

PASCUEL PLOTKIN

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Education

University of British Columbia

Ph.D., Economics, 2019 to 2025 (expected)

Universidad de San Andrés, Argentina

M.A., Economics, 2016

Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

B.A., Economics, 2010 to 2015

Fields

Labor Economics

Development Economics

Applied Econometrics

References

Thomas Lemieux

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Raffaele Saggio

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Claudio Ferraz

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Sam Norris

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Fellowships & Awards

British Columbia Government Scholarship

Graduate Support Initiative (GSI) Fellowship

CIDER Doctoral Fellowship

Magna Cum-Laude, Universidad de Buenos Aires

Teaching

Cost Benefit Analysis & Project Evaluation, teaching assistant (UBC)

Economics of Technological Change, teaching assistant (UBC)

Economics Analysis of Law, teaching assistant (UBC)

Economics of the Environment, teaching assistant (UBC)

Principles of Macroeconomics, teaching assistant (UBC)

Employment

Ministry of Finance of Argentina, Advisor to the Undersecretary of Development, 2017-2018

Research

Research Assistant, University of British Columbia, Raffaele Saggio, 2019-2021

Research Assistant, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Simon Jager, 2018-2019

Research Assistant, Harvard University, Raffael Di Tella, 2018

Research Assistant, Universidad de San Andres, Martin Rossi, 2016

Job Market Paper

"Dinner at Your Door: How Delivery Platforms Affect Workers and Firms"

This paper studies the impacts of online-delivery platforms on workers and firms. I leverage unique data that links restaurants and workers on a large delivery platform in Brazil with employer-employee data. I exploit the staggered roll-out of the delivery platform across regions in Brazil and use a matched event-study design to estimate the effects of the platform on restaurants' labor demand and workers' labor market outcomes. I find that the average restaurant that adopts the platform substitutes one-to-one in-house waiters for outsourced platform workers. Restaurants that do not adopt the platform downsize and are more likely to shut down. These effects impact negatively the earnings and employment of restaurant workers over time. However, the earnings gains for gig workers outweigh the losses of restaurant workers. The evidence in this paper sheds light on who are the winners and losers of online-delivery platforms.

Publications	<p>"Paying Outsourced Labor: Direct Evidence from Linked Temp Agency-Worker-Client Data" With Andres Drenik, Simon Jäger and Benjamin Schoefer <i>Review of Economics and Statistics</i>, 105, no. 1 (2023): 206-216</p>
Working Papers	<p>"The Consequences of Domestic Outsourcing on Workers: New Evidence from Italian Administrative Data" With Diego Daruich, Martino Kuntze, and Raffaele Saggio</p> <p>We exploit a novel identifier of outsourcing events present in Italian administrative data. This information permits us to estimate the effects of outsourcing across a wide set of occupations without restricting the analysis to workers who remain employed after being outsourced. We find that outsourcing leads to substantial earnings losses, primarily driven by the extensive margin—a margin not fully analyzed by previous research—as several outsourced workers become non-employed shortly after joining the contracting firms. Outsourced workers in non-routine manual jobs have the largest earnings losses, while those in jobs involving abstract, cognitive tasks experience some earnings gains following the outsourcing event. Our evidence is consistent with some Italian firms using outsourcing to bypass the country's strict employment protection legislation.</p>
Work in Progress	<p>"Labor Supply of the Gig Economy: Evidence From the Online-Delivery Industry in Brazil" With Nina Roussille and Gabriel Ulyssea</p> <p>This project investigates in detail the labor supply of gig workers and the role of information frictions in shaping labor supply of these workers in Brazil. For that, we combine administrative data from the largest food delivery platform in Latin America, with primary survey data from a sample of riders in the platform. Previous studies on labor supply have assumed that workers have a full knowledge of the wage distribution and form expectations rationally. Yet in the context of gig employment where earnings present a high volatility, it is possible that workers form inaccurate expectations. In this project we overcome this constraint by surveying a sample of platform workers to elicit their reservation wages and expected wages. We first document the error in workers beliefs, contrasting survey data and administrative records. We then move on to an experimental research design where we expose workers to unbiased information on expected wages and study how they update their beliefs and behavior on the platform. By linking the experimental research design with platforms administrative records and employer-employee data, we study how unbiased information can potentially modify labor supply decisions and adjust labor allocation in a more efficient way - as measured by the surplus generated between the actual earnings in the platform and workers reservation wages.</p>
	<p>"Does it Matter Where and What I Study? Evidence from the Oil Price Crash in Canada" With Constanza Abuin</p> <p>We estimate the impact of a labor demand shock on Canadian recently graduated bachelor students. We leverage a unique Canadian administrative data that features links between individuals post-secondary education and their tax-files. We estimate that a standard deviation increase in school-major specific labour demand, increased earnings immediately in a magnitude between 2.3 and 2.6 log points, with persistent and increasing effects throughout the oil shock. Additionally, the labor demand shock had effects on other labor market outcomes such as unemployment or self-employment. In terms of schooling, school-major specific labor demand had a positive effect on dropouts, which remarks the importance of considering the outside option of students when studying school enrollment.</p>

”Algorithmic v.s. Human Bias in Hiring”

With Sam Gyetvay and Choenden Kyirong

We investigate the potential impact of the diffusion of large language models on hiring discrimination by comparing the biases in AI-driven and human-driven resume screening. To do so, we reanalyze data from previous field experiments by reconstructing resumes and comparing human call-back rates with LLM-generated results. We find that LLMs exhibit significantly less racial bias than human decision-makers. However, LLMs are not perfectly unbiased. In a more stringent test, we fail to reject the null hypothesis that LLMs do not use information contained in names.

Academic Service

Referee: American Economic Review: Insights, American Economic Journal: Macroeconomics, Scandinavian Journal of Economics

Research Grants

JPAL JOI Brazil Pilot Grant (with Gabriel Ulyssea and Nina Roussille), 2023
CIDER Small Grants, 2022

Languages

Spanish (native), English (native)

Personal Information

Citizenship: Argentina, United States. Born: 1992.