

# **Diva Astinova**

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## **NEW YORK UNIVERSITY**

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### **Education**

PhD in Economics, New York University Expected Spring 2026	2019 – Present
BSc Joint Honours Mathematics & Economics, University of Ottawa Specialization in Statistics, <i>Summa cum laude</i>	2015 – 2019

### **Teaching and Research Fields**

Macroeconomics, Labor Economics and Inequality

### **Research Experience**

Jul 2024 – Aug 2024	AEA Dissertation Fellowship, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
Jun 2023 – Sep 2023	International Monetary Fund (IMF), Fund Internship Program, European Department
Jan 2019 – May 2019	RA for Prof. Jason Garred, University of Ottawa
Apr 2018 – Apr 2019	RA for Prof. Adam Lavecchia, University of Ottawa
Sep 2017 – Feb 2019	Finalist, Bank of Canada Governor's Challenge Competition
Oct 2016 – Apr 2017	Undergraduate Research Project, Prof. Victoria Barham, University of Ottawa

### **Teaching Experience**

Summer 2025	Executive MBA, The Global Economy, Stern School of Business, Teaching Assistant for Professor Julien Esteban-Pretel
Summer 2025	Microeconomics with Calculus, Stern School of Business, Teaching Assistant for Professor Simon Bowmaker
Spring 2023	Graduate International Economics and Trade, NYU, Teaching Assistant for Professor Sharon Traiberman
Fall 2022	Econometrics (Undergraduate), NYU, Teaching Assistant for Professor Sharon Traiberman
Fall 2021, Spring 2022	Introductory Macroeconomics, NYU, Teaching Assistant for Professor Andrew Paizis

### **Conference & Seminar Presentations**

2025	Junior Macro Workshop, Federal Reserve Bank of New York
2024 – 2025	Macroeconomics Student Lunch Seminar, New York University
2024	Stern Macroeconomics Seminar, New York University
2024	Opportunity and Inclusive Growth Institute, Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis
2023	European Department Seminar Series, International Monetary Fund (IMF)
2024 – 2025	Econometrics Lunch Seminar, New York University
2021 – 2024	Applied Student Lunch Seminar, New York University
2021 – 2022	Thomas Sargent Macroeconomics Reading Group
2021	Boston University Women in Economics Conference
2021	Econometrics Summer Reading Group, New York University
2020 – 2022	Macroeconomics BGGM Reading Group

### **Professional Activities**

2020 – Present	Women in Economics Association, Founder, NYU
2020 – Present	Co-chair, Graduate Economics Student Association, NYU
2016	Head volunteer, Canadian Economics Association Conference

### **Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships**

2024	Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis AEA Dissertation Fellowship
2024	Russell Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grant
2019 – 2024	Henry MacCracken Scholar, New York University
2018	Linis Scholarship for Top Student in Mathematics Department
2018	EDC International Business Scholarship, 1 of 24 recipients
2017	Wong-Ng Scholarship for Top Student in Mathematics Department, University of Ottawa
2017	DAAD Undergraduate Study Abroad Scholarship, 1 of 3 Canadian recipients
2016 – 2017	Undergraduate Student Research Scholarship
2015 – 2019	Academic Excellence Scholarship, University of Ottawa
2015 – 2019	Dean's List, University of Ottawa

### **Technical Skills**

R, Stata, Matlab, Python, ArcGIS, Haver Analytics, Mathematica, LaTeX, Microsoft Excel

### **Languages**

English (native), fully bilingual in French, advanced Spanish, Bulgarian, beginner German & Portuguese

## **Research Papers**

### ***Initial Labor Market Conditions: Unequal Effects by Parental Income*** (JMP)

This paper examines the unequal impact of initial labor market conditions by parental income and their role in shaping long-term labor market outcomes. Using large-scale Canadian administrative tax data, I analyze the relationship between parental income, aggregate economic conditions, and wage dynamics for new labor market entrants. I find that entering the labor market during an economic downturn leads to significant and persistent earnings losses, with disproportionately larger effects for individuals from low-income families. A 1 p.p. higher initial unemployment rate reduces annual earnings by approximately \$2,000 real CAD for all workers over the first decade after graduation, with earnings declining 15 percent more for those from families in the bottom 20% of the income distribution. To explore the underlying mechanisms, I develop a continuous time heterogeneous agent model with financial constraints and a frictional labor market. The model highlights how parental income can act as a safety net: individuals from low-income families are closer to their borrowing constraints and more likely to enter jobs with lower earnings, particularly in the presence of larger search frictions. Recessions amplify this mechanism by reducing job-finding rates in equilibrium, further limiting access to high paying jobs. Counterfactual simulations suggest policies such as targeted grants for graduates entering the labor market could mitigate scarring effects and improve outcomes for disadvantaged workers.

### ***Dissecting the Decline in Average Hours Worked in Europe*** with Romain Duval, Niels-Jakob Hansen, Ben Park, Ippei Shibata and Frederik Toscani; *IMF Working Paper* ([VoxEU](#), [SSRN](#))

Three years after the COVID-19 crisis, employment and total hours worked in Europe fully recovered, but average hours per worker did not. We analyze the decline in average hours worked across European countries and find that (i) it is not cyclical but predominantly structural, extending a long-term trend that predates COVID-19, (ii) it mainly reflects reduced hours within worker groups, not a compositional shift towards lower-hours jobs and workers, (iii) men—particularly those with young children—and youth drive this drop, (iv) declines in actual hours match declines in desired hours. Policy reforms could help involuntary part-timers and women with young children raise their actual hours towards desired levels, but the aggregate impact on average hours would be limited to 0.5 to 1.5 percent. Overall, there is scant evidence of slack at the intensive margin in European labor markets, and the trend fall in average hours worked seems unlikely to reverse.

### ***Endogenous Job Offer Rate, Search Effort & Educational Attainment***

This paper studies how job search effort shapes the arrival rate of job offers. I develop a search-and-matching model in which the arrival rate of job offers depends endogenously on workers' search effort. Using data from the Survey of Consumer Expenditures, I document a steep increase in job contact rates with search effort. Across education groups, the median contact rate of job offers increases tenfold under endogenous search compared to a baseline model with exogenous arrival rates. The estimates reveal significant heterogeneity in search behavior by skill group. Workers with only a high school diploma devote more time to job search relative to workers with some college or a college degree, despite similar returns to additional search hours. For workers who do not search, the estimates for job arrival rates closely match the exogenous contact rate in classical labor search models. These results highlight the importance of incorporating endogenous search effort when evaluating unemployment dynamics and designing policies to support job seekers.