

## Personal data

Name: Maria Koch Gregersen

Mail: [mgregersen@econ.au.dk](mailto:mgregersen@econ.au.dk)

Nationality: Danish

Civil Status: Married

Children: Caleb (June 2019)  
Naomi (March 2022)

## Research Interest

Applied Microeconometrics, Inequality, Health Economics, Economics of Education, Family Economics, Labor Economics

## Employment

Feb 2022- Jan 2023	Maternity Leave
Jan 2022- Present	Assistant Professor, Aarhus University
Jan 2021- Dec 2021	Postdoctoral Researcher, Aarhus University (1-year)
Sep 2020- Dec 2020	Research Assistant for Nabanita Datta Gupta, Aarhus University
May 2019- Mar 2020	Maternity Leave

## Education:

2023	Pedagogical Programme for Assistant Professors and Postdocs
2020	Ph.D. in Economics and Business, Aarhus University
2016	MSc in Economics, Aarhus University
2013	BSc in Economics, Aarhus University

## Publication List

### Published Papers

- Andersen, S. C., Gregersen, M. K., Nielsen, H. S., & Thomsen, M. K. (2021). Parent Involvement, Socioeconomic Status and Reading Performance. *Scandinavian Journal of Educational Research*, 65(7), 1279-1294. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00313831.2020.1840429>
- Gregersen, M. K. (2024) Earlier Routine Induction of Labor - Consequences on Mother and Child Morbidity. *Health Economics*, 33 (10), 2399-2418. <https://doi.org/10.1002/hec.4877>

## Working Papers

- Being on the margin of being induced early because of health risks - Consequences for high-BMI mothers and their children (joint with Louis Freget)

We expand the literature on marginal returns to birth interventions by studying a common intervention: early induction of labor for a growing share of pregnancies: high-BMI women. We exploit Danish guidelines which recommend routine induction at 7 days after the expected due date instead of 10-13 days after for mothers with a pre-pregnancy BMI of at least 35. Our results show that early labor induction improves immediate maternal and neonatal health, reduces universal nurse visits during the child's first year of life, as well as maternal postpartum depression risks.

Working paper version available here: <https://www.cepremap.fr/depot/docweb/docweb2501.pdf>

- Intergenerational Transmission of Parental Leave Choices (joint w. Nabanita Datta Gupta, Astrid Würts Rasmussen & Nina Smith)

A growing literature documents strong intergenerational associations of gender stereotypical choices and gender norms. Yet, less is known about what shape these norms and choices. In this paper, we study the intergenerational transmission of gender stereotypical choices by investigating how the choice of mothers' maternity leave length affects their daughters' maternity leave length. First, we document a positive association between mothers' and daughters' leave lengths. Mothers who take a leave period shorter than the norm are associated with daughters who also take a maternity leave shorter than the norm. While this correlation reduces when controlling for mothers' and daughters' background characteristics, it remains statistically significant. Next, by exploiting a major reform of the Danish parental leave system in 1984 and a regression discontinuity design, we study potential intergenerational spillover effects. On average, the reform induces the 1984-mothers to increase their leave length by around 36 days. Estimating reduced form models, we find no effects on daughters' average leave taking behavior.

- The Development of Infant Health Inequality

In this paper, I document a closing SES gap in low birth weight, preterm birth, and, to a smaller extent, infant mortality from 1982-2010. Using a semiparametric decomposition method, I show that a large part of the closing gap in low birth weight and preterm birth can be (descriptively) explained by an increasing number of multiple births (fertility treatments) by making children born to the higher end of the income distribution relatively worse off. In recent years, a reduction in mothers' smoking during pregnancy is also important for explaining the closing gap. Additionally, increasing age at parenthood explains a smaller part of the closing gap in low birth weight whereas changes in parents' observable characteristics did not explain changes in the infant mortality gap very well.

## Work-In-Progress

- Reduced Well-being and Mental Health of Students - The Role of School Closures (Remote Teaching) in Denmark (joint w. Nabanita Datta Gupta)

Some dimensions of students' well-being and mental health have deteriorated after COVID. In this paper, we study whether the relative length of school closures (remote teaching) affects the well-being and mental health of students in primary school in Denmark. First, we document substantial variation in the length of school closures across grade levels (mode ranging from 40 to 105 school days), and some variation within certain grade levels. Comparing groups exposed to different levels of school closures before and after COVID, we find that students with longer exposure exhibit relatively lower well-being as measured by Emotional Stability and loneliness. However, results related to psychotropic prescriptions show either no effect or improvement depending on the empirical approach.

- Children's Academic Achievement and Wellbeing: Differential Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic across Parents' Industry and Occupation (joint w. Nabanita Datta Gupta & Selina Gangl)
- Family Formation and Local Amenities: Insights from Refugee Placement in Denmark (joint w. Trine Skriver Høholt & Marie-Louise Schultz-Nielsen)

## Other Publications

- Gregersen, M.K. (2020). *Socioeconomic Inequalities and Health* (PhD Thesis, Aarhus University). [https://pure.au.dk/portal/da/publications/socioeconomic-inequalities-and-health\(834976fb-77c3-4c20-9f1b-8f9e2438baf0\).html](https://pure.au.dk/portal/da/publications/socioeconomic-inequalities-and-health(834976fb-77c3-4c20-9f1b-8f9e2438baf0).html)

## Teaching Experience

Spring, 2025	14 Lectures in ' <i>Microeconomics I</i> ' (Course Responsible), 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester BSc Mathematics-Economics, 10 ECTS points, 1 master thesis
Fall, 2024	Co-lecturer in ' <i>Applied Microeconometrics</i> ' (Project Course), Master & PhD Level Economics, 10 students, 10 ECTS points
Spring 2024	28 Lectures in ' <i>Microeconomics I</i> ' (Course Responsible), 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester BSc Mathematics-Economics, 10 ECTS points, 4 bachelor projects
Fall, 2023	Co-lecturer in ' <i>Applied Microeconometrics</i> ' (Project Course), Master Level Economics, 28 students, 10 ECTS points,

Spring 2023	14 Lectures in ‘ <i>Microeconomics I</i> ’, 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester BSc Mathematics-Economics, 10 ECTS points, 1 bachelor project
Spring 2021	14 Lectures in ‘ <i>Microeconomics I</i> ’, 2 <sup>nd</sup> semester BSc Mathematics-Economics, 10 ECTS points, 2 bachelor projects
Fall 2017	10 Lectures in ‘ <i>Introduction to Empirical Economics</i> ’, 5 <sup>th</sup> semester BA Business Economics, 10 ECTS points
Fall 2017	TA in parts of ‘ <i>Introduction to Empirical Economics</i> ’, 5 <sup>th</sup> semester BA Business Economics, 10 ECTS points
Spring 2017	TA in ‘ <i>Quantitative, Qualitative and Limited Dependent Variables</i> ’, 4 <sup>th</sup> semester BSc Economics, 10 ECTS points

## Grants

COVID-19: Existing and Arising Inequalities Among Students (PI: Prof. Nabanita Datta Gupta)  
The Spar Nord Foundation 2022-2024, DKK 1,75 mill.

## Seminar, Workshop & Conference Presentations

2024	Presentation at 4 <sup>th</sup> Meeting on Quantitative Educational Research in Denmark (QERD)
2023	Presentation at SEHO, Copenhagen, Denmark, Presentation at (The Annual Conference of the European Society for Population Economics (ESPE), Belgrade, Serbia, Presentation at The Conference of the European Association of Labour Economists (EALE), Prague, Czech Republic
2021	Presentation at the Economics Seminar, Aarhus University, Presentation at EEA-ESEM (European Economic Association-Econometric Society Congress) Virtual 2021
2020	Presentation at the Labour and Public Policy Seminars, Aarhus University,
2019	Presentation at the 1 <sup>st</sup> Workshop on Health and Inequality, at CBS, Denmark
2018	The Annual meeting for The Danish Economic Society, Presentation at VIVE, Copenhagen, 13th Nordic Summer Institute in Labour Economics, Helsinki, Finland, ESPE (The Annual Conference of the

European Society for Population Economics (ESPE), Antwerp, Belgium.  
(Presenter), Presentation at the University of Texas at Austin

2017 Human Capital and Public Policy Workshop, Stockholm, Sweden,  
DGPE (The Danish Graduate Programme in Economics) Workshop  
(Presenter)

2016 DGPE (The Danish Graduate Programme in Economics) Workshop

## **Exchange**

Fall 2018 (4 months) Visiting Professor Sandra Black at the University of Texas at Austin

## **Referee Experience**

Empirical Economics

## **Other**

2018 3<sup>rd</sup> place the Econometric Game (EG) 2018, Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Member of the Aarhus University Team