

SERGI QUINTANA GARCIA

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Fields	Applied Microeconomics Economics of Education Labor Economics
Education	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona Ph.D in Economics, 2021-2025 (expected) M.Res in Economic Analysis, 2019-2021 Duke University, Durham Visiting Scholar, Spring 2024 Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona B.A. in Economics, 2014-2019 Erasmus School of Economics, Rotterdam Exchange Semester, Fall 2018

Job Market Paper	Financial Pressure and Career Choices
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This paper examines the impact of student debt repayment plans on educational attainment and field of study choices of U.S. youth. To this end, I develop and estimate a dynamic human capital investment model that captures heterogeneity across education levels, occupations, and fields of study. I fit my model to rich individual career choice and financial data that allows to disentangle the determinants of educational and major choices. I then evaluate the effect of a very generous repayment plan introduced in 2023 known as "Save on Valuable Education" (SAVE). Results indicate that the implementation of SAVE increases graduation rates by an average of 2 percentage points, with a more pronounced effect among low-income individuals, who are more responsive to the policy. This increase primarily results from a reduction in dropout rates among financially constrained students. Additionally, the field composition of the economy shifts, particularly among low-income students, who are 50% more likely to change fields than their high-income counterparts. The introduction of the policy allows for a better sorting of preferences, and the average individual that changes field experiences an increase in non-consumption taste for the field of study.

Papers in Progress	Pre-school Education and Long-Run Human Capital Formation (with Elisabetta Aurino, Katherina Thomas and Sharon Wolf)
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Early childhood interventions are increasingly used to enhance skill development and reduce learning poverty. However, evidence on their long-term effects remains limited, with some studies indicating a fade-out of initial gains. We aim to investigate the mechanisms that may contribute to the fade-out of these interventions by examining the long-term impacts of a preschool program in Ghana, targeted at improving teaching and parental awareness. Leveraging the exogenous variation from a randomized controlled trial of a preschool intervention, jointly with a structural model of skill formation and parental investments, we measure the effects on both cognitive and socio-emotional skills over time. Using rich collected panel data and variation in treatment, we aim to explore several potential mechanisms behind the fade-out effect, including low self-productivity of skills, parental beliefs about the production function, changes in parental investments in response to skill levels, and shifts in the production function due to the intervention. We also propose a novel framework to estimate skill production functions that accounts for heterogeneous information across skill measures, thereby increasing precision in the estimation of long-term effects.

Preferences For School Composition in Catalonia

This study wants to examine the impact of a policy introduced by the Catalan government aimed at reducing school segregation. The policy altered the assignment mechanisms for both public and publicly funded private schools in an effort to mitigate segregation. The objective of the paper is to provide reduced-form evidence on parental responses to identify preferences for school-peer composition across different socioeconomic levels. The hypothesis of the work is that parents with higher socioeconomic status might switch into schools unaffected by the policy to maintain similar peer environments. After that, I am developing a structural model of parental schooling choice to understand the determinants of schooling segregation.

Seminars & Conferences

Spanish Economic Association Symposium, Mallorca (Upcoming).
Economics of Education Workshop, Toulouse School of Economics (2024)
Empirical Micro Workshop, Toulouse School of Economics (2024)
ENTER Jamboree, Université Libre de Bruxelles (2024)
BSE Jamboree, Barcelona (2024)
Labor/IO Lunch, Duke University (2024)
Bellaterra Internal Applied Seminar, IAE-UAB (2024)
BSE Jamboree, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (2023)
ENTER Jamboree, University of Mannheim (2023)
UAB Applied Seminar, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (2023)
ENTER Jamboree, Barcelona (2022)
UAB Applied Seminar, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (2022)

Teaching

Instructor:
Python for Economics, IDEA PhD Program (2023, 2024, 2025)
Stata for Economics, IDEA PhD Program (2024, 2025)
Statistics and Mathematics Brush Up, IDEA PhD Program (2022)
Statistics Brush Up, Barcelona School of Economics (2022, 2023)
Computation Brush Up, Barcelona School of Economics (2022, 2023)

Teaching Assistant:
Structural Empirical Methods for Labor Economics and Industrial Organization, IDEA PhD Program, Prof. Joan Llull (2022)
Dynamic Structural Models for Policy Evaluation, Barcelona School of Economics, Prof. Joan Llull (2024, 2025)
Topics in Applied Econometrics for Public Policy, Barcelona School of Economics, Profs. Laura Mayoral and Lúcia Farré (2023)
Quantitative and Statistical Methods I, Barcelona School of Economics, Profs. Michale Creel and Maite Cabeza (2021)

Research Assistant

Prof. Ursula Mello – IAE-CSIC (2021)

Academic Positions

Assistant Data Editor: The Econometric Society (2023 – present)
Assistant Data Editor: The Royal Economic Society (2022 – 2023)
Assistant to the Editor: BSE Focus (2021)

Academic Service

Organiser Barcelona School of Economics Summer Forum (2022, 2023, 2024)
Organiser Conference Society of Economic Dynamics Barcelona (2024)
Organiser Internal Student Seminar UAB (2022, 2023)
Coordinator ENTER Network (2022, 2023)
Organiser ENTER Jamboree Barcelona (2022)

Grants & Honors	FPI Scholarship (Since 2022) - Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation Grant: PRE2021-099489 Severo Ochoa Barcelona School of Economics Fellowship (Spring 2022)		
Languages	English (fluent), Catalan (native), Spanish (native)		
Software skills	Python (Advanced), Stata (Advanced), Matlab (Intermediate)		
Placement Director	Inés Macho Stadler Ines.Macho@uab.cat		
References	Joan Llull (Advisor) Professor IAE-CSIC joan.llull@iae.csic.es	Arnaud Maurel Associate Professor Duke University arnaud.maurel@duke.edu	Hanna Wang Assistant Professor UAB hanna.wang@uab.cat