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**CHRISTOPHER A. NEILSON**  
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*Department of Economics*  
*Princeton School of Public and International Affairs*  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Princeton University, 2015 -  
Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, since 2015  
J-PAL Academic Affiliate, since 2017

## PAST APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Researcher, Microsoft Research, New England, 2017 - 2018  
Visiting Scholar at Stern School of Business, New York University. 2014-2015  
Aide to the Governor at Banco Central de Chile, 2005-2008

## EDUCATION

Ph.D, Economics, Yale University, 2014  
Msc. and B.A., Economics, Universidad de Chile, 2005, 2006

## FEATURED RESEARCH - PUBLISHED AND WORKING PAPERS

O Brother, Where Start Thou? Sibling Spillovers on College and Major Choice in Four Countries  
*The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, March 2021  
with A.Altmejd, A.Barrios-Fernandez, M.Drlje, J.Goodman, M.Hurwitz, D.Kovac, C.Mulhern, J.Smith

Heterogeneous Beliefs and School Choice Mechanisms  
*American Economic Review*, May 2020, with A. Kapor and S. Zimmerman

Early Life Health Interventions and Academic Achievement  
*American Economic Review*, August 2013, with P. Bharadwaj and K. Loken

Targeted Vouchers, Competition Among Schools, and the Academic Achievement of Poor Students  
Revise and Resubmit at *Econometrica*, PhD Thesis 2014, Yale University

Approximating The Equilibrium Effects of Informed School Choice  
Revise and Resubmit at *The Review of Economic Studies* Princeton WP No. 628, with C. Allende and F. Gallego

Aftermarket Frictions and the Cost of Off Platform Options In Centralized Assignment Mechanisms  
Revise and Resubmit at the *Journal of Political Economy*, Princeton WP No. 635, with A. Kapor and M. Karnani

Equilibrium Effects of Asymmetric Information on Consumer Credit Markets  
Revise and Resubmit at the *Journal of Finance*, NBER WP No. 25097, with A. Liberman and S. Zimmerman

Are Some Degrees Worth More than Others? Evidence from College Admission Cutoffs in Chile  
NBER Working Paper No. 19241, with J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

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**PUBLISHED RESEARCH PAPERS** (in chronological order, featured repeated)

O Brother, Where Start Thou? Sibling Spillovers on College and Major Choice in Four Countries  
*The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, March 2021

with A.Altmejd, A.Barrios-Fernandez, M.Drlje, J.Goodman, M.Hurwitz, D.Kovac, C.Mulhern, J.Smith

Information Frictions and Access to the Paycheck Protection Program

*The Journal of Public Economics* 190(9), August 2020, with J. E. Humphries and G. Ulyssea

Heterogeneous Beliefs and School Choice Mechanisms

*American Economic Review* , 110(5), May 2020 with A. Kapor and S. Zimmerman

Health at Birth, Parental Investments, and Academic Outcomes

*Journal of Labor Economics* 36(2), April 2018, with P. Bharadwaj and J. Eberhard

Gray Matters: Fetal Pollution Exposure and Human Capital Formation

*Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, 4(2), 2017, with P. Bharadwaj, M. Gibson, J. G. Zivin

The Gender Gap in Mathematics: Evidence from middle/low income countries

*Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 65(1), October 2016, with G. Giorgi, D. Hansen and P. Bharadwaj

(Un)informed College and Major Choice: Evidence from Linked Survey and Administrative Data

*Economics of Education Review* vol. 51, April 2016, with J. Hastings, A. Ramirez and S. Zimmerman

Connecting Student Loans to Labor Market Outcomes: Policy Lessons from Chile

*American Economic Review* Papers and Proceedings, May 2015, with H. Beyer, J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

The Effect of School Construction on Test Scores, School Enrollment, and Home Prices

*Journal of Public Economics*, vol. 120, December 2014, with S. Zimmerman

Early Life Health Interventions and Academic Achievement

*American Economic Review*, 103(5), August 2013, with P.Bharadwaj and K.Loken

Poverty Dynamics in Chile 1996 – 2001 (undergraduate thesis)

*Journal of Latin American Studies* vol. 40, May 2008, with D. Contreras, R. Cooper and J. Herman

Pro-poor growth in Chile

*El Trimestre Económico* vol. 75, October 2008, pp. 931-944 with D. Contreras and R. Cooper

Another Passthrough Bites the Dust? Inflation and Oil Prices

*ECONOMIA, Journal of LACEA* vol. 7, Spring, 2007, with J. De Gregorio and O. Landerretche

**BOOK CHAPTERS**

Chile's Fiscal Rule as Social Insurance in: *Fiscal Policy and Macroeconomic Performance*, (2013)

edited by L. F. Céspedes and J. Galí; coauthored with E. Engel and R. Valdes

Worker Flows and Labor Dynamics in Chile: A Retrospective Story in: *Job Hopping: Issues and Coping Strategies*, (2009)

edited by K Sangeetha; coauthored with J. Ruiz-Tagle

Financial Diversification, Sudden Stops and Sudden Starts in: *Current Account and External Finance*, (2007)

edited by K. Cowan, S. Edwards, and R. Valdes; coauthored with J. De Gregorio, K. Cowan, A. Micco

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**WORKING PAPERS** (*in chronological order, featured repeated*)

Smart Matching Platforms and Heterogeneous Beliefs in Centralized School Choice

Princeton WP No. 650 (June 2021), *Under review*

with F. Arteaga, A. Kapor and S. Zimmerman

Firm Sorting, College Major, and the Gender Earnings Gap

Princeton WP No. 649 (May 2021), *Under review*

with F. Huneeus, C. Miller, S. Zimmerman

Teacher Compensation and Structural Inequality: Evidence from Centralized Teacher School Choice in Peru

Princeton WP No. 648 (March 2021), *Under review*

with M. Bobba, T. Ederer, G. Leon-Ciliotta, M. Nieddu

The Equilibrium Effects of Public Provision in Education Markets: Evidence from a Public School Expansion

Princeton WP No. 645 (November 2020)

with M. Dinerstein and S. Otero

Centralized School Choice with Unequal Outside Options

Princeton WP No. 644 (September 2020), *Under review*

with M. Akbarpour, A. Kapor, W. van Dijk, S. Zimmerman

Screening and Recruiting Talent At Teacher Colleges Using Pre-College Academic Achievement

Princeton WP No. 636 (December 2019), *Under review*

with F. Calle and S. Gallegos

Aftermarket Frictions and the Cost of Off Platform Options In Centralized Assignment Mechanisms

Princeton WP No. 635 (December 2019). R&R at the *Journal of Political Economy*

with A. Kapor and M. Karnani

Approximating The Equilibrium Effects of Informed School Choice

Princeton WP No. 628 (July 2019). R&R at *The Review of Economic Studies*

with C. Allende and F. Gallego

Equilibrium Effects of Asymmetric Information on Consumer Credit Markets

NBER WP No. 25097 (September 2018) R&R at the *Journal of Finance*

with A. Liberman and S. Zimmerman

The Effects of Earnings Disclosure on College Enrollment Decisions

NBER WP No. 21300 (June 2015, updated July 2017)

with J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

Targeted Vouchers, Competition Among Schools, and the Academic Achievement of Poor Students

PhD Thesis, Yale University (October 2013), R&R at the *Econometrica*

Are Some Degrees Worth More than Others? Evidence from College Admission Cutoffs in Chile

NBER WP No. 19241 (July 2013)

with J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

The Effect of School Choice on Intrinsic Motivation and Academic Outcomes

NBER WP No. 18324 (August 2012)

with J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

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## ADVISING

### Students Advised

2020 Claudia Allende

### Initial Placement

Assistant Professor, Stanford University GSB Economics

### Students Supported

2021 Tomas Larroucau

2019 Federico Huneus

2019 Andres Barrios-Fernandez

2017 John Klopfer

### Initial Placement

Arizona State University, Department of Economics

Senior Researcher, Banco Central de Chile

Senior Researcher, VATT Helsinki, Finland

Assistant Professor, United States Naval Academy

## REFEREEING

*American Economic Review, Econometrica, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economics and Statistics, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Policy, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Theory, Economic Journal, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, The International Economic Review, Journal of Human Resources, Labour Economics, Oxford Economics Papers and the Education Economics Review, World Bank Economic Review.*

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## PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES

*Founder and (Interim) CEO of ConsiliumBots 2018 -*

Topics: EdTech NGO focused on helping governments design, test and implement online matching platforms while bridging the gap between researchers and policymakers.

*Consultant for the World Bank, 2020 -*

Topics: Assist with the design and implementation of education vouchers in response to COVID19.

*Founder Researcher of DataLAB Republica Dominicana 2019*

Topics: Incubating the data science capabilities inside the government of the Dominican Republic.

*Founding Researcher of MineduLAB within the Ministry of Education, Government of Peru*  
founding Principal Investigator 2014, Board member 2015

*Advisor to New Haven Public Schools Office of Choice and Enrollment. 2018-2021*

Topics : The design and implementation of centralized school choice mechanism.

*Advisor to the Ministry of Education, Government of Chile. 2015*

Topics : The design and implementation of the recent adoption of centralized school choice mechanism.

*Associate Partner of IDEICE, Research Unit of the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic 2014-2017*

Topics: The study of education issues and the scale up of policies proven to improve outcomes.

*Consultant for MINEDU of the Ministry of Education, Government of Peru, 2016*

Topics: The design and implementation of informational platforms for college choice in Peru.

*Consultant for the World Bank, 2014-2015*

Topics: The design and implementation of free tuition policy in higher education in Chile.

*Consultant for the IDB 2016, 2018*

Topics: The design of platforms to disclose earnings by field and type of study in Peru.

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## GRANTS

*Biased Beliefs and Search in Education Markets* 2019-2021

Donor: **National Science Foundation (NSF)** via Princeton University - Grant Amount: USD 558,589.00

*Beliefs, Understanding, and Strategic Behavior in School Choice Mechanisms* 2015-2018

Donor: **National Science Foundation (NSF)** via NBER - Grant Amount: USD 457,853.00

*Incubation of Human Capital Technology Organization* 2018-2020

Donor: **Wellspring Philanthropic Fund** - Grant amount USD 500,000

*Learning the Value of Education in the Dominican Republic* 2014-2019

Donor: **DIV-USAID** via JPAL - Grant amount: USD 1,258,979 + 240,000 expansion

*Getting children to stay in school and out of work: The role of Informative and Persuasive Marketing* 2015-2020

Donor: **United States Department of Labor (DoL)** via IPA- Grant amount: USD 977,690.00

Donor: **Post Primary Initiative JPAL Global** via IPA - Grant amount: USD 256,464

*Leveraging Administrative Data and Machine Learning Techniques to Improve Education Policy in Developing Countries* 2018

Donor: **Microsoft Research** via JPAL - Grant Amount: USD 40,000 on Azure Computing Resources

*Evaluating online platform to reduce information asymmetries w/in students and parents* 2017-2019

Donor: **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IDB)** and MINEDU

via IPA - Grant amount: USD 202,000

*Education Mismatch and Information about Relative Performance* 2018

Donor: **Post Primary Initiative JPAL Global** - Grant amount: USD 50,000

*Building a better future with informed investment in higher education:*

*Evaluating the impact of personalized provision of information on earnings and financial aid in the Dominican Republic* 2019

Donor: **Skills for Youth Program, J-PAL LAC** - Grant amount: USD 49,479

*Financial Aid and College Access in the Dominican Republic* 2018-2020

Donor: **Post Primary Education Initiative, J-PAL** - Grant amount: USD 256,893

*Reducing free-riding in public goods: An experimental approach to*

*improving payment compliance for trash collection in the Dominican Republic* 2017-2018

Donor: **Governance Initiative, J-PAL** - Grant amount: USD 48,990

*Making Centralized School Choice Work in Practice: Evaluating Informational Interventions in Equilibrium* 2020

Donor: **Overdeck Princeton Education Fund** - Grant amount: USD 95,000

*How the Design of School Choice Systems Affects Welfare and Student Outcomes* 2019

Donor: **Overdeck Princeton Education Fund** - Grant amount: USD 85,000

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## Invited Presentations:

2021 **Invited Seminars:** Harvard University (Economics), UC San Diego (Economics), ...

**Conference Presentations:** AEAs (x3); UCLA Education Markets Conference; WEAI Conference (x3); ...

**Public Policy Talks :** IDB Conference on Teacher Pay; ...

2020 **Invited Seminars:** MIT Economics; Harvard University (HKS); UCLA ; University of Chile; World Bank Research Group/Georgetown University; Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta;

**Conference Presentations:** AEAs San Diego; SITE, World Congress of the Econometric Society, NBER Education

**Public Policy Talks :** Launch of *The Evidence Laboratory of the Cabinet for Social Policy Coordination* of the government of the Dominican Republic; Presentation to Vice Minister of Education of the Dominican Republic; Presentation to *Comisión Nacional de Productividad* of the government of Chile.

2019 **Invited Seminars:** Yale University; University of Chicago, Booth; University of Wisconsin Madison; Columbia University; University of Southern California; University of Minnesota; Rochester University; Bocconi University, Milan, Italy; Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, Colombia

**Conference Presentations:** NBER IO, Cambridge, MA; Education Economics NBER, Cambridge, MA; APPAM, Denver, CO, Cambridge, MA; SEA Conference, Ft Lauderdale; Y-RISE Conference, Grand Cayman

**Public Policy Talks :** ICFES, Bogota, Colombia; IDB, Washington D.C.; MIT SEII Conference

2018 **Invited Seminars:** Stanford GSB; UCL, London; UC San Diego; New York University; University Maryland University; Statistics Norway, Oslo University of Oslo; Arizona State University; ITAM, Mexico City

**Conference Presentations:** 30 year REStud Tour Reunion Conference, Copenhagen; Nordic Labor Economics Key Note Speaker, Helsinki; NBER SI Education Economics, Cambridge; Y-RISE Conference, Grand Cayman; SREE Conference, Washington, D.C.

**Public Policy Talks :** Policy Launch, Ministry of Education, Lima Peru ; Policy Launch, Ministry of Education, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

2017 **Invited Seminars:** London School of Economics, London; University College London, London; Warwick University; London School of Economics ; IIES, University of Stockholm, Sweden; Rice University, Texas; Paris School of Economics, Paris; Universidad Adolfo Ibanez, Santiago, Chile; Microsoft Research, Cambridge, MA

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**Conference Presentations:** NBER IO, Stanford University; Applied Microeconomics Conference, Einaudi Rome ; SBIF, Santiago, Chile

**Public Policy Talks :** USAID, Washington D.C. ; IDEICE, Ministry of Education, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

2016 **Invited Seminars:** Harvard University; Rutgers University; Toulouse University, France; Paris School of Economics University, France ; Uppsala University, Sweden ; Namur University, Belgium; Pontifical Universidad Catolica de Chile

**Conference Presentations:** NBER IO, Stanford University; AEA, San Francisco, CA

**Public Policy Talks :** Policy and Evidence, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic ; GDN Annual Global Development Conference, Lima Peru ; Policy Workshop , JPAL Offices Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

2015 **Invited Seminars:** Columbia University, Washington University in St. Louis, Federal Reserve Bank of New York City, The World Bank, The Inter-American Development Bank.

**Conference Presentations:** Duke University, Structural Microeconometrics Conference ; Theory and Data Microeconomics Conference, Miami, FL; University of Santa Clara, Cuba

**Public Policy Talks :** Ministry of Education, Lima, Peru

2014 **Invited Seminars:** University of Wisconsin (Economics), UC Berkeley (Economics)

**Job Market Talks:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology, (Economics); Stanford University (Graduate School of Business); Stanford University (Economics); University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School of Business), University of Pennsylvania (Economics); Princeton University (Economics); Northwestern University (Economics); Northwestern University (Kellogg); New York University (Stern School of Business); Brown University; University of Chicago (Booth School of Business); University of Chicago, (Economics)

**Public Policy Talks :** Ministry of Education, Government of Peru; Office of the Vice president of the Dominican Republic;



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## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow in Economics, 2021-2022  
*Círculo de Honor*, Facultad de Economía y Negocios, Universidad de Chile, 2021  
Excellence in Refereeing Award, American Economic Review, 2017  
Best Graduate Student Advisor - Princeton University, 2016  
Review of Economic Studies Tour, 2014  
Northeast Rugby Championship and 3rd place at Nationals, All Black New Haven Rugby, 2014  
*Joven Egresado Destacado*, Facultad de Economía y Negocios, Universidad de Chile, 2014  
George Trimis Prize for Distinguished Dissertation in Economics, Yale University, 2014  
Anderson Fellowship, Cowles Foundation, 2012  
City of New Haven, Board of Aldermen Official Citation, 2011  
Distinction - Industrial Organization field examination, Yale University, 2010  
*100 Jóvenes Líderes* El Mercurio, Santiago Chile 2007  
Highest Ranked Economics MA student at graduation, Dept. of Economics, University of Chile 2006  
Highest Ranked Economics BA student at graduation, Dept. of Economics, University of Chile 2005  
Alumni Association prize at graduation, University of Chile 2005  
International Labor Organization (ILO) Undergraduate Thesis Fellowship, 2003  
Chilean National 7's Rugby Team (Adult), 2001-2002  
Chilean National Rugby Team (U21), 1998-2002  
Athletic Scholarship, Universidad de Chile 1999  
Chilean National Rugby Team (U19), 1997-1998  
Junior Rugby World Cup 7th place Chile, Toulouse, France 1998

## LANGUAGES

Native speaker of English and Spanish (mother tongue).