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CAROLINA CONCHA-ARRIAGADA

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Office Contact Information

Department of Economics
Georgetown University
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Personal Information: Gender: Female, Citizenship: Chilean

Doctoral Studies:

Georgetown University, 2017 to present

Ph.D. Candidate in Economics

Thesis Title: “*Essays on Economics of Education and Political Economy*”

Expected Completion Date: June 2023

References:

Professor Garance Genicot
Georgetown University
202-687-7144, gg58@georgetown.edu

Professor Laurent Bouton
Georgetown University
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Professor Christopher Neilson
Yale University
203-432-3610, christopher.neilson@yale.edu

Professor Mary Ann Bronson
Georgetown University
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Prior Studies:

ILADES-Universidad Alberto Hurtado, 2016

M.A. in Economics, Summa cum laude

Universidad de Santiago de Chile, 2012

B. Sc. in Economics, Summa cum laude

Research and Teaching Fields:

Research: Development Economics, Economics of Education, Political Economy

Teaching: Microeconometrics, Development Economics, Economics of Education, Political Economy

Teaching Experience:

Summer’21	Intermediate Microeconomics (undergrad), Georgetown, Instructor
Summer’19,’20	Principles of Microeconomics (undergrad), Georgetown, Instructor
Spring’15	Econometrics I (undergrad), ILADES, Instructor
Fall’12	Principles of Microeconomics (undergrad), USACH, Instructor

Spring'21,'20	Econometrics I (undergrad), Georgetown, Prof. Alan Bester
Fall'18,'20	Interm. Microeconomics (undergrad), Georgetown, Prof. Garance Genicot
Spring'15	Economics of Social Policy (master), ILADES, Prof. Eugenio Giolito
Spring'15	Microeconomics II (master), ILADES, Prof. Carlos Ponce
Fall'14	Econometrics I (master), ILADES, Prof. Ramiro de Elejalde
Spring'14	Macroeconomics I (master), ILADES, Prof. Mauricio Tejada

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2019-2022	Georgetown University, Research Assistant to Prof. Garance Genicot
2019-2021	Georgetown University, Research Assistant to Prof. Laurent Bouton
2018-2019	Georgetown University, Research Assistant to Prof. William Jack
2015-2017	Universidad Adolfo Ibañez, Research Assistant to Prof. Nieves Valdés
2010	Universidad de Santiago de Chile, Research Assistant to Prof. Facundo Sepúlveda

Professional Experience:

2011-2015	Junior Consultant, Centro de Libre Competencia, Universidad Católica de Chile
2010	Intern, Fiscalía Nacional Económica, Chile

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2022	NAEd/Spencer Dissertation Fellow, National Academy of Education
2022	Sixth Year Funding Competition Winner, Georgetown University
2021	Graduate School Dissertation Travel Grant, Georgetown University
2020	Summer Research Grant, Georgetown University
2017	Ph.D. Fellowship, Georgetown University
2013-2015	CONICYT Fellowship, Comisión Nacional de Investigación Científica y Tecnológica -CONICYT-, Chile
2012	Graduates and Friends USACH Award, Universidad de Santiago de Chile

Conferences and Invited Presentations:

2022	Mortara Seminar (Georgetown), Annual Washington Area Development Economic Symposium, The Association for Education and Policy Annual Conference (poster)
2021	Southern Economic Association Meetings, Annual Washington Area Development Economic Symposium (poster)
2020	ConsiliumBots Webinar

Services:

2020-2021	Co-Chair Georgetown Economics Graduate Student Organization
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Job Market Paper:

“Should I Stay, or Should I Go? Strategic Moves to Improve College Admission Chances.”

Policies aimed at increasing the number of students from underrepresented groups enrolled in college are common worldwide. Many of these policies can result in strategic responses by high school students. Yet, little is known about the extent to which these responses undo the effect of the policy. This paper shows that centralized college admission policies that rank students within their high school leads to strategic relocation of students, which undoes part of the effects of the policy. Relying on a policy change in Chile, I use detailed administrative data and a simple theoretical model to show that high school students react to these sorts of colleges admission policies by switching schools, undermining the policy effects. I find that the number of low-income students accepted to the top colleges increases by less than 1 percent under the current policy, but if students had not switched high schools, that increase would be 5 percent, a reduction of 90 percent in the policy effectiveness. Switchers target high schools with lower average GPA, and they significantly increase their probability of attending selective colleges. I argue that relocation is an important pre-college response, which needs to be considered when designing policies using schools as target characteristics as it can completely undermine said policies.

Working Papers:

“It’s Always Sunny in Politics.” with JJ Naddeo

A desirable property of democratic elections is that they should not be influenced by forces that reveal no information about the candidate. However, the extant literature suggests that precipitation has a significant impact on electoral outcomes. This paper investigates an understudied dimension of weather—sunshine. Using novel daily weather measurements from satellites, linked to county level U.S. Presidential electoral returns from 1948-2016, we document how sunshine affects the decision making of voters. We find that election day exposure to sunshine increases support for the Democratic party on average. Additionally, we show that—contrary to prior findings that do not control for sunshine—precipitation has no detectable impact on partisan support, but universally depresses turnout. To rationalize our results we propose a mechanism whereby sunshine modulates voter mood which causes a change in voter choice, while precipitation only impacts turnout through increasing the cost of voting. We then build a theoretical model, which features this mechanism, and generates additional tests that find support in the data. Our main result—that election day sunshine noticeably impacts voter choice—highlights the need to reduce the effect of election day shocks (e.g. by allowing early voting). Furthermore, our results regarding precipitation suggest that reducing costs to voting does not confer partisan benefits—a potentially policy relevant finding for the current vote by mail discussion.

“Upward Mobility in Developing Countries.” with Garance Genicot and Debraj Ray

This article provides an overview of the literature on mobility in developing countries. Explicit distinctions are drawn between directional and non-directional measures, absolute and relative measures, and combinations thereof. We note that the scarcity of panel data has hindered the measurement of mobility for many countries. We pay particular attention to the recent development of panel-free mobility measures, which allows us to measure upward mobility in 147 countries. We use these measures to revisit some central themes in the literature.

“College Admission Policies and Students’ High School Choice: Evidence from Chile.”

Increasing opportunities for students from historically disadvantaged populations and communities has been the focus of many different policies around the world. Yet, little is known how these policy shape students' high school choice. In this paper, I examine whether a policy in Chile that mandated all institutions using the centralized system to incorporate a student’s high school specific criterion, affected students' ninth grade school choice. I exploit the adoption of the policy and the local school market structure to estimate the effects of the college admission criteria on the quality of the school attended by students. Preliminary estimation indicates that students in local markets with high scope for gains are two percentage points less likely to attend a high-quality public school. To study the effects of different policy changes in the college admission process, I follow Otero et al. (2022) and estimate a joint model of school choice and outcomes.

“The Value of Gaining a Peer, The Value of Losing a Peer: Evidence from Chile.” with Jesus Villero

We exploit a change in the college admission policy occurred in 2014 in Chile, a country with a centralized admission system, that increased the probability of relatively high achieving high school students moving from higher- to lower-quality schools (as measured by average standardized test scores) to study the effects of being exposed to highly motivated peers on academic outcomes. We use a strategy that compares 12th-grade students in classrooms that received more high achieving students with those from the same schools but who were exposed to fewer or no high achieving students. Using both basic and nonlinear-in-means specifications, we show evidence of heterogeneous effects depending on the ability of the incumbent students.

Updated October 2022