

Ana Costa-Ramón

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2020- Assistant Professor, University of Zurich, Department of Economics & Jacobs Center for Productive Youth Development

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra	2020
Master of Research in Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra	2014-2015
Master of Science in Economics, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics	2013-2014
Bachelor in Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra	2009-2013

RESEARCH FIELDS

Applied Microeconomics, Health Economics, and Gender Economics

PUBLICATIONS

“It’s About Time: Cesarean Sections and Neonatal Health” (joint with Ana Rodríguez-González, Miquel Serra-Burriel, Carlos Campillo-Artero). *Journal of Health Economics*, 2018, 59.
“The Long-Run Effects of Cesarean Sections” (joint with Ana Rodríguez-González, Mika Kortelainen and Lauri Sääksvuori). VATT Working Papers 125, October 2019. *Forthcoming at Journal of Human Resources*

WORKING PAPERS

“The Career Costs of Children’s Health Shocks”

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Gender Roles and Behavioral Gender Gaps ” (joint with Ana Rodríguez-González)
“The Effect of an Income Shock at Birth on Health and Cognitive Development” (joint with Cristina Borra, Libertad González and Almudena Sevilla-Sanz)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2019-2020 Labor Economics, Introduction to Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Undergraduate)
2016-2018 Principles of Public Economics, Health Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (undergraduate)
2018 Master Thesis Tutor, Online Master in Health Economics and Pharmacoeconomics, Barcelona School of Management, UPF
2017 Course on Policy Interventions and Behavioral Economics for Health Economics. II Programa Experto Política Sanitaria (Mallorca)
2015-2016 Health Economics, Introduction to Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Undergraduate)

2014-2015 Advanced Macroeconomics II, Macroeconomics III, Introduction to Economics Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Undergraduate)
2013-2014 Macroeconomics III Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Undergraduate)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conferences and Seminars:

2020 VATT Seminar, University of Bristol, University of Zurich, CATÓLICA-LISBON, University College Dublin, ESADE, Workshop on Economic Evidence on Policy and Societal Problems (cancelled due to COVID-19)
2019 International Health Economics Association Conference (Basel), UPF Applied Lunch (Barcelona).
2018 European Conference on Health Economics (Maastricht), Spanish Health Economics Association Conference (Las Palmas), CRES seminar UPF (Barcelona).
2017 International Health Economics Association Conference (Boston), UPF LPD Breakfast Seminar (Barcelona), The Center For Gender Studies UPF (Barcelona)
2016 UPF Management and Behavioral Research Breakfast (Barcelona)

Conference organizer:

Co-organizer of the BGSE PhD Jamboree (2017)
Program Coordinator of “Bojos per l'Economia”. Director Jordi Galí

Refereeing Activities:

Journal of Health Economics, Health Economics, Health Policy, Economic Development and Cultural Change

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2019 Nomination for the “Vanguardia de la Ciencia” awards
2018 Second Prize of iHEA Annual Student Paper Prize in Health Economics
2017 Prize for the best Oral Presentation at the Spanish Health Economics Association Conference
2017 Conference Travel Grant, Spanish Health Economics Association (AES)
2017 EBES Conference Travel Grant, UPF
2013-2015 Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Teaching Assistant Scholarship

LANGUAGES

Spanish and Catalan (native), English (fluent), French (basic)

PAPERS

Publications:

“It’s About Time: Cesarean Sections and Neonatal Health” (joint with Ana Rodríguez-González, Miquel Serra-Burriel, Carlos Campillo-Artero). *Journal of Health Economics*, 2018, 59.

Awarded second prize of 2018 iHEA Annual Student Paper Prize and Best Oral communication in 2017 Spanish Health Economics Conference (AES)

Media coverage: [La Vanguardia](#), [El Periódico](#), [ABC](#), [20 minutos](#), [La Razón](#), [CCMA](#).

Blog post: [Nada Es Gratis](#), [Blog AES](#), [The Barcelona GSE Voice Blog](#)

Cesarean sections have been associated in the literature with poorer newborn health, particularly with a higher incidence of respiratory morbidity. Most studies suffer, however, from potential omitted variable bias, as they are based on simple comparisons of mothers who give birth vaginally and those who give birth by cesarean section. We try to overcome this limitation and provide credible causal evidence by using variation in the probability of having a c-section that is arguably unrelated to maternal and fetal characteristics: variation by time of day. Previous literature documents that, while nature distributes births and associated problems uniformly, time-dependent variables related to physicians’ demand for leisure are significant predictors of unplanned c-sections.

Using a sample of public hospitals in Spain, we show that the rate of c-sections is higher during the early hours of the night compared to the rest of the day, while mothers giving birth at the different times are similar in observable characteristics. This exogenous variation provides us with a new instrument for type of birth: time of delivery. Our results suggest that non-medically indicated c-sections have a negative and significant impact on newborn health, as measured by Apgar scores, but that the effect is not severe enough to translate into more extreme outcomes.

[“The Long-Run Effects of Cesarean Sections”](#) (joint with Ana Rodríguez-González, Mika Kortelainen and Lauri Sääksvuori). VATT Working Papers 125, October 2019. *Forthcoming at Journal of Human Resources*

Media coverage: [La Vanguardia](#), [El Periódico](#).

This paper analyzes the long-term effects of potentially avoidable C-sections on children’s health. Using Finnish administrative data, we document that physicians perform more unplanned C-sections during their regular working hours on days that precede a weekend or public holiday and use this exogenous variation as an instrument for C-sections. We supplement our instrumental variables results with a differences-in-differences estimation that exploits variation in birth mode within sibling pairs and across families. Our results suggest that avoidable unplanned C-sections increase the risk of asthma, but do not affect other immune-mediated disorders previously associated with C-sections.

Working Papers:

[“The Career Costs of Children’s Health Shocks”](#)

I provide novel evidence on the impact of a child’s severe health shock on parental labor market outcomes. To identify the causal effect, I leverage long panels of high-quality Finnish administrative data and exploit variation in the exact timing of the health shock. Identification comes from comparisons of same-aged parents with same-aged children, whose children experienced the health shock at different ages. The results show that parental earnings suffer a substantial decline following their child adverse health event, and that the fall is persistent: five years after a child’s severe hospitalization, maternal earnings have dropped by more than 7.5 %, while fathers earnings are 2.5 % lower. Notably, the shock also impacts parents’ mental well-being.

Work in progress

“Gender Roles and Behavioral Gender Gaps ” (joint with Ana Rodríguez-González)

“The Effect of an Income Shock at Birth on Health and Cognitive Development” (joint with Cristina Borra, Libertad González and Almudena Sevilla-Sanz)

November 2020