

## **GABRIELLE FACK**

### **Harvard University & Paris School of Economics**

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#### **Current Position:**

2007-2008: Harvard University (Department of Economics),  
Post-doctoral Fellow

#### **Education:**

2003-2007: Paris school of Economics (PSE) & EHESS, Paris,  
PhD in Economics *summa cum laude*  
Thesis: 'Inequality, Housing Policies and Spatial Segregation'  
2003: London School of Economics, MPhil in Economics  
Exchange program within European Doctoral Program  
2002: PSE-EHESS, Paris, Master in Economics  
1999-2004: École Normale Supérieure (Cachan)

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#### **References:**

##### **Professor Thomas Piketty (advisor)**

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##### **Professor Steve Machin**

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##### **Professor Philippe Aghion**

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##### **Professor Rebecca Blank**

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#### **Research interests:**

Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics, Urban and Housing  
Economics.

#### **Languages:**

French, English (Fluent), Russian (Good knowledge)

#### **Teaching Experience:**

2004-2007: Teaching Assistant, University of Paris Pantheon Sorbonne  
Microeconomics (undergraduate), Industrial Economics (master)  
2002-2003: Teaching Assistant, London School of Economics  
Microeconomics (undergraduate)

#### **Prizes and Fellowships:**

2007-2008: Robert Solow Postdoctoral Fellowship (Centre Cournot),  
Sachs Fellow  
2004-2007: Doctoral Fellowship, Ministère de la Recherche  
2002-2003: Marie Curie Fellowship (European Doctoral Program)  
2002: Best Master Dissertation Award,  
Caisse Nationale des Allocations Familiales (CNAF)

#### **Professional Activities:**

2006: Consultant, Centre d'Analyse Stratégique,  
(Prime Minister's Strategic Advisory Council), Paris

### **Working papers:**

**'Do Better Schools Raise Housing Prices? Evidence from Paris School Zoning', (job market paper), with Julien Grenet, 2006.**

This paper provides empirical evidence on the impact of middle school quality on housing prices in Paris, using comprehensive data on both school zoning and real estate transactions over the period 1997-2003. Because it is closely linked to spatial mobility, the willingness to pay for better schools is a crucial parameter for the calibration of optimal school zoning policy simulations. Building on Black's (1999) approach, we develop a matching framework to carefully compare sales across school attendance district boundaries as a way to deal with the endogeneity of school quality. We find that a standard deviation increase in school quality raises prices by about 2%, which implies that the fraction of housing price differentials across school zones that can be explained by school quality differential amounts to about 7% in Paris. In addition, we test the prediction of general equilibrium models that the availability of private schools should tend to mitigate the impact of public school quality on residential segregation. In line with this prediction, we find evidence that the presence of private schools in certain Parisian neighbourhoods, by offering an outside option to parents, tends to attenuate the capitalization of public school quality in the price of real estate.

**'Fiscal Incentives and Charitable Giving', with Camille Landais.**

This paper proposes new estimations of price and income elasticities of charitable contributions that avoid the usual empirical pitfalls (simultaneity and endogeneity of price and income variations) encountered in previous literature, by focusing on the French tax reduction system, where every taxpayer gets the same reduction rate whatever its income or the level of its gift may be. We use time variations of the reduction rate in order to identify the elasticity of charitable giving to tax incentives. Our results demonstrate that the elasticity of charitable giving with respect to tax subsidy is weaker than previously found and is also strongly heterogeneous, not only according to the level of income, but also according to the level of gift itself. While empirical and theoretical literature has mainly focused on subsidy schemes varying with respect to income, this suggests that optimal tax subsidy schemes should vary not only with respect to income but also with respect to the level of gift.

### **Research projects:**

**'School Zoning or School Choice? A Theoretical Model', with Julien Grenet.**

We calibrate a model of school zoning in order to simulate the implementation of various school policies in Paris.

**Health Policy and innovation, with Philippe Aghion.**

We study whether the regulations recently adopted by some European countries in order to reduce health care costs may have a long term impact on innovations in pharmaceutical industries.

### **Publications in referred journals:**

**'Are Housing Benefits an Effective Way to Redistribute Income? Evidence From a Natural Experiment in France', *Labour Economics*, Vol. 13 (6), December 2006.**

In this paper, I show that in-kind benefit such as a housing benefit program may have a significant impact on the price of the subsidized good. I use a French housing benefit reform to evaluate the impact of the subsidy on the level of rents. The results indicate that one additional euro of housing benefit leads to an increase of 78 cents in the rent paid by new benefit claimants, leaving only 22 cents available to reduce their net rent and increase their consumption. This large impact of housing benefit on rents appears to be the result of very low housing supply elasticity. I show that the housing benefit reform induced additional demand, not only from low income households but also from students who used the benefit to become independent. Unfortunately, this increase in demand was unmatched by increasing housing supply in the short and middle term. The only possible effect of the reform is a small increase in housing quality. These results raise questions about the use of such in-kind transfers when the supply of the subsidized good is almost inelastic.

**'Pourquoi les ménages à bas revenus paient-ils des loyers de plus en plus élevés ? L'incidence des aides au logement en France (1973-2002)', *Economie et Statistique*, n°381-382, October 2005.**