

Placement Director:	Professor Alessandro Pavan	847-491-8266	alepavan@northwestern.edu
Placement Administrator:	Lola Ittner	847-491-5213	econjobmarket@northwestern.edu

Contact Information

Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208	Mobile: +1 224-388-2182 gaston@u.northwestern.edu https://gaston-lopez.github.io Citizenship: Argentina
---	--

Fields

Industrial Organization, Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University, 2024 (Anticipated)
 Dissertation: Essays on Industrial Organization and Public Economics
 Committee: Rob Porter (Chair), Vivek Bhattacharya, Gastón Illanes
 M.A., Economics, Northwestern University, 2019
 M.A., Economics, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, 2016
 B.A., Economics, Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2014

Fellowships & Awards

Dissertation University Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2022-2023
 Distinguished Teaching Assistant Awards, 2023
 Distinguished Teaching Assistant Awards, 2022
 Distinguished Teaching Assistant Awards, 2021
 Scholarship for M.A. in Economics, FIEL Foundation, 2014
 Magna Cum Laude, Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2014
 Academic Merit Grant, Banco Santander Rio, 2013
 Scientific Vocation Encouragement Grant, Consejo Interuniversitario Nacional, 2013
 Scientific Vocation Encouragement Grant, Consejo Interuniversitario Nacional, 2012

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University, 2019-2023
 Applied Econometrics (undergraduate); Econometrics (graduate); Intermediate Microeconomics (undergraduate); Monopoly, Competition and Public Policy (undergraduate)
 Teaching Assistant, Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, 2014-2015
 Probability (graduate); Macroeconomics (undergraduate),
 Teaching Assistant, Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2011-2013
 Statistics (undergraduate); Microeconomics (undergraduate)

Job Market Paper

“How Governments Do Price Discrimination? Evidence from a Nationalization in the Argentina Gasoline Industry” with Francisco Pareschi
 To understand the influence of interest groups and redistributive motives in state-owned enterprises, we study the nationalization of YPF, Argentina’s leading gasoline company. Descriptive analysis reveals a triple impact of nationalization. First, it led to lower prices, benefiting consumers on average. Second, it reverts *economic price discrimination*, by smoothing the correlation between markups and price elasticities. Third, it creates *political price discrimination* by charging lower prices in provinces that had political connections with the firm. Motivated by these findings, we develop and estimate a model of supply and demand of gasoline and recover the objective function of the State-Owned Enterprise (SOE), allowing for heterogeneity in how the SOE internalizes different groups of consumers and firms. Our estimates of the objective function reveal redistributive motives behind the nationalization.

In comparison to a benevolent planner that internalizes the welfare of all consumers equally, the government chooses prices as if it only cares about low-income consumers in provinces that have political ties with the firm and middle-income consumers in all provinces. We then use the model to evaluate the firm's response to policy alternatives, including privatization and rules that aim to limit SOEs' discretion in doing pricing, such as uniform pricing mandates. We find that rules are effective in limiting the influence of politics in SOEs' decision-making but are associated with high social costs: they mitigate half of the welfare gains generated by the nationalization and increase tax-payers costs by 10%. These findings shed light on the complexities of public provision, emphasizing the importance of politics and interest groups in shaping SOEs' actions and the role of SOEs as instruments for redistribution.

Other papers	“Reducing Consumer Inertia in Tobacco Markets”, with Francisco Pareschi	
Other ongoing work	“Public Providers as Insurers Against Shocks: Evidence from the Liberalization of the Argentina Crude Oil Market” “Entry Under Demand Spillovers: Evidence from the Healthcare Industry”	
Languages	English (fluent), Spanish (native)	
Programming	Python, Stata, SQL	
References	Professor Robert Porter (chair) Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.3491 r-porter@northwestern.edu	Professor Vivek Bhattacharya Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.8213 vivek.bhattacharya@northwestern.edu
	Professor Gastón Illanes Department of Economics Northwestern University 2211 Campus Drive Evanston, IL 60208 847.491.8227 gaston.illanes@northwestern.edu	