

Israa Hashem

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, Concordia University Sep 2020 – Aug 2027 (expected)
Dissertation: *Essays on the Economics of Education and Market Design*
Supervisors: Gabrielle Vasey and Szilvia Pápai
Parental leave: 2024–2025
M.A. in Applied Economics (High Distinction), Lebanese American University Sep 2018 – May 2020
B.Sc. in Mathematics (Distinction), Lebanese American University Sep 2014 – May 2018
Teaching Diploma, Lebanese American University Sep 2017 – May 2018

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics
Secondary: Market Design

JOB MARKET PAPER

Does Having an Older Sister Matter? Sibling Sex, School Achievement, and Parental Investment

Children spend much of their time with siblings, yet how siblings affect achievement is far less studied than the role of parents, schools, and peers. I study whether the sex of an older sibling matters for how second-born children perform in school, using administrative records for British Columbia students linked to the Canadian Census. Because the sex of the firstborn is not chosen by parents, it provides a quasi-random source of variation in the sibling environment in which a child grows up. My empirical strategy compares second-born children with an older sister to those with an older brother within the same school district and assessment year. I find positive effects on literacy: Grade 4 reading and writing scores rise by 2.3 and 1.6 percent of a standard deviation, the effects persist into Grade 7, and numeracy is unaffected. Parents also respond: an older sister raises French immersion participation, a program that places children on a distinct educational path, by about 1.5 percentage points. Since second-borns score below their firstborn siblings, an older sister appears to compensate for part of this birth-order penalty. These findings suggest that sibling composition, and not only family background, can shape children's learning and parents' investments in their schooling.

WORKING PAPERS

Intergenerational Educational Mobility and Field-of-Study Choice in Immigrant and Canadian-Born Families

Immigrant parents in Canada are highly educated and concentrated in STEM fields, but do their children follow the same paths? I use the Survey of Labour and Income Dynamics to examine intergenerational degree attainment. Educational persistence is strong overall. However, it is weaker for children of immigrant fathers, suggesting greater mobility among second-generation immigrants. First-generation immigrants sort clearly into STEM, yet this sorting does not carry over to the second generation, whose degree choices converge with those

of the Canadian-born. These findings have implications for how immigration shapes Canada's skill composition over time.

When Does a Stable and Pareto-Efficient Matching Exist?

with Szilvia Pápai

We study when stability and Pareto efficiency are compatible in matching markets, a question that arises naturally in school choice and other priority-based allocation problems. Even the student-optimal stable matching may leave large welfare improvements available to students. We develop constructive procedures that use preferences and priorities to determine exactly when a stable and Pareto-efficient matching exists, and identify when the outcome of a deferred-acceptance-type procedure is already Pareto efficient for the students.

PUBLICATIONS

(2023) "Polluting Resource Extraction and Climate Risk" with Walid Marrouch. *Natural Resource Modeling*, 36(1): e12354.

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

18th Meeting of the Society for Social Choice and Welfare, University of Tokyo, Tokyo, Japan	2026
"Pareto-Efficient Matching with Gradual Acceptances"	
20th CIREQ-CIRANO Ph.D. Students' Conference, CIRANO, Montréal, Canada	2026
"Transmission of Educational Outcomes: A Comparison Between Immigrant and Native Families in Canada"	
CIREQ Interdisciplinary PhD Conference in Applied Market Design, Concordia University, Montréal, Canada	2026
"Pareto-Efficient Matching with Gradual Acceptances"	
18th CIQSS Emerging Excellence Conference, McGill University, Montréal, Canada	2025
"Transmission of Educational Outcomes: A Comparison Between Immigrant and Native Families in Canada"	
Economics Graduate Research Day, Concordia University, Montréal, Canada	2025
"Transmission of Educational Outcomes: A Comparison Between Immigrant and Native Families in Canada"	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant to Gabrielle Vasey, Concordia University	May–Dec 2025
Research on grade repetition in Pakistan using linked student, household, teacher, and school data; data cleaning and empirical analysis.	
Research Assistant , UN-ESCWA, Beirut	Sep 2019 – Jan 2020
Contributed to policy-oriented economic research through quantitative analysis, literature review, and preparation of research materials.	
Research Assistant , Lebanese American University	Sep 2018 – May 2020
Supported applied economics research through data analysis, literature review, and preparation of research outputs.	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Course Instructor , Concordia University	
ECON 302: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory II	Winter 2027 (Upcoming)
ECON 301: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I	Winter 2026
Teaching Assistant , Concordia University	
ECON 421: Econometrics (tutorials)	Fall 2026
ECON 301: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory I	Summer 2026
ECON 302: Intermediate Microeconomic Theory II	Fall 2025
ECON 440: Economic Design	Fall 2025, Winter 2025, Fall 2022

ECON 326: Mathematics for Economists	Winter 2025, Fall 2023
ECON 695: Economic Design (Graduate)	Winter 2025, Winter 2022
ECON 491: Advanced Environmental Economics	Winter 2024
ECON 425: Advanced Mathematics for Economists	Winter 2023
ECON 437: Economics of Public Expenditure	Winter 2023
ECON 464: Game Theory	Summer 2022
ECON 201: Introduction to Microeconomics	Fall 2020 – Fall 2021

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

FRQSC Doctoral Scholarship, Fonds de Recherche du Québec – Société et Culture	2024 – 2026
First Prize, Economics Graduate Research Day, Concordia University	2025
FAS Graduate Fellowship, Concordia University	2020 – 2024
International Tuition Award of Excellence, Concordia University	2020 – 2024
Merit Scholarship, Concordia University	2020 – 2021
US MEPI Tomorrow’s Leaders Graduate Scholarship	2018
Spirit of Service Award, Lebanese American University	2016
USAID University Scholarship Program (Full Scholarship)	2014

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Econometric Society Summer School in Dynamic Structural Econometrics: Market Design, MIT	2023
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SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Software:	Stata, R, $\LaTeX$
Data:	Confidential linked administrative microdata (BC student records, Census, T1FF); longitudinal survey data (SLID); Statistics Canada Research Data Centre (RDC)
Languages:	Arabic (native), English (fluent), French (beginner)

REFERENCES

Gabrielle Vasey Assistant Professor Department of Economics Concordia University gabrielle.vasey@concordia.ca	Jorgen Hansen Professor Department of Economics Concordia University Jorgen.Hansen@concordia.ca	Szilvia Pápai Professor Department of Economics Concordia University szilvia.papai@concordia.ca
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