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Full name (on the passport): Alena Pokorná Bičáková

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CURRENT APPOINTMENT

Researcher at the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences and at Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education (CERGE), Charles University, and its think tank IDEA and project Talent (July 2023 – present)

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Labor Economics, Economics of Education, Applied Microeconometrics

PUBLICATIONS

Bicakova, A., & Jurajda, S. (2025) "Political Preferences Through Stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic," *Political Research Quarterly*, X(X). <https://doi.org/10.1177/10659129251324220>

Bicakova, A. and Kaliskova, K. (2024) "Is longer maternal care always beneficial? The impact of a 4-year paid parental leave," *Journal of Population Economics*, vol. 37 <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00148-024-01010-1>

Bicakova, A., Cortes, G.M. and Mazza, J. (2023) 'Make your own luck: The wage gains from starting college in a bad economy,' *Labour Economics* 84, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2023.102411>

Bicakova, A., Kaliskova, K. (2022) 'Career-Breaks and Maternal Employment in CEE Countries,' book chapter in: Molina, J.A. (eds) *Mothers in the Labor Market*. Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-99780-9_8

Hamplova, D., Bicakova, A. (2022) "Choosing a Major and a Partner: Field of Study and Union Formation Among College-Educated Women in Europe,," *European Journal of Population*, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10680-022-09621-8>

- Bicakova, A., Cortes, G.M. and Mazza, J. (2021) "Caught in the Cycle: Economic Conditions at Enrolment and Labour Market Outcomes of College Graduates," *The Economic Journal*, vol. 131(638) 2383-2412.
- Bicakova, A. and Kaliskova, K. (2019) "(Un)intended effects of parental leave policies: Evidence from the Czech Republic," *Labour Economics* 61, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.labeco.2019.07.003>
- Bicakova, A. (2017) "A Note on Selection and Gender Unemployment Gaps", *Journal of Labor Research* 38 (4) 428-438.
- Bicakova, A. (2016) "Gender Unemployment Gaps: Blame the Family," *IZA Journal of European Labor Studies* 5:22, DOI: 10.1186/s40174-016-0072-3
- Bicakova, A. and Kaliskova, K. (2016) "Výskyt a vznik nezaměstnanosti u žen s předškolními dětmi: případ České republiky," *Politická ekonomie*, 64(6) 695-712.
- Bicakova, A. and Jurajda, S. (2015) "Gender composition of college graduates by field of study and early fertility," *Review of Economics of the Household*, DOI 10.1007/s11150-015-9309-6
- Bicakova, A. (2014) The Trade-off between Unemployment and Wage Inequality Revisited," *Oxford Economic Papers*; 66 (4) 891-915
- Bicakova, A., Slacalek, J. and Slavik, M. (2011) "Labor Supply after Transition: Evidence from the Czech Republic," *Czech Journal of Economics and Finance (Finance a úvěr)*, 61(4) 327-347.
- Bicakova, A. (2008) "Unemployment vs. Inactivity: Why Do We Care about One But Not the Other?" in Neumaier, O. et al. (eds.) *Perspectives on Work*, LIT Verlag, Wien, 295-300.
- Bicakova, A. (2007) *Does the Good Matter? Evidence on Moral Hazard and Adverse Selection from Consumer Credit Market*, *Giornale degli Economisti e Annali di Economia*, 120 (66) 29-66.
- Bicakova, A. (2001) *The Concept of Knowledge in Economics and the New Economics of Science*, *Věda, technika a společnost* (Prague), 10 (23) 69-88

POLICY BRIEFS

- Bicakova, A., Federicova, M., (2025) Co (ne)víme o žácích s kvantitativním nadáním? Česko v mezinárodním srovnání, IDEA studie 5/2025 (with Miroslava Federičová)
- Bicakova, A., Kaliskova, K., (2025) Od nutnosti k nové realitě: práce z domova po pandemii covid-19, IDEA studie 1/2025
- Bicakova, A., Cortes, G.M. and Mazza, J. (2021) The benefits of starting college in a recession, *LSE Business Review*, 10/2021.

Bicakova, A., Cortes, G.M. and Mazza, J. (2021) The benefits of starting college in a recession, LSE Business Review, 10/2021.

Bicakova, A., Kaliskova, K., Zapletalova, L. (2021) Maminka, nebo školka? Dopady prodloužení čerpání rodičovského příspěvku na budoucí vzdělání a pracovní uplatnění dětí, IDEA studie 8/2021

Bicakova, A., Kaliskova, K., Zapletalova, L. (2020) Nechtěné plody prorodinných politik, IDEA studie 12/2020

Bicakova, A., Kaliskova, K. (2018) The low-skilled in the Czech Republic, IDEA studie 3 / 2018

Bicakova, A. (2017) Impact of Selected Labor Market Reforms on Inequality 2015-2016 – Country Report, European Centre of Expertise (ECE) in the field of labour law, employment and labour market policy, European Commission, DG Employment

Bicakova, A., Jurajda, S., Zapletalova, L. (2017) Vrána k vráně sedá aneb důležitost oboru studia při výběru partnera, IDEA studie 7/2017

Bicakova A., Jurajda S. (2016) Field-of-study homogamy: Evidence from the EU, VoxEU.org, CEPR, London (<http://voxeu.org/article/field-study-homogamy-evidence-eu>)

Bicakova, A., Kaliskova, K. (2015) Od mateřství k nezaměstnanosti: Postavení žen s malými dětmi na trhu práce, IDEA studie 10/2015

WORKING PAPERS

Bicakova, A., Cortes, M., Foley, K., Mazza J. and P. McHenry (2025) *Unpacking the Countercyclicality of Post-Secondary Enrollment in the United States*, CERGE-EI Working Paper Series wp795

Bicakova, A. and Jurajda, S. (2024) *COVID-19 and Political Preferences Through Stages of the Pandemic: The Case of the Czech Republic*, CERGE-EI Working Paper Series wp778.

Bicakova, A., Cortes, M. and J. Mazza (2023) *Make Your Own Luck: The Wage Gains from Starting College in a Bad Economy*, IZA Discussion Papers 16087, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)
[earlier version as a WP in CERGE-EI Working Paper Series wp698]

Bicakova, A. and Kaliskova, K. (2021) *Career-breaks and Maternal Employment in CEE Countries*, CERGE-EI Working Paper Series wp706.

Bicakova, A., Cortes, M. and J. Mazza (2018) *Caught in the Cycle: Economic Conditions at Enrollment and Labor Market Outcomes of College Graduates*, Working Paper series 18-32, Rimini Centre for Economic Analysis
[also as a WP in CERGE-EI Working Paper Series No. 622]

- Bicakova, A. and Kaliskova, K. (2016) *Career Breaks after Childbirth: The Impact of Family Leave Reforms in the Czech Republic*, IZA Discussion Papers 10149, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)
[also as a WP in CERGE-EI Working Paper Series No. 568]
- Bicakova, A. and Jurajda, S. (2016) *Field-of-Study Homogamy*, IZA Discussion Papers 9844, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)
[also as a WP in CERGE-EI Working Paper Series No. 561]
- Bicakova, A. (2014) *Selection into Labor Force and Gender Unemployment Gaps*, CERGE-EI Working Paper Series No. 513.
- Bicakova, A. and Jurajda, S. (2014) *The Quiet Revolution and the Family: Gender Composition of Tertiary Education and Early Fertility Patterns*, IZA Discussion Papers 7965, Institute for the Study of Labor (IZA)
[also as a WP in CERGE-EI Working Paper Series No. 504]
- Bicakova, A. (2012) *Gender Unemployment Gaps: Blame the Family*, CERGE-EI Working Paper Series No. 475.
- Bicakova, A., Prelcova Z. and Pasalicova, R. (2010) *Who Borrows and Who May Not Repay?*, Working Papers 2010/10, Czech National Bank, Research Department.
[also as a WP in CERGE-EI Working Paper Series No. 443]
- Ata Nurcan, N. and Bicakova, A. (2010) *Self-control and debt: evidence from data on credit counselling*, Economics Series Working Papers 504, University of Oxford.
- Bicakova, A. (2010) *Gender Unemployment Gaps: Evidence from the New EU Member States*, CERGE-EI Working Paper Series wp410.
- Bicakova, A. and Sierminska, E. (2008) *Mortgage Market Maturity and Homeownership Inequality among Young Households : A Five-Country Perspective*, SOEPpapers No. 90/2008, DIW Berlin, The German Socio-Economic Panel.
- Bicakova, A., Slacalek, J. and Slavik, M. (2008) *Labor Supply after Transition: Evidence from the Czech Republic*, CERGE-EI Working Papers wp351, The Center for Economic Research and Graduate Education - Economic Institute, Prague.
[also as a WP in Working Paper Series 887, European Central Bank.]
- Bicakova, A. and Sierminska, E. (2008) "Homeownership Inequality and the Access to Credit Market" in Jonung, L. and Kontulainen, J. (eds.) *Growth and income distribution in an integrated Europe: Does EMU make a difference?*, European Economy, Economic Papers **325**, June, European Commission, Brussels.
- Bicakova, A. (2006) *Market vs. Institutions: The Trade-off Between Unemployment and Wage Inequality Revisited*, Economics Working Papers ECO 2006/31, European University Institute.
- Bicakova, A., Slacalek, J. and Slavik, M. (2006) *Fiscal Implications of Personal Tax Adjustments in the Czech Republic*, Working Papers 2006/6, Czech National Bank, Research Department

Bicakova, A. (2005) *Unemployment Versus Inactivity: An Analysis of the Earnings and Labor Force Status of Prime Age Men in France, the UK, and the US at the End of the 20th Century*, Luxembourg Income Study WP No. 412

Turner, M.D., Bicakova, A. (2003) *The Effects of Higher Minimum Wages on Welfare Reciprocity: Another Look*, Joint Center for Poverty Research WP No. 328

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, Johns Hopkins University, September 2005

Dissertation: “On the Distribution of Earnings and Labor Force Status: The Case of France, the UK and the US at the End of the 20th Century” (Principal Advisor: Robert Moffitt)

M. A. in Economics, CERGE-EI, Prague, Czech Republic, August 2001

M. Phil. in Economics, University of Cambridge, UK, July 2000

Mgr. in Economics, Charles University, Prague, May 1998

Postgraduate Certificate in International Business, ESC de Rennes, France, June 1996

Bc. in Economics, Charles University, Prague, June 1995

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Visiting Scholar Grant, Luxembourg Income Study, Luxembourg, July 2004, April 2007

Eugenio and Patricia Castillo Award, Johns Hopkins University, May 2003

T. Rowe Price Fellowship, the Ph.D. program in Economics at JHU, USA 2001–2005

COT/Citibank Scholarship, the M.Phil. program in Economics, Cambridge, UK 1999–2000

Dean's Honors for Outstanding Master's Thesis, Charles University, May 1998

TEMPUS Scholarship, one-semester stay, ESC, Rennes, France, Spring 1996

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Quantitative Methods II, graduate MAE level one-semester course, CERGE-EI (2012- 2016)

Labor and Public Economics II, graduate one-semester course, CERGE-EI (2009)

Labor Economics II, graduate one-semester course, CERGE-EI (2008)

Econometrics II, graduate one-semester course, CERGE-EI (2008-2013)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Deputy Director for Graduate Studies at CERGE, Charles University, Prague
(May 2017 – June 2023)

Senior Researcher at the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences
(May 2017 – June 2023)

Assistant Professor at CERGE, Charles University, Prague, and *Researcher* at the Economics Institute of the Czech Academy of Sciences (October 2007 – December 2016)

Research Fellow at Finance and Consumption Program, European University Institute, Florence (November 2005 – September 2007)

Organizer of the joint Finance and Consumption Program and CFS Workshop on “Behavioral Approaches to Consumption, Credit, and Asset Allocation”, 25-26 May 2007, Florence, Italy

Organizer of the Finance and Consumption Program Workshop on “Consumption and Credit in Countries with Developing Credit Markets”, 16–17 May 2007, Florence, Italy

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Serena Ng, graduate course in Econometrics, JHU, Spring 2003

Research Assistant

to Prof. Robert Moffitt, JHU, June 2002 – August 2005

Urban Institute, Washington, DC, USA, May–June 2002

to Dr. Mark Turner, Institute for Policy Studies, JHU, Sept. 2001 – May 2002

to Dr. Štěpán Jurajda at CERGE-EI, Prague, Sept. 2000 – July 2001

to Dr. Pavel Mertlík, Charles University, Prague, July 1998 – May 1999

JOURNAL REFEREE

Economics of Education Review, Economics of Transition, Czech Journal of Economics and Finance, Oxford Economic Papers, Emerging Markets Finance and Trade, Journal of Family and Economic Issues

SERVICE ON BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

Grant Agency of Academy of Science of the Czech Republic

RESEARCH GRANTS

Czech Science Foundation (GAČR), grant no. 25-16668S (2025-2027)

Project: The Impact of Economic Conditions on Human Capital Investment Choices and Future Labor Market Outcomes

Czech Science Foundation (GAČR), grant no. 18-16667S (2018-2020)

Project: Does Longer Maternal Childcare Improve Children's Future Outcomes? The Impact of a Four-year Paid Parental Leave

Czech National Bank, grant no. C3/2009 (2009-2010)

Project: Who Borrows and Who May Not Repay: Changes in the Distribution of Credit and Creditworthiness across Households in the Czech Republic since 2000

Czech Science Foundation (GAČR), grant no. 402/08/P466 (2008-2009)

Project: Gender (Un)Employment Gaps in Post-Transition Countries

European Commission, DG ECFIN, grant no. 163/2007/SI2.469639 (2007)

Project: Homeownership Inequality and the Access to Credit Markets

Czech National Bank, grant no. D1/2005 (2005-2006)

Project: Fiscal Implications of Personal Tax Adjustments in the Czech Republic