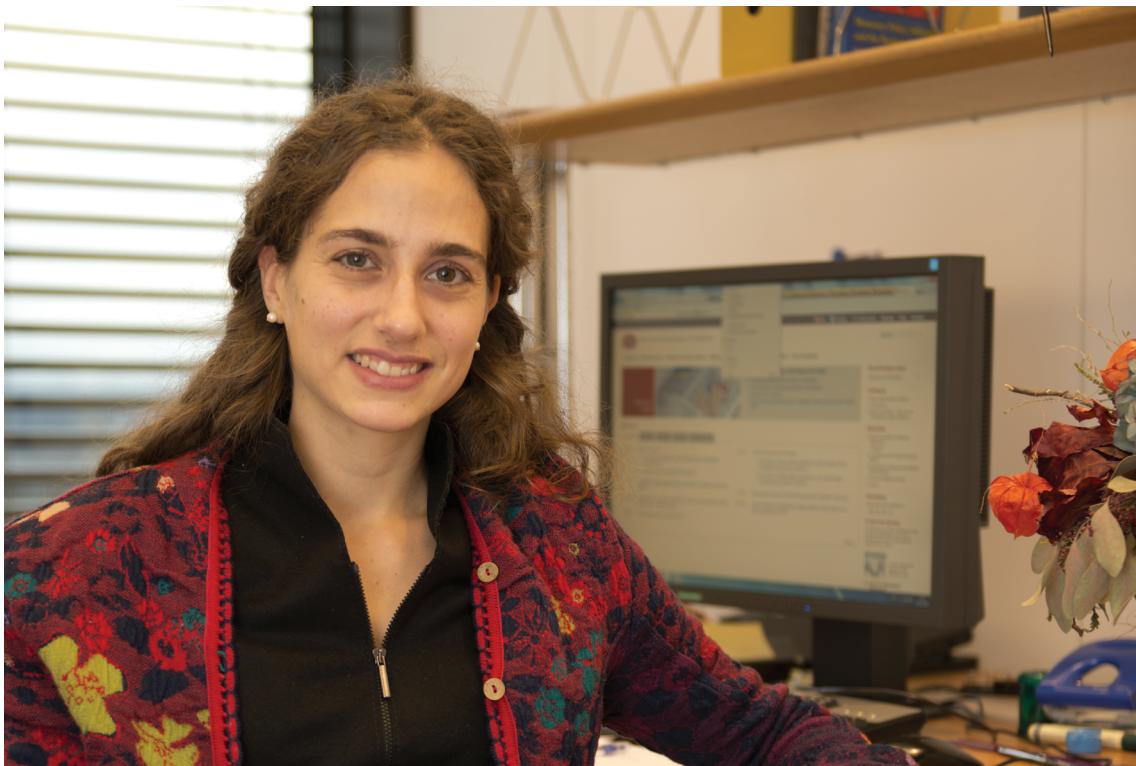




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**Anna Zabai**  
Economist,  
Monetary Policy

Monetary and  
Economic  
Department

profile

I have been at the BIS for about two years now. I joined fresh out of graduate school with a dissertation in macro theory, which is a little unusual for a BIS economist. It has been a very smooth transition, though, with plenty of time for research: I have revised and submitted my job market paper, and made good progress on a couple of new ideas.

In the meantime, I have also had the chance to do some policy work, being involved in writing a note on financial market volatility and starting a bigger project on inequality and monetary policy. There are two things I really like about policy. First, it is very diverse, as the odds of working on the same topic twice are pretty low. Second, policy projects tend to be short-term, so you get rewards for your effort much sooner than with research.

I also feel that I have learnt a lot about the practice and theory of central banking in the past couple of years, simply by going to meetings and seminars. It has been a fascinating experience, not only because the practice of central banking seems very different from what is taught in graduate school, but also because the BIS truly enjoys a global perspective. For example, I am currently helping my line manager with the organisation of a workshop for advanced small open economies. This means learning a lot about the monetary policy of countries as different from each other as Denmark and Chile.

When I went on the job market I was already married, and my husband and I actually applied for jobs in Basel at the same time. The pharmaceutical industry is big here, and there are plenty of opportunities for people with a background in the life sciences. My husband now works for a local university institute as a research scientist. Juggling two full-time jobs and a toddler is no small feat, but the small size of the city and the many amenities it offers to parents (parks, a huge zoo, a working farm very close to our home) help a lot with that. So we are pretty happy with our lives here.

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