



Elisabeth Tovar

elisabeth.tovar@parisnanterre.fr

Tel. 0140977825

Axe de recherche

Comportements, Droits et Bien-être

Thème(s)

Economie normative; Economie du bien-être; Economie urbaine; Economie du travail

HAL: [Lien](#)

📌 Présentation

I am an Associate Professor (Maître de Conférences) at [Paris Nanterre University](#) and [EconomiX](#).

I work on empirical social choice issues. I'm interested on methodological and measurement issues when implementing distributive justice theories.

During my PhD, I discussed the perspective of Justice theories (utilitarianism, rawlsianism, libertarianism, liberal egalitarianism) on urban residential segregation (Tovar, 2011). I have worked on the normative framework of urban well-being measurement, developing a capabilist-based multidimensional definition where location matters when measuring opportunities and agency freedom. An initial implementation was focused on poverty and segregation and an improved revision scrutinized local inequalities in the Paris region. The bottom line: going past income issues and using a broader, normatively-justified definition of well-being sharpens the perception of the social divide of the Paris region!

Focusing on another aspect of urban inequalities, I have also worked on the development of a new measure for local job accessibility, with a work-in-progress public-policy-oriented extension [with [Matthieu Bunel](#)].

Working from a spatial point of view challenges standard Justice theories. I am currently working on this issue; using empirical social choice to do so seems fun and promising.

I've been lucky to benefit from an ANR 'Jeune chercheur' grant to fund survey to follow this line of research.

In particular, I am interested in finding evidence on the support of Sen's well-being conceptualization, on three aspects.

In my PhD thesis and early work, I justified my focus on Sen's capability approach (instead of a more traditional utilitarian view) because of the relevance, in my mind, of the adaptive preferences argument in a segregation framework. Indeed, if we agree that one's residential location hinders on one's perception of Society and on one's possible achievements and impossibilities, then using a subjective well-being measurement (such as utility) is questionable, since those that live in deprived neighborhoods adapt their preferences and conception of their opportunities to the outcomes they believe are reachable: their subjective utility measure is 'subdued' compared the one of those that, because they live in privileged areas, aim for more and are therefore naturally satisfied by less. I want to challenge [with [Frédéric Dufaux](#)] this adaptive preferences postulate by showing if socially different persons (in terms of residential location, social position, trajectories, identities...) do have different visions 1) of their own well-being and 2) of Social justice principles in general.

The second and third important aspects of the capability approach are its consequentialist nature (compared to other, more procedural, social justice theories such as Rawlsianism and libertarianism) and its multidimensional definition of well-being, where effective realizations must be completed by freedom as opportunities and as agency freedom. I plan to check [with [Sophie Harnay](#) and [Régis Lanneau](#)] if consequentialism is universally preferred by people in all circumstances and if freedoms are valued as important dimensions of well-being.

Documents de travail

HAL: [Lien](#)

04/2025 - Who Gets the Keys? Exploring Discrimination in Tenant Selection
[Mathieu Bunel](#), [Marie-Noëlle Lefebvre](#), [Elisabeth Tovar](#), [Laetitia Tufféry](#)

01/2024 - Moving apart: job-driven residential mobility and the gender pay gap Evidence from a large industrial firm.
[Mathieu Bunel](#), [Dominique Meurs](#), [Elisabeth Tovar](#)

10/2023 - Fairness of the First-Come, First-Served rule on the rental housing market: answers from a hypothetical survey experiment
[Mathieu Bunel](#), [Elisabeth Tovar](#)

09/2021 - Attitudes on past-in-present educational discrimination. Insights from a representative factorial survey
[Mathieu Bunel](#), [Elisabeth Tovar](#)

09/2019 - Profit vs morality: how unfair is labor market discrimination? Results from a survey experiment
[Mathieu Bunel](#), [Elisabeth Tovar](#)

06/2017 - Obeying vs. resisting unfair laws. A structural analysis of the internalization of collective preferences on redistribution using classification trees and random forests
[Sophie Harnay](#), [Elisabeth Tovar](#)

02/2017 - Spatial Mismatch through Local Public Employment Agencies? Answers from a French Quasi-Experiment
[Mathieu Bunel](#), [Elisabeth Tovar](#)

02/2017 - L'hégémonie retrouvée du centre de la métropole parisienne. L'apport d'une mesure de la ségrégation fonctionnelle des emplois
[Lise Bourdeau-Lepage](#), [Elisabeth Tovar](#)

02/2017 - Local Job Accessibility Measurement: When the Model Makes the Results. Methodological Contribution and Empirical Benchmarking on the Paris Region
[Mathieu Bunel](#), [Elisabeth Tovar](#)

02/2017 - Well-being Disparities Within the Paris Region. A Capabilist Spatialized Outlook
[Lise Bourdeau-Lepage](#), [Elisabeth Tovar](#)

Publications

HAL: [Lien](#)

2025 - Élisabeth Tovar, Laetitia Tuffery, Marie-Noëlle Lefebvre, Mathieu Bunel. Accès au logement : la couleur de peau plus discriminante que le nom. The Conversation France, 2025, (10.64628/aak.sd9sew6de). (hal-05348036)
<https://hal.science/hal-05348036v1>

2025 - Elisabeth Tovar, Mathieu Bunel, Laetitia Tuffery, Marie-Noëlle Lefebvre. Who Gets the Keys? Exploring Discrimination in Tenant Selection. 2025. (hal-05072542)
<https://hal.science/hal-05072542v1>

2024 - Mathieu Bunel, Elisabeth Tovar. Fairness of the first-come, first-served rule on the rental housing market: Insights from a hypothetical survey experiment. Journal of Housing Economics, 2024, 65, pp.102004. (10.1016/j.jhe.2024.102004). (hal-04714133)
<https://hal.science/hal-04714133v1>

2024 - Matthieu Bunel, Dominique Meurs, Élisabeth Tovar. Moving apart: job-driven residential mobility and the gender pay gap Evidence from a large industrial firm.. 2024. (hal-04461137)
<https://hal.science/hal-04461137v1>

2023 - Mathieu Bunel, Élisabeth Tovar. When is Affirmative Action Fair? Answers from a Hypothetical Survey Experiment. Social Justice Research, 2023, (10.1007/s11211-023-00429-3). (hal-04716574)
<https://hal.science/hal-04716574v1>

2023 - Élisabeth Tovar, Mathieu Bunel. Fairness of the First-Come, First-Served rule on the rental housing market: answers from a hypothetical survey experiment. 2023. (hal-04283753)
<https://hal.science/hal-04283753v1>

2021 - Matthieu Bunel, Élisabeth Tovar. La méthode des vignettes expérimentales : applications aux questions de discriminations. Semaine Data-SHS, PUDD; PROGEDO; MSH Dijon, Dec 2021, Dijon, France. (hal-04000159)
<https://hal.science/hal-04000159v1>

2021 - Matthieu Bunel, Élisabeth Tovar. La méthode des vignettes expérimentales : applications aux questions de discriminations. Semaine Data-SHS, PUDD; PROGEDO; MSH Dijon, Dec 2021, Dijon, France. (hal-05183889)
<https://hal.science/hal-05183889v1>

2021 - Mathieu Bunel, Elisabeth Tovar. Profit, morality and discrimination. Applied Economics, 2021, 53 (40), pp.4692-4712. (10.1080/00036846.2021.1907285). (hal-04331363)
<https://hal.science/hal-04331363v1>

2021 - Élisabeth Tovar, Matthieu Bunel. Attitudes on past-in-present educational discrimination. Insights from a representative factorial survey. 2021. (hal-04159732)
<https://hal.science/hal-04159732v1>

2020 - Mathieu Bunel, Dominique Meurs, Élisabeth Tovar. Impact du temps domicile travail sur les choix professionnels et familiaux : une analyse longitudinale à l'aide de données individuelles. Semaine Data-SHS, PUDD; PROGEDO, Dec 2020, Dijon, France. (10.60527/jw15-3598). (hal-04006375)
<https://hal.science/hal-04006375v1>

- 2020 - Mathieu Bunal, Elisabeth Tovar. Profit vs morality, results from a survey experiment on discrimination. Cahiers du Laboratoire de recherches juridique et économique, 2020, n° 2019-1. (hal-03389448)
<https://hal.science/hal-03389448v1>
- 2019 - Élisabeth Tovar, Matthieu Bunel. Profit vs morality: how unfair is labor market discrimination? Results from a survey experiment. 2019. (hal-04141860)
<https://hal.science/hal-04141860v1>
- 2019 - Elisabeth Tovar, Matthieu Bunel. Profit vs morality: how unfair is labor market discrimination? Results from a survey experiment. *EconomiX Working Papers*, 2019, 25. (hal-02459378)
<https://ube.hal.science/hal-02459378v1>
- 2019 - Matthieu Bunel, Élisabeth Tovar. Does accessibility to local public employment agencies matter? Answers from a French quasi- experiment. *Applied Economics*, 2019, 51 (22), pp.2422-2435. (10.1080/00036846.2018.1545079). (hal-02287397)
<https://hal.science/hal-02287397v1>
- 2018 - Élisabeth Tovar. Quel horizon normatif pour la cartographie d'une exploitation multidimensionnelle ?. *Cahiers d'Economie Politique = Papers in political economy*, 2018, 2 (2), pp.271-277. (10.3917/cep.075.0271). (hal-02287589)
<https://hal.science/hal-02287589v1>
- 2017 - Sophie Harnay, Élisabeth Tovar. The Rebel, the Enforcer, and the Indifferent. A Structural Analysis of the Internalization of Collective Preferences on Redistribution. IMEBESS (International Meeting on Experimental and Behavioral Social Science), Nuffield Centre for Experimental Social Sciences of the University of Oxford (CESS) & Universitat de Barcelona , 2017, Barcelona Spain, Unknown Region. (hal-01673263)
<https://hal.science/hal-01673263v1>
- 2017 - Sophie Harnay, Élisabeth Tovar. The Rebel, the Enforcer, and the Indifferent. A Structural Analysis of the Internalization of Collective Preferences on Redistribution. Conférence de l'Association Française d'Economie Expérimentale (French Association of Experimental Economics) , 2017, Rennes, Unknown Region. (hal-01673262)
<https://hal.science/hal-01673262v1>
- 2017 - Sophie Harnay, Élisabeth Tovar. Obeying vs. resisting unfair laws - an analysis of the internalization of collective preferences on redistribution using classification trees and random forests. 2ème conférence de l'Association Française d'Economie du Droit , 2017, Aix-Marseille, Unknown Region. (hal-01673261)
<https://hal.science/hal-01673261v1>
- 2017 - Sophie Harnay, Élisabeth Tovar. Obeying vs. resisting unfair laws. A structural analysis of the internalization of collective preferences on redistribution using classification trees and random forests. 2017. (hal-04141635)
<https://hal.science/hal-04141635v1>
- 2016 - Elisabeth Tovar. Mesurer la justice socio-spatiale : de l'ancien au nouveau monde, promesses et menaces du « Big Data ». *Justice spatiale = Spatial justice*, 2016, Liberté, Égalité, Computer, 10, <http://www.jssj.org/article/mesurer-la-justice-socio-spatiale-de-lancien-au-nouveau-monde-promesses-et-menaces-du-big-data/>. (halshs-01507163)
<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-01507163v1>
- 2016 - Elisabeth Tovar. Measuring Socio-Spatial Justice: From Statistics to Big Data - Promises and Threats. *Justice spatiale = Spatial justice*, 2016, Liberty, Equality, IT, 10, <http://www.jssj.org/article/m>

esurer-la-justice-socio-spatiale-de-lancien-au-nouveau-monde-promesses-et-menaces-du-big-data/. (halshs-01507168)

<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-01507168v1>

2016 - Élisabeth Tovar. La « puissance du cœur » de la métropole parisienne. L'apport d'une mesure de la ségrégation fonctionnelle des emplois.. Počítačová podpora v archeologii, 2016, 206-207. (hal-01730425)

<https://hal.science/hal-01730425v1>

2016 - Lise Bourdeau-Lepage, Elisabeth Tovar. La « puissance du cœur » de la métropole parisienne.. Economie et Prévision, 2016, 2015, 1-2 (206-207), pp.39 à 53. (halshs-01930348)

<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-01930348v1>

2015 - Mathieu Bunel, Elisabeth Tovar. Spatial mismatch through local public employment agencies Answers from a French quasi-experiment Spatial Mismatch through Local Public Employment Agencies? Answers from a French Quasi-Experiment. 2015. (hal-01292103)

<https://hal.science/hal-01292103v1>

2015 - Matthieu Bunel, Élisabeth Tovar. Spatial Mismatch through Local Public Employment Agencies? Answers from a French Quasi-Experiment. 2015. (hal-04141386)

<https://hal.science/hal-04141386v1>

2015 - Mathieu Bunel, Elisabeth Tovar. Crise économique, durée du chômage et accès à l'emploi, l'Observatoire partenarial Lyonnais en économie : Emploi-insertion-cohésion sociale. Observatoire partenarial Lyonnais en Economie, 2015. (halshs-01229363)

<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-01229363v1>

2014 - Mathieu Bunel, Elisabeth Tovar. Crise économique, durée du chômage et accès local à l'emploi : Éléments d'analyse et pistes d'actions de politique publique locale. 2014. (halshs-01143489)

<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-01143489v1>

2014 - Élisabeth Tovar. L'avis du bien portant doit-il plus compter que celui du malade pour décider de la distribution des soins de santé ? Un examen par les théories de la justice sociale.. Les Tribunes de la santé : Sève, 2014. (hal-01730420)

<https://hal.science/hal-01730420v1>

2014 - Élisabeth Tovar. Mesurer la pauvreté : l'apport de l'approche par les capacités. L'exemple de l'aire urbaine parisienne en 2010. Informations sociales, 2014, mars-avril. (hal-01730355)

<https://hal.science/hal-01730355v1>

2013 - Lise Bourdeau-Lepage, Elisabeth Tovar. QUELLE FRACTURE SOCIO-SPATIALE À L'HEURE DU GRAND PARIS ?. Revue d'économie régionale et urbaine, 2013, 2013-3, p. 491 à 521. (10.3917/reru.133.0491). (hal-00950571)

<https://univ-lyon3.hal.science/hal-00950571v1>

2013 - Elisabeth Tovar, Lise Bourdeau-Lepage. Well-being Disparities within the Paris Region: A Capabilist Spatialised Outlook. Urban Studies, 2013, 50 (3), pp.1575-1591. (10.1177/0042098012465130). (hal-00950599)

<https://univ-lyon3.hal.science/hal-00950599v1>

2013 - Lise Bourdeau-Lepage, Elisabeth Tovar. Jobs and geography: can the "functional hypercentrality" of Paris be an asset for the surrounding region?. Métropolitiques, 2013, <http://www.metropolitiques.eu/jobs-and-geography-can-the.html>. (hal-00950817)

<https://univ-lyon3.hal.science/hal-00950817v1>

- 2013 - Mathieu Bunel, Elisabeth Tovar. Simuler les politiques locales favorisant l'accessibilité à l'emploi. 2013. (halshs-00911336)
<https://shs.hal.science/halshs-00911336v1>
- 2012 - Lise Bourdeau-Lepage, Elisabeth Tovar. Emplois et territoires : l'hypercentralité fonctionnelle de Paris, un atout pour l'Île-de-France ?. Métropolitiques, 2012, <http://www.metropolitiques.eu/Emplois-et-territoires-l.html>. (hal-00950819)
<https://univ-lyon3.hal.science/hal-00950819v1>
- 2012 - Lise Bourdeau-Lepage, Élisabeth Tovar. L'hégémonie retrouvée du centre de la métropole parisienne. L'apport d'une mesure de la ségrégation fonctionnelle des emplois. 2012. (hal-04141072)
<https://hal.science/hal-04141072v1>
- 2012 - Matthieu Bunel, Élisabeth Tovar. Local Job Accessibility Measurement: When the Model Makes the Results. Methodological Contribution and Empirical Benchmarking on the Paris Region. 2012. (hal-04141074)
<https://hal.science/hal-04141074v1>
- 2012 - Élisabeth Tovar. Ville et ségrégation. Une illustration à la lumière des capacités. Regards sur la Ville, Economica (Anthropos), pp.81 - 110, 2012. (hal-01410719)
<https://hal.parisnanterre.fr/hal-01410719v1>
- 2012 - Lise Bourdeau-Lepage, Élisabeth Tovar. Firm functions location vs. sustainability : the case of the Paris region. 3rd RSAI International Conference on Regional Science and Sustainable Regional Development, 2012, Beijing, China. (hal-01411708)
<https://hal.parisnanterre.fr/hal-01411708v1>
- 2011 - Lise Bourdeau-Lepage, Elisabeth Tovar. Well-being in the Paris region: widening regional disparities despite overall improvement. Métropolitiques, 2011, <http://www.metropolitiques.eu/Well-being-in-the-Paris-region.html>. (hal-00950826)
<https://univ-lyon3.hal.science/hal-00950826v1>
- 2011 - Lise Bourdeau-Lepage, Elisabeth Tovar. Bien-être en Île-de-France : derrière une hausse générale, des disparités territoriales croissantes. Métropolitiques, 2011, <http://www.metropolitiques.eu/Bien-etre-en-Ile-de-France.html>. (hal-00950828)
<https://univ-lyon3.hal.science/hal-00950828v1>
- 2011 - Lise Bourdeau-Lepage, Élisabeth Tovar. Well-being Disparities Within the Paris Region. A Capabilist Spatialized Outlook. 2011. (hal-04140994)
<https://hal.science/hal-04140994v1>
- 2011 - Lise Bourdeau-Lepage, Elisabeth Tovar. Bien-être, le coeur de l'Île-de-France à la dérive. Métropolitiques, 2011. (hal-02303484)
<https://hal.parisnanterre.fr/hal-02303484v1>
- 2010 - Elisabeth Tovar. Ségrégation et formes d'emploi à Paris. Revue d'économie régionale et urbaine, 2010, pp.111-134. (10.3917/reru.101.0111). (hal-02303474)
<https://hal.parisnanterre.fr/hal-02303474v1>
- 2010 - Manon Domingues dos Santos, Yannick L'Horty, Élisabeth Tovar. Ségrégation urbaine et accès à l'emploi. Une introduction. Revue d'économie régionale et urbaine, 2010, 1, pp.5-26. (hal-02303446)
<https://hal.parisnanterre.fr/hal-02303446v1>

2008 - Emmanuel Martinez, Tarik Tazdaït, Elisabeth Tovar. Participative democracy and local environmental issues. *Ecological Economics*, 2008, 68 (1-2), pp.68-79. (10.1016/j.ecolecon.2008.01.025). (hal-00719258)
<https://enpc.hal.science/hal-00719258v1>

2008 - Elisabeth Tovar. Quel périmètre pour la différenciation sociale de l'espace urbain ? Une proposition capabiliste. [Rapport de recherche] EPEE. 2008. (hal-02303403)
<https://hal.parisnanterre.fr/hal-02303403v1>

2008 - Elisabeth Tovar. La ségrégation urbaine : représentation économique et évaluation éthique, avec une application à l'Île-de-France des années 1990. *Economies et finances. Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (EHESS)*, 2008. Français. (NNT :). (tel-00260850v2)
<https://theses.hal.science/tel-00260850v2>