AMELIE MENNERICH

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EDUCATION

University of Oxford 2022 – Present
DPhil Economics

Supervisors: Hamish Low, Abi Adams, Mathias Jensen, Alison Andrew
Research visits:

Yale University (host: Cormac O'Dea)	09/2024 – 02/2025
Institute for Fiscal Studies	01/2026 – 06/2026
University of Copenhagen (host: Thomas H. Jørgensen)	06/2026 – 08/2026

Humboldt University Berlin 2021 – 2022
Graduate Studies in Philosophy

University of Oxford 2019 – 2021
MPhil Economics (Distinction)

University of Warwick 2016 – 2019
BSc Philosophy, Politics and Economics (First Class)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Labour Economics, Public Economics, Family Economics, Economics of Ageing

WORKING PAPERS

Pension Design and Household Composition [Job Market Paper]
with Annasofie M. Olesen
Couples can share household expenses, which reduces their cost of living. Many social insurance programmes therefore pay lower rates per person to couples compared to singles. How does this change eligible individuals' relationship choices? This paper exploits administrative data and institutional features from Denmark to show that the separation risk increases by 18% in response to financial incentives in a state pension of this kind. This implies that the overall share of singles in the population increases by 2.3% for a 50,000 DKK (about 7,400 USD) difference in annual income by relationship status. We develop a limited-commitment life-cycle model with endogenous divorce and retirement to evaluate the fiscal and welfare consequences of this policy. We show that the mechanical cost of paying higher rates to singles makes up 54.4% of the total fiscal cost, with the remainder arising due to the behavioural responses in divorce and retirement timing. But while the policy redistributes from couples to singles, it also provides insurance against the risks of divorce and widowhood. For this reason, 40% of those starting as married prefer the status quo with the lower rate for couples to a revenue-neutral equalisation of pensions.

Retirement after Divorce: A Structural Model of Pension Sharing and Insurance
with Annasofie M. Olesen
Pension-sharing rules at divorce vary widely across countries, but little is known about how alternative rules affect behaviour and welfare. These policies may provide valuable insurance to the pension-poorer spouse, particularly when divorce occurs late in life. We study their effects in Denmark, where pension wealth is not divided between divorcing spouses. Empirically, we show that divorce is associated with delayed retirement, particularly among women. We then estimate a dynamic structural model of household bargaining, divorce, and retirement to study how households insure themselves against late-life divorce and evaluate two alternative pension-sharing policies.

Cash compensation for pension wealth differentials mainly smooths consumption around divorce and has little effect on retirement. In-kind pension sharing, by contrast, leads divorced women to retire earlier and reduces their reliance on public pensions. Ex ante, married households value the insurance provided by pension sharing, but the form of compensation matters: only in-kind compensation generates net positive willingness to pay. Both policies generate small positive fiscal externalities.

Labour supply decisions of somewhat caring individuals

How do couples make labour supply decisions when their degree of cooperation varies? This paper applies a model of two-agent decision-making that spans the full range from non-cooperation to perfect cooperation to household labour supply. The degree of cooperation is equivalent to how much partners care about each other. Increasing caring improves individual and household utility, except when caring is very asymmetric. A rise in the lower earner's wage decreases the higher earner's utility by shifting the within-household distribution of consumption. Productivity in housework, by contrast, confers no power because its benefits are non-excludable. All else equal, the partner with the lower productivity in housework is better off. Labour supply elasticities rise with intra-household wage inequality, and more so the higher the degree of cooperation. Caring therefore matters: assuming perfect or no cooperation misses these patterns and misstates the efficiency gains from taxing labour income.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Bundesbank Research Centre 2020
Internship *Frankfurt a. M., Germany*

Institute for Fiscal Studies 2018
Summer Student *London, UK*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Core Econometrics (Postgraduate) 2023, 2025
Teaching Assistant, MPhil Economics *University of Oxford*

SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Fulbright scholarship to visit Yale University 09/2024 – 02/2025

Scholarship of the Villigst foundation 2024 – Present

Magdalen Graduate Scholarship joint with the Department of Economics 2022 – 2024

Studienstiftung des deutschen Volkes 2020 – 2022

PPE Examiners' Prize 2019

SERVICE

Co-Convening Labour Reading Group, Department of Economics, Oxford (2025–2026)
Staff (Organiser/host) of an international youth camp, CISV, Hamburg (2023)
Gender Equality Officer, Magdalen College, Oxford (2022–23)

Mentoring AMP Mentoring Program and Oxford Women in Economics (2023–2025)

Refereeing *Journal of Human Resources*

PRESENTATIONS, CONFERENCES, SUMMER SCHOOLS

2026	EAYE (co-author), SEHO, Diversity and Human Capital Workshop Exeter, CEPR Ageing and Longevity Conference, EALE, IIPF
2025	NETSPAR Pension Day, Workshop on the Economics of Aging and Pensions (WZB Berlin), CEPR Symposium (Poster)
2024	Yale Labor/Public Student Workshop, Annual Conference of the Scottish Economic Society
2023	FReDA Autumn School (JGU Mainz & BiB)

SKILLS

Coding	Stata, Python, C++, MATLAB
Languages	German (native), English (fluent), Spanish (C1), French (B1)

REFERENCES

Abi Adams
Professor of Economics
Northwestern University
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Hamish Low
Senior Economist and Economic Advisor
Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago
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