	Award for Excellence in Bachelor Studies in Economics
2010 – 2014	Scholarship for Undergraduate studies from AMC
2006 - 2010	Scholarship from Municipality of Tirana