

## RON DIRIS

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Department of Economics  
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### Current Appointment

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Leiden University, Department of Economics, the Netherlands  
Assistant Professor, from May 2020

### Previous positions

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Maastricht University, School of Business and Economics, the Netherlands  
Postdoctoral Researcher, May 2016 - April 2020

KU Leuven, Center for Economic Studies, Belgium  
Postdoctoral Researcher, Sept. 2012 - April 2016

### Education

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Maastricht University, METEOR Graduate School, the Netherlands  
PhD Candidate in Economics. Sept. 2008 - Aug. 2012  
Obtained degree on December 5th, 2012  
Supervisor: Prof. Lex Borghans  
Thesis Committee: Thomas Dohmen, Hessel Oosterbeek, Andries de Grip, Gerard Pfann, Rolf van der Velden, Jo Ritzen, Trudie Schils, Kristof de Witte

University of Chicago, United States of America  
Visiting scholar. Jan. 2012 - May 2012.  
Faculty sponsor: Prof. James J. Heckman

Maastricht University, the Netherlands  
MSc. in International Economic Studies. Sept. 2007 - Aug. 2008

University of California Los Angeles, United States of America  
Visiting undergraduate student. Sep. 2006 - Dec. 2006.

Maastricht University, the Netherlands  
BSc. in Infonomics. Sept. 2004 - July 2007.

## Research Interests

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Economics of Education, in particular the educational production function and the economics of the school curriculum. Determinants and consequences of cognitive and noncognitive skills. Income inequality and social protection. Poverty and social exclusion and its relations to child development.

## Published papers

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“Should we sort it out later? The effect of tracking age on long-run outcomes”, with Lex Borghans, Wendy Smits and Jannes de Vries (2020), *Economics of Education Review*, vol. 75, 101973.

“The Long-run Effects of Secondary School Track Assignment”, with Lex Borghans, Wendy Smits and Jannes de Vries (2019), *Plos One* 14(10): e0215493.

“Solidarity between generations in multigenerational households: Old-age income as a way out of child poverty?”, with Gerlinde Verbist and Frank Vandenbroucke, Forthcoming in *European Sociological Review*.

“The Economics of Financing Higher Education”, with Erwin Ooghe (2018), *Economic Policy*, Vol. 33, No. 94, pp 265-314.

“Don’t Hold Back? The Effect of Grade Retention on Student Achievement” (2017) *Education, Finance and Policy*, Vol. 12, No. 3, pp 312-341.

“The impact of pensions, transfers and taxes on child poverty in Europe: the role of size, pro-pooriness and child orientation”, with Frank Vandenbroucke and Gerlinde Verbist (2017) *Socio-Economic Review*, Vo. 15, No. 4, pp 745-775.

“Allocating Instruction Time: How Language Instruction Can Affect Multiple Skills”, with Lex Borghans (2014), *Journal of Human Capital*, Vol. 8, no. 2, pp 161-198.

## Invited resubmissions

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“Personality traits, preferences and educational choices: a focus on STEM”, with Johan Coenen and Lex Borghans, Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Economic Psychology*.

## Submitted papers

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“The Heterogeneous Effects of Early Track Choice on Cognitive and Non-cognitive Skills”, with Maria Cotofan and Trudie Schils, Under Review at *Journal of Labor Economics*.

## Books and reports: English

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“Fostering and Measuring Skills: Improving Cognitive and Non-Cognitive Skills to Promote Lifetime Success, with Tim Kautz, James J. Heckman, Bas ter Weel and Lex Borghans (2014), OECD Report”.

“Mapping At-risk-of-poverty Rates, Household Employment, and Social Spending, with Frank Vandenbroucke (2014), in Cantillon, B. and Vandenbroucke F. (eds), “Reconciling Work and Poverty Reduction. How Successful are European Welfare States” (pp 1-59), Oxford University Press, Oxford.

### **Books and reports: Dutch**

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“Sociale Ongelijkheid in het Onderwijs is Hardnekkig” (The persistence of social inequality in education), with Lex Borghans and Trudie Schils (2018), *Economische Statistische Berichten*.

“Voortijdig schoolverlaten in Zuid-Limburg: Analyse van risicofactoren” (Analysing risk factors of early school-leaving in Limburg), with Trudie Schils (2017), Policy Report for Educatieve Agenda Limburg.

“Rapportage Evaluatie en Benutting van de Diagnostische Tussentijdse Toets” (Evaluation and utilisation of adaptive testing in Dutch secondary education), with Lex Borghans, Raoul Haenbeukers and Pascale Haenen (2017), Policy Report for Dutch Ministry of Education.

“Investerings in persoonlijke ontwikkeling verbeteren sociaal-economische uitkomsten” (Investments in personal development improve social progress), with Lex Borghans and Bas ter Weel (2014), Centraal Planbureau Policy Brief, 2014/08.

### **Working papers**

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“Mind the Gap: The Role of Skill Dispersion for Future Attainment”, with Mariana Tavares and Lex Borghans, January 2019.

“The Teacher or the Test? An Analysis of the Long-run Predictive Power of School Achievement Indicators”, with Lex Borghans and Trudie Schils, June 2019.

### **Work in Progress**

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“Student major choice: the role of expectations, feedback and beliefs”, with Ingo Isphording.

“The health effects of study field choice”, with D. Mark Anderson and Daniel Rees.

“The Relation Between Non-Cognitive Skills and Early School Leaving”, with Trudie Schils.

### **Teaching**

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Course coordination and tutoring for ‘Economics and Sociology’, 2017/2018/2019

Course coordination and tutoring for ‘Learning by Experimenting’, 2016/2017/2018/2019

Tutoring for ‘Understanding Society’, 2019

Tutoring for ‘Presentation skills’, 2012

Tutoring for 'International Economics', 2009/2010/2011  
Tutoring for 'Microeconomics', 2009/2010/2011

Master thesis supervision (7 students)

Average teaching evaluation: 8.1 (out of 10), as of November 2019.

### **Other academic activities**

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PhD supervision of Mariana Tavares, "The economics of achievement testing" (ongoing).

Supervision and co-supervision of two Research Assistants.

Member of PhD assessment committee for Caroline Wehner, Eva Feron, Maria Ferreira Sequeda, Marjolein Muskens.

Co-organizer of Learning and Work seminar at Maastricht University, since June 2017.

Referee for: Journal of Public Economics, Labour Economics, Socio-Economic Review, Economics of Education Review, Learning and Individual Differences, International Journal of Human Resource Management, International Journal of Manpower, Journal of Economic Psychology.

## Presentations at international workshops, conferences and seminars

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- 2019 EALE, Economic Association of Labour Economics, Uppsala  
ESPE, European Society for Population Economics, Bath
- 2018 Economics of Education Workshop, Lisbon  
Economics of Education workshop, Maastricht
- 2017 Economic Policy Panel meeting, Brussels  
HEaL (Human Enhancement and Learning) seminar, Maastricht  
HEaL (Human Enhancement and Learning) conference, Maastricht
- 2016 APPAM, Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, London  
Public Economics seminar, KU Leuven
- 2015 Invited seminar speaker University of Cologne  
ImPRovE final conference, Antwerp  
Presentation DUHR seminar, Maastricht  
Economics of Education meeting, KU Leuven
- 2014 Linda Nobel Laureate Meeting, Lindau (invited as Young Scholar)  
EALE, European Association of Labor Economics, Ljubljana  
Winter school on Inequality and Social Welfare Theory, Canazei  
ImPRovE mid-term conference, Antwerp
- 2013 European Economic Association, Goteborg  
SOLE, Society of Labor Economists, Boston  
Invited seminar speaker CPB, the Hague  
ImPRovE opening conference, Brussels
- 2013 European Union conference on poverty reduction, Brussels  
Euroforum meeting, KU Leuven
- 2012 EEA, European Economic Association, Malaga  
EALE, European Association of Labor Economics, Bonn  
Seminar presentation at University of Chicago  
AEA American Economic Association, Chicago  
Presentation Public Economics seminar, KU Leuven  
Euroforum meeting, KU Leuven
- 2011 EALE, European Association of Labour Economic, Paphos  
EEA, European Economic Association, Oslo  
Presentation DUHR seminar, Maastricht
- 2010 EALE/SOLE, joint meeting, London  
EEA, European Economic Association, Glasgow  
Presentation DUHR seminar, Maastricht

## Presentations at policy meetings and conferences

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- 2019 ‘Expertmeeting schooladvisering’, Ministry of Education, The Hague  
Workshop ‘Overgang primair naar secundair onderwijs’, Ministry of Education, The Hague
- 2018 Workshop ‘OCW Kennislab’, Ministry of Education, The Hague  
Kennisfestival, Ministry of Education, The Hague  
Early School-Leaving (VSV) in Limburg, Regional VSV Board, Heerlen  
Hackathon on Big Data in Education, Heerlen
- 2017 Conference on Grade Retention, Ministry of Education, The Hague  
Adaptive achievement testing, Ministry of Education, The Hague  
‘DTT final conference’ on the use of testing in education, Utrecht  
‘DTT opening conference’ on the use of testing in education, Utrecht  
Workshop on Regional Education Policy in Limburg, Roermond  
Workshop ‘transition of vocational education to work’, Roermond  
‘Onderwijs Research Dagen (ORD)’, Antwerp  
Workshop on Special Education, Maastricht
- 2016 ‘Academische Werkplaats Onderwijs’, on grade retention, Maastricht  
OCW Kennismarkt, The Hague  
‘Gelijke Kansen Alliantie’ on inequality in education, Ministry of Education, The Hague

## Funding

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“Educatieve Agenda Limburg 2”. Grant total of €3,046,731 (2018). Co-applicant.

“Voortijdig Schoolverlaten in Limburg” (2016). Grant total of €23,344.

Lindau meeting Young Economist, conference fee and accomodation waiver (2014).

Visiting scholar University of Chicago (2012), tuition waver two quarters.

METEOR Travel grant (2011). Grant total of €4,000.

## Policy briefs

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“Afstroom in Limburg: trends en cijfers naar geslacht”,  
<https://www.educatieveagendalimburg.nl/bijdragen/afstroom-limburg>

“Afstroom in Limburg: verschillen naar regio”,  
<https://www.educatieveagendalimburg.nl/bijdragen/afstroom-limburg-verschillen-naar-regio>

“Afstroom in Limburg: verschillen naar sociaal-economische achtergrond”,  
<https://www.educatieveagendalimburg.nl/bijdragen/afstroom-limburg-verschillen-naar-sociaal-economische-achtergrond>

“Opstroom in Limburg”,  
<https://www.educatieveagendalimburg.nl/bijdragen/opstroom-limburg>

“Afstroom in Limburg: samengestelde adviezen en gedeelde brugklassen”,  
<https://www.educatieveagendalimburg.nl/bijdragen/afstroom-limburg-samengestelde-adviezen-en-gedeelde-brugklassen>

## **Media**

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TV appearance for “Limburg Centraal”, L1 Limburg, February 20th 2020.

“Kansenongelijkheid bij schooladvies”, Dagblad de Limburger, February 20th 2020.

“Advies of toets: geen verschil”, Dagblad de Limburger, April 16th 2019.

“Houd de Jongeren Langer Vast”, Dagblad de Limburger, December 24th 2018.

“Fors Meer Geld Voor Leerlingen”, Dagblad de Limburger, April 28th 2018.

“Scholen Lopen Miljoenen Mis”, Dagblad de Limburger, March 25th 2018.

## **Languages**

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Dutch (native)

English (fluent)

German (intermediate)

French (basic)

Spanish (basic)

## **Programs**

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Advanced experience with Stata, MPlus, LaTeX.

Basic experience with Python, Pascal.