Germán Villegas Bauer

Nationalities: Argentinian, Spanish

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EDUCATION

The University of Chicago – Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.), Economics

Chicago, IL (2016-2021)

The University of Chicago – Master of Arts (M.A.), Economics

Chicago, IL (2016-2018)

University Torcuato Di Tella – Master of Arts (M.A.), Economics

Buenos Aires, Argentina (2014-2015)

University of Buenos Aires – Bachelor of Arts (B.A.), Economics

Buenos Aires, Argentina (2009-2013)

EXPERIENCE

European Central Bank – PhD Trainee

Frankfurt, Germany (Apr 2021 – Jul 2021)

- Investigate possible effects of new regulatory requirements on the European money market fund industry.
- Analyze the vulnerabilities of the money market fund industry previous to the turmoil caused by the outbreak of the covid-19 pandemic.

International Monetary Fund - Summer Intern

Washington, D.C. (Jun 2020 - Sep 2020)

- Construct firm-level and country-level climate transition risk indices and sentiment metrics based on textual analysis (python).
- Evaluate the impact of climate change shocks on equity returns and trade volume.
- Help draft the October 2020 Global Financial Stability Report.

University of Chicago Press - Journal of Political Economy - Reviewer of Submitted Papers

Chicago, IL (Apr 2020)

World Bank - External Consultant

Washington, D.C. (Jun 2019 - Sep 2019)

- Use JPMorgan data on the composition of emerging market bond indices as well as Morningstar data on the portfolio composition of mutual funds.
- Investigate how closely mutual funds track the indices. Use event studies and difference-in-difference analysis on a change in the
 methodological rules used to compute bond weights on the bond indices to analyze the relevance of the indices for bond outcomes.

The University of Chicago - Researcher (Initiative for Latin American Experimental Economics)

Chicago, IL (Apr 2019 - Jun 2019)

- Perform empirical analyses and write a paper on customers' queuing behavior using a public bank's microdata.
- Investigate related literature.

University Torcuato Di Tella - Research Assistant

Buenos Aires, Argentina (Mar 2015 – Apr 2016)

- Work with trade models using MatLab.
- Perform empirical analyses in Stata using countries' macroeconomic data during the Global Financial Crisis.
- Prepare slides explaining trade papers in LaTeX.

Government of the City of Buenos Aires - Analyst

Buenos Aires, Argentina (Aug 2013 - Jan 2014)

RESEARCH

"Financial Indices and Their Effect on Bond Prices: A Quasi-Experiment" with Sergio Schmukler (World Bank) and Tomas Williams We investigate how flows of funds affect asset prices. To overcome the problem of causality between the flow of funds and asset prices, we analyze a change in the methodology that JPMorgan used to compute the bond weights on its CEMBI indices. It causes mutual funds benchmarked against the indices to adjust their portfolio weights, generating an exogenous flow of funds. The obtained results are consistent with the generated flow of funds influencing bond prices. Our results also suggest spillovers within countries from bonds included in the indices to bonds not included in them. We show that mutual funds track much more closely the country weights of the indices rather than the specific bond weights, which could be causing the spillovers.

"Market Sentiment and Equity Returns"

Financial markets are complex systems, and their information is dispersed both in terms of objective numerical values and subjective textual data. I compute the sentiment of 10K, 10Q and earnings call transcript files, and analyze its correlation with equity returns after controlling for objective numerical data. The sentiment of a newly released document is positively correlated with the equity returns of the next few days, which is in line with subjective information being processed by investors. The sentiment is also correlated with future equity returns over weeks and even months, as well as past equity returns. This result is in line with the sentiment loops described by Shiller (2017): The good performance of the stock market increases the sentiment of managers and investors, who invest more and disperse their sentiment to other investors, further increasing the performance of the stock market. I also develop a metric which measures the amount of possible different future outcomes that the firms may face. This metric is positively correlated with equity returns' volatility.

"The Effect of Split-Ticket Cost on Strategic Voting: Evidence from Salta, Argentina" with Carlos Juncosa

The province of Salta, Argentina, changed the electoral system from a paper to an electronic system, and did so in stages over some consecutive elections. The paper system made it costly for voters to split the ticket and vote for candidates from different parties in different electoral races. People strategically voted large parties for governor so as not to waste the vote, and since the high cost discouraged splitting the ticket, voters casted straight-ticket ballots and therefore small parties were negatively affected even in multiple-seat races where they could win one of the seats. The new system reduced the cost of splitting the ticket, leading to an increase in split-ticket voting and in the vote shares of small parties in multiple-seat races. Consequently, political competition increased in those races. The change in the electoral system also benefitted left-leaning parties at the expense of right-leaning ones. The reason is that the new system eliminated the chance of getting the vote nullified, combined with the fact that the poorer the voter the more likely he was to get his vote nullified under the paper system, and the more likely he was to vote left-leaning parties.

"Firm-Level Climate Change Risks and Opportunities: A Textual Analysis Measurement" with Felix Suntheim (IMF) and Alan Feng

- Use textual analysis (python) on earnings call transcripts to build firm-level climate change and climatic disaster risk indices.
- Investigate the correlations between the climate indices and firm demographics, including environmentally related scores, as well as stock market returns and trade volume.
- Compute the climate change and disaster indices on the questions of the external participants of the calls during the Q&A sections, and extract the companies the external participants work for.
- Analyze the correlations of the climate risk indices of the external participants and the ones from the managers of the firms leading the calls.
 Compare the characteristics of the firms where the external participants work with the characteristics of the firms to which they send their analysts to participate in their earnings calls.

"Queueing Behavior: Evidence from a Public Bank"

 Use the probit and logit models to investigate the effect of diverse exogenous variables on the probability of customers abandoning the bank queue.

COMPUTER LITERACY

Python: Advanced. Stata: Fully professional. R: Intermediate. LaTex: Fully professional. MatLab: Intermediate. Excel, Word: Advanced.

LANGUAGES

• Spanish: Native. English: Fully professional. French: Elementary. Portuguese: Elementary. German: Elementary.

TEACHING

- Lectureships: University of Chicago: The Elements of Economic Analysis II (Undergraduate). University Torcuato Di Tella: Microeconomics (MA entrance course). Microeconomics (Undergraduate). Economics I (Undergraduate).
- Teaching Assistantships: University of Chicago: Public Sector Economics (PhD). Economics for Everyone (Undergraduate). The Economics of Socialism (Undergraduate). Price Theory I (PhD). The Elements of Economic Analysis II (Undergraduate). The Elements of Economic Analysis I (Undergraduate). Advanced Microeconomic Analysis (MBA). University Torcuato Di Tella: Topics in Advanced Microeconomics II (MA). Microeconomics II (MA). Microeconomics (Undergraduate). University of Buenos Aires: Industrial Organization (Undergraduate). Microeconomics (Undergraduate).

HONORS & AWARDS

- Wayne C. Booth Graduate Student Prize for Excellence in Teaching. (The University of Chicago, 2021).
- Bradley Fellowship. (The University of Chicago, 2019-2020).
- Outstanding Graduate Lecturer for Microeconomics Award. (The University of Chicago, 2019-2020).
- Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant Award. (The University of Chicago, 2018-2019).
- Martin and Margaret Lee Prize in Economics. Granted for being the highest score on the price theory core examination. (The University of Chicago, 2016-2017).
- Neubauer Fellowship. (The University of Chicago, 2016-2021).
- Social Sciences 5-year Fellowship. (The University of Chicago, 2016-2021).
- MA scholarship. Granted for being the highest GPA at the MA entrance course. (University Torcuato Di Tella, 2014-2015).
- Two-time national finalist of the Argentine Math Olympiad. One-time national finalist of the Spanish Math Olympiad.

REFERENCES

Sergio Schmukler, World Bank

• James Robinson, The University of Chicago

Casey Mulligan, The University of Chicago

• Jerome Vandenbussche, International Monetary Fund

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