

# Thomas Monk

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## Education

- **London School of Economics**  
*PhD Economics – MRes with Distinction* August 2019 – Present
    - Economic and Social Research Council Doctoral studentship & LSE Departmental fellowship.
  - **Yale University**  
*PhD Economics* July 2018 – August 2019
    - Yale Doctoral fellowship and Cowles Foundation & Economic Growth Center fellowship.
  - **University College London**  
*MSc Economics – Distinction with Prize* September 2016 – September 2017
    - Prize for Best Dissertation (mark of 88), for thesis titled *Uncertain Health and Wealth Inequality*, supervised by Dr Vincent Sterk.
  - **University of York**  
*BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics – First Class* October 2011 – July 2014
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## Working Papers

- **Occupational Skill Content and Technological Change**  
Technological change events fundamentally change the type of tasks performed by human labour within occupations. I develop a predictive model, utilising machine learning techniques, and find that occupational skill intensity data from can predict, to a high degree of accuracy, technological change event exposure, as measured by indices developed by Webb (2020). I link these predictions to skills data from a library of newspaper job vacancy adverts to understand how skill intensities have changed over time, and use this this to predict historical occupational technological exposure. Change in occupational technological exposure, as predicted by changing skill intensities, is highly associated with important labour market outcomes.
  - **Uncertain Health and Wealth Inequality**  
*Prize for Best Dissertation, University College London, 2017*  
Precautionary saving is a key driver of wealth inequality within models of the Bewley-Huggett-Aiyagari canon. However, models with savings rates calibrated solely to idiosyncratic income risk find it difficult to replicate the vast wealth inequality empirically observed in the United States. This paper looks at a potential source of increased precautionary savings - idiosyncratic medical expenses shocks. This paper: i. establishes an identification procedure for medical expenditure shocks across the entire life cycle, ii. finds that idiosyncratic shocks are very highly persistent, iii. establishes the extent to which these shocks contribute to wealth inequality through the effect on savings behaviour.
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## Experience

- **London School of Economics**  
*Research Assistant* May 2020 – Present
    - Research assistant to Professor Alan Manning, Center for Economic Performance.
  - Teaching Fellow, School of Public Policy* September 2021 – Present
    - Teaching fellow for for three graduate courses, PP455 Quantitative Approaches and Policy Analysis, PP455E Empirical Methods for Public Policy, Executive MPP/MPA & PP408 Introduction to Quantitative Methods for the MPA Programme.
  - Graduate Teaching Assistant* September 2020 – August 2021
    - Teaching assistant for EC220: Introduction to Econometrics & EC102 Introduction to Macroeconomics.
  - Pre-Doctoral Research Assistant* October 2017 – July 2018
    - Research assistant to Professor Camille Landais, co-director of the Public Economics programme within STICERD, performing theoretical and empirical work on the economics of taxation, the provision of public goods, social insurance and the economics of the income and wealth distribution.
    - Currently working on a theoretical model of the effects of alternative labour market policies on unemployment and welfare.
    - Developing proofs, derivations and numerical simulations to assist with the development process of a dynamic job-search model.
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## Research Interests and Core Skills

- Labour Economics, Technological Change, Machine Learning, Public Economics; Python, R, Stata, MATLAB, Excel,  $\LaTeX$