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Office Contact Information

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Placement Director: Professor Ufuk Akcigit, uakcigit@uchicago.edu, (773) 702 0433
Graduate Student Coordinator: Robert Herbst, fherbst@uchicago.edu, (773) 834 1972

Education

The University of Chicago, 2014 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in economics
Thesis title: "Heterogeneous and Uncertain Health Dynamics and Working Decisions of Older Adults"
Expected Completion Date: June 2021

Universidad de Chile, 2000-2010
Master's in applied economics, with High Honors
Mathematical Engineering, with High Honors
Bachelor of Engineering Science in Mathematics, with Honors

References:

Professor Stéphane Bonhomme (chair)
University of Chicago
sbonhomme@uchicago.edu
(773) 834 6831

Professor Alessandra Voena
Stanford University
avoena@stanford.edu
(650) 498 1096

Professor Derek Neal
University of Chicago
n9na@uchicago.edu
(773) 702-8166

Professor David Meltzer
University of Chicago, Harris Public Policy
dmeltzer@medicine.bsd.uchicago.edu
(773) 702 0836

Teaching and Research Fields

Primary fields: labor economics, health economics
Secondary fields: applied econometrics

Teaching Experience

Lecturer:

2018	Econometrics, University of Chicago, undergraduate core course
2008 to 2014	Applied Econometrics, Pontificia Universidad de Católica de Chile, undergraduate course
2011	Econometrics, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, graduate course
2011 to 2013	Sample design, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, certification program course

Teaching Assistant:
2019   Health Economics and Public Policy, University of Chicago, undergraduate course,
          TA for Professor David Meltzer
2017   Empirical Analysis III, University of Chicago, graduate course,
          TA for Professor Stéphane Bonhomme
2016   Empirical Analysis III, University of Chicago, graduate course
          TA for Professors Bonhomme, Hansen, Hortacsu and Neal
2016   Econometrics A, University of Chicago, undergraduate course
          TA for Alejandro Hoyos
2015   Empirical Analysis I, University of Chicago, graduate course
          TA for Professor Stéphane Bonhomme
2009   Evaluating Social Programs, J-PAL training course in Chile
2009   Social Evaluation of Programs, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, graduate course
2007   Microeconomics II, Universidad de Chile, graduate course
2007   Econometrics, Universidad de Chile, graduate course
2004-2006 4 other undergraduate math courses at Universidad de Chile

Research Experience and Other Employment

2018   University of Chicago, Research Assistant to Professors Bonhomme and Lamadon
2014   Ministry of Social Development (Chile), Advisor to the Deputy Secretary
2013   Presidential Commission on the Measurement of Poverty (Chile), Executive
            Secretary
2012-2013   Instituto de Ciencias Básicas, Universidad Diego Portales, Research Associate
2011-2013   Center for Analysis and Modeling of Security (CEAMOS), Research Assistant
2011   Instituto de Políticas Públicas, Universidad Diego Portales, Research Assistant
2006-2012   Observatorio Social, Universidad Alberto Hurtado, Research Associate

Honors, Scholarships and Fellowships

2020-2021   Harper Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago
2017-2020   Social Sciences Fellowship, University of Chicago
2014-2016   Frank H. Knight Fellowship, University of Chicago
2007   Andrews Fellowship Award, Institute of Social Research, University of Michigan

Language and Computational Skills

Computer Skills: R, Stata, LaTeX

Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (native)

Job Market Paper

"Heterogeneous and Uncertain Health Dynamics and Working Decisions of Older Adults"

As the population ages, there is a general concern and effort on trying to lengthen the labor-force participation of older adults, for whom health is an important determinant of working decisions. In this paper, I introduce heterogeneity in health dynamics with age and argue that uncertainty about this heterogeneity affects the working decisions of older adults. Using the Health and Retirement Study, I first show evidence of heterogeneity in the rate health changes with age, and use subjective survival expectations to infer health beliefs in a Bayesian-learning framework. I

then estimate how working decisions depend on those beliefs flexibly, using a neural-network approach that does not require additional structure. The results show beliefs have substantial negative bias, that is, on average, individuals incorrectly believe their health will deteriorate too fast. Furthermore, eliminating that bias would increase labor-force participation by up to 2 percentage points. At the same time, changes in health translate into only small changes in beliefs. Hence, I look at one possible policy that could affect beliefs: the provision of information on blood glucose and cholesterol levels. The results show that this information has only small effects on beliefs and working decisions, and, consequently, policies with larger effects on beliefs are needed to delay retirement.

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