CHRISTIAN ALEMÁN-PERICÓN

ECARES, ULB Solbosch Campus, Building R42
Av. F.D. Roosevelt 50, CP 114/04
1050 Brussels - Belgium.
Phone: (+34) 605541720
Email: christian.c.aleman@gmail.com
Personal Web: https://alemanchris.github.io/

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REFERENCES

Professor Raül Santeulàlia-Llopis
Beatriz Galindo Professor
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB),
Upenn, MOVE, BSE
(+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

Professor Nezih Guner
ICREA Reseach Professor
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (UAB),
Barcelona School of Economics (BSE)
(+34) 914 290 551
Email: ngunermail@gmail.com

UPCOMING APPOINTMENT

2023 - Post Doctoral Associate, NYU AbuDhabi, United Arab Emirates

CURRENT POSITION

2022 Post Doctoral Fellow, ECARES (Université Libre Bruxelles) Brussels, Belgium
Mentors: Paula Gobbi and Bram de Rock

EDUCATION

2018 - 2022 Ph.D. Economics *(Cum Laude)*, IDEA-Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Spain
Advisor: Prof. Raül Santaeulàlia-Llopis

2020 Ph.D. Visiting Scholar, Dept. of Economics, University of Pennsylvania, USA

2016 - 2018 M.Sc. Master in Quantitative Economics, Paris1 Pantheon Sorbonne, France

2012 - 2015 B.A. Economics, *(Summa Cum Laude)* Universidad Privada Boliviana, Bolivia

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Macroeconomics and Inequality, Growth and Development, Family Economics, Labor Economics
My research lies in the field of Macroeconomics. I make use of structural quantitative macro models as tools to highlight the mechanisms behind empirical facts observed in the data.

WORKING PAPERS

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

"Kramer vs. Kramer. On the importance of Children and Divorce Filings for Understanding Divorce Rates in the USA",

"A Stage-Based Identification of Policy Effects" (with Christopher Busch, Alexander Ludwig and Raül Santaeulàlia-Llopis)

"Evaluating the Effectiveness of Policy Against the Covid-19 Pandemic" (with Christopher Busch, Alexander Ludwig and Raül Santaeulàlia-Llopis)

WORK IN PROGRESS

"HIV Diffusion: Evidence from One Million Blood Tests" (with Daniela Iorio and Raül Santaeulàlia-Llopis)
"Agricultural Productivity in Bolivia before and after the 2006 reform" (with Sergio Bobka)

PRESENTATIONS

2022	DTMC Workshop on Interactions between Labor and Marriage Markets
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-at the Advisory of Economic Policy (BCB - APEC)
2013 - 2015	Research Assitant for Prof. Oscar Molina, Universidad Privada Boliviana

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2021	Teaching Assitant, Econometrics I (Graduate) Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
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 PhD Scholarship from the Spanish Ministry of Science
2016 - 2018	Erasmus Mundus Scholarship: Full funding to pursue Master in Quantitative Economics, 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, Dutch-Basic

CITIZENSHIP: Bolivian
DOB: June 1994

CHRISTIAN ALEMÁN-PERICÓN

A Quantitative Theory of the HIV Epidemic: Education, Risky Sex and Asymmetric Learning (Joint work with Daniela Iorio and Raül Santaeulàlia-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.

Kramer vs. Kramer. On the importance of Children and Divorce Filings for Understanding Divorce Rates in the USA

I document that approximately 70% of divorce filings in the 1970's were done by wives in the United States. Since then, this figure has experienced a large decline, reaching 56% in 2015. At the same time, divorce rates sharply increased from 1960 until the mid 1980's and have declined since then. I construct a life cycle model of endogenous marriage and unilateral divorce with endogenous labor supply and savings that jointly explains these facts. I use my model to measure the contribution of changes in the gender-wage gap, property division laws and child custody arrangements in explaining the divorce patterns over time. First, the reduction in the gender-wage gap generates two opposing effects. On the one hand, the reduction of the gender-wage gap increases the value of divorce for married women and, on the other hand, unmarried women become more selective in the marriage market thus raising the quality of newly formed matches. Second, children increase the value of divorce for the custodial parent; so a higher probability of getting child custody raises the chances of filing for divorce. Third, a higher share of assets assigned to wives upon divorce can either increase or decrease divorce rates by altering the savings decision of the household. My model accounts for approximately 50 per cent of the decline in divorce filings and 70 per cent of the variation in divorce rates between 1970 and 2015. I find that the decrease in the gender-wage gap and the increase in the probability of getting child custody for men are major drivers behind the changes in divorce rates and in divorce filings, respectively. Importantly, I find that failure to match who files for divorce can lead to opposite counterfactual results.

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

We develop a method that identifies the effects of policy implemented nationwide---i.e. across all regions at the same time. Starting point is the insight that the dynamics of many outcome variables can be tracked over stages. A stage is defined as the location of a regional outcome on a reference outcome path. Our method consists of a normalization that maps the time-path of regional outcomes onto a reference outcome path using only pre-policy data. After normalization, the pre-policy outcome paths mapped onto the reference path are identical across regions which implies that the normalization controls for pre-policy regional heterogeneity (the so-called ``parallel trends") without taking a stand on its source, (un)observability or (non)constancy. Since regions can differ by stage at any point in time, the normalization uncovers variation in the stage at the time of policy implementation. We use this stage variation at the time of policy implementation to identify the policy effects. We validate our method with a set of Monte-Carlo experiments. We show several applications: public health stay-home policies in Spain (lockdown), the effects of approval of oral contraceptives in 1960 in the U.S. on women's fertility and career choice and the effects of growth policy (e.g. German Reunification).