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Citizenship:

Chilean

Fields of Concentration:

Primary Fields: Development Economics, Economics of Crime
Secondary Field: Labor

Education:

Ph.D., Economics, Georgetown University, 2025 (expected)
M.A. Economics, Georgetown University, 2020
M.Sc., Financial Economics, University of Santiago, Chile, 2015
B.A., Economics, University of Santiago, Chile, 2014

Working Papers:

“The Impact of In-Prison Allocation on Recidivism: Evidence from Chile”

This study presents empirical evidence on how inmate allocation within prisons influences post-release criminal behavior in Chile. Employing a sharp regression discontinuity design, I show that first-time offenders placed with peers who are more actively involved in criminal activities are almost twice as likely to be re-incarcerated after release. I investigate four potential channels influencing post-release behavior: job market stigma, prison facilities, peer dynamics, and the impact of peer influence on participation in rehabilitation programs. Descriptive analysis suggests that while job market stigma and prison infrastructure have limited impact, the main findings are likely driven by peer effects and the role of peer dynamics in decisions to participate in rehabilitation programs. Furthermore, peer effects appear to be more substantial among individuals with higher

criminal profiles. This finding implies that mixing inmates with diverse criminal profiles may be a potential strategy to reduce overall recidivism. These results carry significant implications for policymakers and stakeholders striving to lower recidivism rates via improved strategies in prison allocation.

“Peer Effects in Jails” (joint with J.J. Naddeo and Neel U. Sukhatme)

How are individuals confined in U.S. jails influenced by those with whom they are incarcerated? To measure such ‘peer effects’, we utilize novel cell-level data collected from a county jail in a large southern U.S. city. We leverage the fact that inmates are randomly assigned to jail cells conditional on their assignment to blocks within a jail floor. We use granular, daily cell-level location information and individual-level demographic and criminal history data from court records to identify the causal effects of peer characteristics on the behavior of individuals after they leave jail. Specifically, we use the day-weighted sum of cellmates’ previous convictions as a measure of exposure. We find that a one standard deviation increase in exposure increases recidivism by 0.75 percentage points (1.8%). Investigations to see if these effects are intensified by the number of days the individual spends in jail and/or the prior criminal history of individuals return null results, implying exposure has a homogeneous effect on individuals. Additionally, we study if exposure to cellmates with certain types of prior criminal convictions (e.g., drug, property, sex, etc.) influences the types of crimes committed by individuals in the future. We find no consistent patterns that suggest individuals’ crime-specific exposure influences their portfolio of future criminal activity. Notably, our estimates using our preferred specification—which rely on precise daily cell-level variation—are considerably smaller than those obtained when applying prior econometric frameworks—which rely solely on variation over time within an entire correctional facility.

Work In Progress:

“Currency Crises and Female Labor Force Participation” (with Bhavya Srivastava, Camila Gomez, Satyam Anand)

“The Labor Market for Teachers Under Salary Compensation”

Seminar and Conference Presentations:

2022, The Economics Crime over Time and Space Theory, Practice and Applications, University of Southampton

2024, WEAI - Seattle, Economics of Crime sessions

2024, Back to school conference, Georgetown University

2024, Washington Area Development Economics Symposium (WADES)

2024, Southern Economic Association

Awards and achievements:

Travel Award - Graduate Student Award, Southern Economic Association, 2024

Sixth-year funding, Georgetown University, 2024

Georgetown Law Center Empirical Fellowship, 2023

Fulbright-BIO, Scholarship to pursue doctoral studies in United States, 2019

The valedictorian of Master in Financial Economics, University of Santiago, Chile, 2015

The valedictorian of Bachelor in Economics, University of Santiago, Chile, 2014
The valedictorian of University of Santiago, Chile. Engineers Association of Chile

Teaching Experience:

Summer 2023, Lecture, ECON 101, Intermediate Micro (Undergraduate), Georgetown University
2022, Teaching assistant, Econ Principles Micro (Undergraduate), Prof. Axel Anderson, Georgetown University
2022, Lecture, Microeconometrics (Master), University of Santiago, Chile
2016-2018, Lecture, Industrial Organization, Microeconomics I and Microeconomics II (Undergraduate), University Andres Bello
2015-2017, Lecture, Principles of Microeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics and Economics and business, University of Santiago, Chile

Research assistant:

2023-2024, Empirical Research assistant, Georgetown Law Library
2023-2024, Research assistant, Georgetown University- Law Center
2015-2018, Research assistant - Economics department, University of Santiago, Chile
2015-2018, Research assistant - Business department, University of Santiago, Chile
2016-2017, Research assistant - Social experiments, Center for Experimental Social Sciences in Santiago, Oxford - USACH

Non-academic positions:

2014, Economic analyst. National Statistics Institute - Department of Economic Studies, Chile
2013, Consultant. Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC)

Languages:

English (professional working proficiency), Spanish (native)

Programming Languages:

Experienced: Stata, Matlab, Python, \LaTeX Familiar: Jupyter, VSCode, R

Pre-Ph.D. Publications

Esteban Pérez Caldentey, Cecilia Vera, Sebastián Vera y Angelo Díaz, "The financing of international trade and the role of development banking in Latin America and the Caribbean ", series 251 Financing for development ECLAC (2014). (Spanish). <https://repositorio.cepal.org/handle/11362/37047>

Carlos Yévenes, Felipe Martin, Angelo Díaz, "Measurement and Analysis of Insecurity Economics in Chile ", Vol 9, No 2 (2016): Public Policies Magazine, University of Santiago de Chile. (Spanish). <https://www.revistas.usach.cl/ojs/index.php/politicas/article/view/2764>

References:

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Georgetown Law

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