Matteo Magnaricotte

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Employment   Research Director, Education Lab and Crime Lab,   August 2022 – today
University of Chicago

Education

Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University	June 2022
M.A., Economics, Northwestern University	2017
M.A., Economics (*summa cum laude*), University of Bologna	2016
B.A., Business and Economics (*summa cum laude*), University of Bologna	2014

Working Papers

"College Expansion and Unequal Access to Education in Peru" with José Flor-Toro

Enrollment gaps are pervasive in developing countries, despite public investment and legislation aimed at democratizing access to college. We study the effects of opening new college campuses in underserved areas, a commonly proposed policy to reduce such gaps. Using Peruvian census data to estimate a difference–in–differences model, we find that enrollment rates increased by about $1 p.p.$ in the short term from a 13% baseline. However, the estimated benefits for ethnic minority students are only half the size of other students, widening preexisting gaps. To understand the drivers of this result, we assemble a new administrative dataset on college applications and build a model of education demand with heterogeneity in preferences and probability of admission. The results show that the interaction of initial advantage and meritocratic criteria increases educational inequality: even though proximity is highly valued by less-advantaged students, meritocratic admission criteria hinder access for poor and minority students, who disproportionately attend lower-quality high schools. Our counterfactuals show that addressing high school quality disparities, rather than further expanding supply, is more effective in reducing college enrollment inequality.

"College Licensing and Reputation Effects on the Labor Market" with José Flor-Toro and Fabiola Alba Vivar

Brief abstract: We study the effects on labor market outcomes of a 2016-2022 licensing process providing public signals about education quality of Peruvian colleges. Using a rich panel dataset of recent college graduates and a difference–in–differences model, we find an increase in wages for graduates from colleges that obtained a license and no significant effects for graduates from universities whose license was denied.

"Local Specialization and Growth: The Italian Land Reform" with Giampaolo Lecce and Riccardo Bianchi-Vimercati

Brief abstract: We study the effects that a 1950s national land reform had on the industrial structure and economic development in Italy. Using novel data and a difference–in–differences model, we find that areas with higher incidence of expropriations remained more agricultural over the following decades. Our results suggest that intergenerational occupational transmission plays an important role in the persistence of employment and led to significantly lower income growth in the long run.

"Vote for Hollywood: the Effects of US Indirect Propaganda on Italian Elections" with Mario Cannella

Brief abstract: We document an unexplored medium affecting electoral choices: cinema. We study the effects of exposure to Hollywood movies on voting choices during the Cold War in Italy. We use a panel dataset and an instrumental variable approach, combining spatial access to cinema with time variation in the success of U.S. movies at the box office before elections. We find that greater exposure to U.S. movies before elections led to U.S.–endorsed parties, and losses for the Italian Communist Party, while turnout was minimally affected.

Work in Progress	**"The Skill to Heal? The Value of High-Skill Health Professionals in Developing Countries and How to Attract Them"** with José Flor-Toro

Policy Reports

"Consultoria para describir el efecto de la regulacion universitaria en la insercion laboral de los egresados en el Peru, segun familias de carreras" with José Flor-Toro and Fabiola Alba Vivar (2020, in Spanish), developed for the Peruvian Ministry of Education

> *[Consultancy for the description of the effects of regulation on college graduates' employment, by major groups]*

"Los factores que limitan la transicion a la Educacion Superior: Situacion actual y recomendaciones de politica publica" with José Flor-Toro and Fabiola Alba Vivar (2020, in Spanish), developed for the Peruvian Ministry of Education

> *[Factors limiting the transition to Higher Education: current situation and recommendations for public policy]*

"Diseno de indicadores de desempeno de universidades publicas para la determinacion de acuerdos de desempeno con el Sector Educacion" with José Flor-Toro (2020, in Spanish), developed for the Peruvian Ministry of Economics and Finance

> *[Design of performance indicators for public colleges for the determination of sectoral funding agreements]*

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Dissertation University Fellowship, Northwestern University	2021–2022
Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, Northwestern University	2020–21
Grant by Center for Economic History (Northwestern), $1474	2019
Study–Abroad Exchange Programme Scholarship (Unicredit Bank)	2016
Erasmus Visiting Student Scholarship (European Union)	2016
Prize for Best Graduating Student (University of Bologna)	2014

Other Research Experience

Research Assistant, Jacopo Ponticelli and Filippo Mezzanotti, Northwestern University	2018

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University	2017-2021

Labor Economics, Public Finance (3x),
Introductory Econometrics (3x), Advanced Econometrics (3x)

Conferences and Seminars

Peking University (2021), AEFP 47th Annual Conference (2022), MAP Universidad de Piura (2022)

Languages

English (fluent), Italian (native), Spanish (fluent), German (basic)

Programming

Stata (advanced), Python (intermediate), R, ArcGIS (basic)