

# CHRISTIAN ALEMÁN-PERICÓN

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## EDUCATION

2018 - Present	Ph.D. Economics, IDEA-Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
2020	Ph.D. Visiting Scholar, Dept. of Economics, University of Pennsylvania, USA
2016 - 2018	M.Sc. Master in Models and Methods of Quantitative Economics, joint degree Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain Université Paris1 Pantheon Sorbonne, France
2012 - 2015	B.A. Economics, ( <i>Summa Cum Laude</i> ) Universidad Privada Boliviana, Bolivia

## FIELDS OF INTEREST

Macroeconomics and Inequality, Family Economics, Growth and Development

*My research lies in the field of Family Macroeconomics, where I study the effects of labor market changes on family formation and dissolution.*

## WORKING PAPERS

“Romeo or Juliet, who wants the Divorce? Understanding Divorce Filings and the Macroeconomy”, (**Job Market Paper**)

“A Stage-Based Identification of Policy Effects” (with Christopher Busch, Alexander Ludwig and Raül Santaaulàlia-Llopis)

“A Quantitative Theory of the HIV Epidemic: Education, Risky Sex and Asymmetric Learning” (with Daniela Iorio and Raül Santaaulàlia-Llopis)

## WORK IN PROGRESS

“HIV Diffusion: Evidence from One Million Blood Tests” (with Daniela Iorio and Raül Santaaulàlia-Llopis)

“Random Sampling and the Extend of Misallocation: An Analysis with Complete Distributions in Villages and Censuses” (with Albert Rodríguez-Sala, Leandro De Magalhaes and Raül Santaaulàlia-Llopis)

“Agricultural Productivity in Bolivia before and after the 2006 reform” (with Sergio Bobka)

## PRESENTATIONS

2021	Essex-Barcelona Workshop on Labor Economics
2019, 2020, 2021	Macro Club, UAB internal seminar series
2018, 2019	Barcelona School of Economics Ph.D Jamboree
2017	IMF Gender and Macroeconomics Conference, poster presenter
2016	7th Bolivian Conference on Development Economics(BAES)

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

2018	Research Internship, Banc Sabadell, Barcelona Spain
2017 (Summer)	Research Internship, Leibniz Institute for Economic Research Halle IWH Germany
2016	Research Internship, Central Bank of Bolivia-Economic Policy Division (BCB-APEC)
2013 - 2015	Research Assistant for Prof. Oscar Molina, Universidad Privada Boliviana

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

2020	Instructor, Statistics II (Undergraduate) Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
2013 - 2015	Teaching Assistant, Microeconomics II (Undergraduate), Universidad Privada Boliviana

**SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS**

2018 - 2022	FPI Scholarship from the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation Full funding to pursue the PhD in Economics at IDEA, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and BSE
2016 - 2018	Erasmus Mundus Scholarship: Full funding to pursue Master: Models and Methods of Quantitative Economics, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain and Université Paris1 Pantheon Sorbonne, France
2014	Goethe Institute-Bonn Excellence Scholarship: Full scholarship to participate in an advanced German-Language course in Bonn, Germany
2012-2015	Excellence Scholarship, Universidad Privada Boliviana

**COMPUTER SKILLS**

MATLAB, Julia (HPC & parallel computing), STATA, LaTeX

**LANGUAGE SKILLS**

Spanish-Mother Tongue, English-Fluent TOEFLiBT grade:107, German-Fluent, TestDaF Level C1, French-Fluent DELF Level B2, Catalan-Medium, Level B1

**CITIZENSHIP:** Bolivian

**REFERENCES**

**Professor Raül Santaaulàlia-Llopis**

Beatriz Galindo Professor Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB), MOVE, GSE  
(+34) 93 581 2708  
Email: rauls@movebarcelona.eu

**Professor Alexander Ludwig**

Chair of Public Finance and Macroeconomic Dynamics, Goethe University Frankfurt  
(+49) 069 798-30036  
Email: mail@alexander-ludwig.com

### **Romeo or Juliet, who wants the Divorce? Understanding Divorce filings and the Macroeconomy**

(Job Market Paper)

70% of all USA divorce petitions/filings in 1977 were done by wives, this figure increased to 74% when the couple had children, to 83% when college educated women were married to non-college men and down to 56% between non-college women married to college men. Nevertheless, between 1977 and 1988 the percentage of divorces initiated by wives experienced a 9.7% decline while divorce rates increased 15% during the same time period. Since then, both measures have been declining steadily. I construct a life cycle model of endogenous marriage and unilateral divorce to measure the contribution of changes in the gender wage gap, property division laws and child custody arrangements, in explaining the trends in divorce and divorce filings; I argue that matching divorce filing moments is crucial in accurately quantifying these effects. On one hand, higher relative wages increase the wife's value of divorce, making it easier for her to leave inconvenient marriage arrangements, on the other hand, women become choosier in the marriage market thus delaying marriage and raising the quality of newly formed matches. Children increase the value of divorce for the custodial parent which is crucial for matching divorce filing data.

### **A Stage-Based Identification of Policy Effects** (with Christopher Busch, Alexander Ludwig and Raül Santaaulàlia-Llopis)

We develop a novel empirical approach to identify the effectiveness of policies, which we apply to evaluate policies against a pandemic. In the context of the application, the essence of our approach is the insight that epidemic dynamics are best tracked over stages, rather than over time. We use a normalization procedure that makes the pre-policy paths of the epidemic identical across regions. The procedure uncovers regional variation in the stage of the epidemic at the time of policy implementation. This variation delivers clean identification of the policy effect based on the epidemic path of a leading region that serves as a counterfactual for other regions. The application focuses on the nationwide stay-homepolicy enacted in Spain against the Covid-19 pandemic. We find that the policy saved 16.8% of lives relative to the number of deaths that would have occurred had it not been for the policy intervention. Its effectiveness evolves with the epidemic and is larger when implemented at earlier stages.

### **A Quantitative Theory of the HIV Epidemic: Education, Risky Sex and Asymmetric Learning** (with Daniela Iorio and Raül Santaaulàlia-Llopis)

Using micro survey data, we show that the relationship between education and the probability of HIV infection is U-shaped (positive-zero-positive) over the course of the epidemic. In contrast, the relationship between education and knowledge about the process of HIV infection follows an inverted U-shaped pattern. We develop a non-stationary quantitative macroeconomic theory with heterogeneous agents that is consistent with these facts. Our theory endogenizes the entire course of the HIV epidemic across its different stages: a pre-HIV epidemic stage; a myopic HIV stage in which agents are not aware of the process of HIV infection; a learning stage in which agents heterogeneously---across education groups---learn about the process of infection; and an anti-retroviral (ARV) stage that modifies the effects of HIV infection on individuals. We show that asymmetric learning is key to reproduce both the micro patterns that we document and the aggregate evolution of the HIV epidemic. In further counterfactual experiments, we assess the effects of an early understanding of the virus and its mode of infection, improvements in the composition of education, the earlier (and universal) adoption of ARVs and the use of PrEP to prevent further spread.