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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:

“Who You Serve Time With: Peer Effects and Recidivism”

I provide 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. The specific Chilean context allows me to rule out job market stigma and prison infrastructure as significant factors explaining the allocation effect. I provide evidence suggesting that the primary findings are most likely driven by peer effects. In addition, I present novel evidence showing that peers also influence the decision 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)

This paper examines the impact of peer effects on recidivism using detailed cell-level data from a U.S. jail. While a growing body of literature explores peer influence in correctional facilities, many studies rely on standard linear-in-means models that average pre-treatment characteristics; for example, an individual’s likelihood of criminal activity may be influenced by the average criminal activity within their neighborhood. Our study advances this work by investigating the specific stages and functions of inmate interactions that most strongly influence future criminal behavior. Leveraging the lack of systematic cell allocation, we construct exposure measures at the cell level based on inmates’ criminal histories, including the total number and severity (severity index) of prior convictions. To assess both the timing and nature of interactions that impact recidivism, we develop exposure measures for peer influence during the initial and final days of incarceration (timing aspect) and capture the characteristics of the “worst” peer, as well as the mean and sum of prior convictions and severity index (functional form aspect). Our findings reveal that initial interactions—those occurring upon jail entry—have a more pronounced effect on recidivism than later interactions, with the strongest predictors being the average peer severity and influence from the “worst” peer, identified by our severity index. These results suggest that strategic allocation of inmates at intake could play a crucial role in reducing recidivism by accounting for the influential role of initial peer interactions, providing valuable guidance for policymakers.

Work In Progress:

“Early vs. Late Interactions: A Flexible Model for Correctional Dynamics” (joint with J.J. Naddeo and Neel U. Sukhatme)

“The Role of Indirect Peer Effects in Jail Recidivism” (joint with J.J. Naddeo and Neel U. Sukhatme)

“Currency Crises and Female Labor Force Participation” (joint 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 (SEA)

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, L^AT_EX 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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