Sebastian Ritter Gutierrez

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Research Interests

Economic geography, regional and urban economics, and the economics of migration.

Summary

PhD Candidate in Economics and researcher in the Regional Quantitative Analysis Group (AQR) at the University of Barcelona. My research studies how spatial frictions – language policy, green and twin transitions, and territorial conflict – shape mobility, local economic activity and regional development. I combine administrative, survey, geospatial and satellite data with causal-inference methods.

Education

2023–present PhD in Economics at **University of Barcelona**
Expected completion: March 2027
Thesis: *Essays on Spatial Frictions, Mobility, and Regional Development*
Thesis supervisor: Vicente Royuela `vroyuela@ub.edu`

2020–2022 MSc in Economics at **University of Barcelona**
Thesis: *The Economic Effect of Splitting a Region: A Case from Chile*
Thesis supervisor: Jordi Jofre-Monseny `jordi.jofre@ub.edu`

2013–2019 Commercial Engineering degree at **Austral University of Chile**
Thesis: *Dynamics of Regional and Communal Employment in the Los Ríos Region through the Classic and Modified Shift-Share Analysis, 2002–2017*
Thesis supervisor: Susana Coper `susana.coper@gmail.com`

Research Visits

Sep–Dec 2026 Visiting Fellow, **LSE Cañada Blanch Centre**
London School of Economics and Political Science
LSE–Miguel Dols Fellowship Scheme

Publications

- Ritter, S., Royuela, V. and Marx, Y. (2026). "Will the Green Transition Deepen Regional Divides? Evidence from Mobility Intentions across European Regions." *The Annals of Regional Science*, 75, article 146. DOI: 10.1007/s00168-026-01583-7.
- Ritter, S. and Royuela, V. (2026). "The Geography of the Green Transition: Performance, Vulnerabilities and Opportunities." *Papers in Regional Science*, article 100150. DOI: 10.1016/j.pirs.2026.100150.
- Ritter, S. (2025). "The Economic Effect of Splitting a Region in a Centralized Country: A Case from Chile." *Global Challenges & Regional Science*, 2, 100011. DOI: 10.1016/j.gcrs.2025.100011.

Working Papers and Work in Progress

- Ritter, S. "Too Far to Matter? The Urban Reach of Rural Territorial Conflict." Job market paper.
- Di Paolo, A., Ramos, R., Ritter, S. and Royuela, V. "Do Language Policies Affect Internal Migration in a Multilingual Country?" In progress.

Grants and Awards

- **AGAUR-FI Joan Oró Predoctoral Fellowship**
  Scholarship awarded by the Government of Catalonia for doctoral studies, 2024–2027.
- **Best Paper Presentation Award, Journal of Regional Research**
  XLVIII International Conference on Regional Science, Cuenca, Spain, October 16–18, 2024.

Selected Conference and Seminar Presentations

- **Too Far to Matter? The Urban Reach of Rural Territorial Conflict**
  - 50th International Conference on Regional Science, Barcelona, Spain, October 21–23, 2026.
- **"Measuring the Green Transition in Europe: A Multidimensional Index for European NUTS2 Regions."**
  - XLIX International Conference on Regional Science, Pamplona, Spain, October 16–18, 2025.
  - *A Joint Call for Action to Leave No One Behind*, Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, November 3–4, 2025.
- **"Do Language Policies Affect Internal Migration in a Multilingual Country?"**
  - 50th Symposium of the Spanish Economic Association, Barcelona, Spain, December 17–19, 2025.
  - 8th CEnSE Workshop, Jönköping, Sweden, December 12–13, 2024.
  - XLVIII International Conference on Regional Science, Cuenca, Spain, October 16–18, 2024.
  - 63rd ERSA Congress, Azores, Portugal, August 26–30, 2024.
  - XVI Labour Economics Meeting, Barcelona, Spain, July 11, 2024.
  - RSA Annual Conference, Florence, Italy, June 11–14, 2024.
  - Barcelona School of Economics Labor Economics Summer School, Barcelona, Spain, July 4, 2024.
- **"Twin Transition Effects on Human (Im)mobility: A Multilevel Model Analysis."**
  - XLVIII International Conference on Regional Science, Cuenca, Spain, October 16–18, 2024.
- **"The Economic Effect of Splitting a Region: A Case from Chile."**
  - VI Seminar for New Academic Researchers, Barcelona, Spain, September 14–15, 2023.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Innovation Project Contributor University of Barcelona **2026**
Developed R scripts, collected and prepared datasets, and created practical exercises with worked solutions for self-guided study. The project aims to integrate causal inference into Statistics, Data Analysis and Panel Data courses.

Substitute Lecturer RUIYA Study Abroad Programme, UAB **Apr 2024–Jun 2024**
Econometrics I
Responsible for delivering lectures, preparing course materials and assessing student performance. Developed original teaching materials with applied examples from business and economics.

Teaching Assistant Austral University of Chile **Mar 2017–Jun 2018**
Microeconomics II and Economics II
Assisted in Microeconomics II for the Commercial Engineering program and in Economics II for the Auditing program. Responsibilities included additional classes focused on solving practical exercises.

Research and Professional Experience

Technical Support Officer in Environmental Economics **Sep 2022–Sep 2023**
Cetaqua Water Technology Centre, Barcelona, Spain
Conducted cost-benefit and life-cycle costing analyses of environmental technologies, including Monte Carlo sensitivity analysis. Analysed microdata to assess eligibility for water-tariff subsidies and contributed to climate-risk damage assessment using input-output and econometric methods.

Academic Service

Ad hoc referee: *Investigaciones Regionales – Journal of Regional Research* (2026).

Skills

Software	Stata (advanced); Excel (advanced); R, Python and QGIS (intermediate); LaTeX and Git/GitHub (working knowledge); Power BI, SQL and MATLAB (basic).
Languages	Spanish (native); English (advanced); Catalan (basic).

References

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