

---

**CHRISTOPHER A. NEILSON**  
*Princeton University*  
*Department of Economics*  
*Princeton School of Public and International Affairs*  
[cneilson@princeton.edu](mailto:cneilson@princeton.edu) · [website](#) · [github](#)

---

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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

## EDUCATION

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

## PUBLICATIONS

Information Frictions and Access to the Paycheck Protection Program  
*The Journal of Public Economics* , 190(9), 2020  
with John Eric Humphries and Gabriel Ulyssea

Heterogeneous Beliefs and School Choice Mechanisms  
*American Economic Review* , 110(5): 1274-1315, 2020  
with Adam Kapor and Seth Zimmerman

Early Life Health Interventions and Academic Achievement  
*American Economic Review*, 103(5): 1862-91, 2013  
with Prashant Bharadwaj and Katrina Loken

Health at Birth, Parental Investments, and Academic Outcomes  
*Journal of Labor Economics* Journal of Labor Economics 36, no. 2 (April 2018): 349-394.  
with Prashant Bharadwaj and Juan Eberhard

The Effect of School Construction on Test Scores, School Enrollment, and Home Prices  
*Journal of Public Economics*, Volume 120, Pages 18-31, (2014)  
with Seth Zimmerman

Connecting Student Loans to Labor Market Outcomes: Policy Lessons from Chile  
*American Economic Review* P&P, Vol. 105 No. 5, (May 2015)  
with Harald Beyer, Justine Hastings and Seth Zimmerman

(Un)informed College and Major Choice: Evidence from Linked Survey and Administrative Data  
*Economics of Education Review*, Volume 51, (April 2016), Pages 136-151  
with Justine Hastings, Anely Ramirez and Seth Zimmerman

Gray Matters: Fetal Pollution Exposure and Human Capital Formation  
*Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists* 4, no. 2 (June 2017): 505-542.  
with Prashant Bharadwaj, Matthew Gibson, Josh Graff Zivin

The Gender Gap in Mathematics: Evidence from middle/low income countries  
*Economic Development and Cultural Change*, (Oct 2016), Volume 65, Issue 1, pp. 141 - 166  
with Giacomo Giorgi, David Hansen and Prashant Bharadwaj,

---

## WORKING PAPERS

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

(with A. Altmejd, A. Barrios Fernandez, M. Drlje, J. Goodman, M. Hurwitz, D. Kovac, C. Mulhern, J Smith)  
Industrial Relations Section WP 633 Dec 2019

Targeted Vouchers, Competition Among Schools, and the Academic Achievement of Poor Students  
*Revise and Resubmit, Econometrica*

Yale University, Job Market Paper, 2013, updated March 2020

Approximating The Equilibrium Effects of Informed School Choice (August 2019)

*Revise and Resubmit, The Review of Economic Studies*

(with Claudia Allende and Francisco Gallego), IR Section WP No. 628

Equilibrium Effects of Asymmetric Information on Consumer Credit Markets

*Revise and Resubmit, Journal of Finance*

(with Andres Liberman and Seth Zimmerman), NBER Working Paper No. 25097

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

(with Franco Calle and Sebastian Gallegos) - Industrial Relations Section WP 636 Dec 2019

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

(with Adam Kapor and Mohit Karnani) - Industrial Relations Section WP 635 Dec 2019

The Effects of Earnings Disclosure on College Enrollment Decisions

(with Justine Hastings and Seth Zimmerman, NBER Working Paper No. 21300 (June 2015, update July 2017)

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

(with Justine Hastings and Seth Zimmerman), NBER Working Paper No. 19241 (July 2013)

The Effect of School Choice on Intrinsic Motivation and Academic Outcomes

(with Justine Hastings and Seth Zimmerman), NBER Working Paper No. 18324 (August 2012)

---

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Fiscal Rules as Social Insurance (2013)  
in book *Fiscal Policy and Macroeconomic Performance* (2013) edited by Luis Felipe Céspedes and Jordi Gali  
(with with Eduardo Engel and Rodrigo Valdes)

Poverty Dynamics in Chile 1996 – 2001 (2008)  
*Journal of Latin American Studies* Vol. 40, No. 2 (May, 2008), pp. 251-273  
(with Dante Contreras, Ryan Cooper and Jorge Herman)

Crecimiento Pro Pobre en Chile (*Pro poor growth in Chile*) (2008)  
*El Trimestre Económico* Vol. 75, No. 300(4) (Octubre-diciembre de 2008), pp. 931-944  
(with Dante Contreras and Ryan Cooper)

Another Passthrough Bites the Dust? Inflation and Oil Prices (2007)  
*ECONOMIA*, Journal of LACEA Vol. 7, No. 2 (Spring, 2007), pp. 155-208  
(with Jose De Gregorio and Oscar Landerretche)

Financial Diversification, Sudden Stops and Sudden Starts (2007)  
in Cowan, K., S. Edwards, and R. Valdes (eds.), *Current Account and External Finance*  
(with Jose De Gregorio, Kevin Cowan, Alejandro Micco)

---

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Centralized School Choice with Unequal Outside Options  
(with M. Akbarpour, A. Kapor, W. van Dijk and S. Zimmerman, first draft: September 2020)

Student Loans, Student Choices and the Market Structure of Higher Education  
(first presentation: September 2016)

Search Costs, Biased Beliefs and School Choice under Endogenously Limited Information  
(with Claudia Allende, Patrick Agte and Adam Kapor, first presented AEA 2020)

The Rise of Centralized Choice and Assignment Mechanisms in Education Markets Around the World  
(first presented June 2018)

Student Choices and the Return to College Major and Selectivity  
(with Justine Hastings and Seth Zimmerman, first presentation: October 2016)

General Equilibrium Effects of a Large Scale Public School Construction Project  
(with Michael Dinerstein and Sebastian Otero)

High-School Dropouts: Missing out or cutting losses?  
(with Nano Barahona, Sebastian Otero, and Christina Kent (September 2017)

Subjective Beliefs and Human Capital Investment Decisions in Dominican Republic  
(with James Berry, Lucas Coffman and Daniel Morales (first presentation: January 2016)

Teacher Wages, the Recruitment of Talent, and Academic Achievement in Rural Peru  
(with Camila Alva, Matteo Bobba, Gianmarco Leon, and Marco Nieddu, (October 2017)

Dynamic Complementarities of Information Interventions and Human Capital in Peru  
(with Francisco Gallego and Oswaldo Molina, first presented June 2017)

Perceived Own Ability, Information Provision and Formation in Dominican Republic  
(with James Berry, Sebastian Otero and Giacomo de Gigorgi)

---

## 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

*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

---

## **PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES**

*Founder and Interim CEO of ConsiliumBots 2018-*

Topics: Work with governments to design, test and implement smart platforms in education markets. Currently working with the governments of Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Chile, Ecuador, Peru and New Haven Public Schools in CT.

*Board Member and Founder of DataLAB Republica Dominicana 2019*

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

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

*Advisor to New Haven Public Schools. 2018-2020*

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

*Advisor to MINDUC, Chile of 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 department of the Ministry of Education*  
*Government of the Dominican Republic, 2014-2016*

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.

---

## 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.*

## Invited Presentations:

2020 **Invited Seminars:** MIT Economics; Harvard University (HKS); UCLA ; . . .

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

**Public Policy Talks :** Launch of *The Evidence Laboratory of the Cabinet for Social Policy Coordination of the government of the Dominican Republic*; . . .

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

---

**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;



---

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Excellence in Refereeing Award, American Economic Review, 2017

Best Graduate Student Advisor - Princeton University, 2016

Review of Economic Studies Tour, 2014

Distinguished Young Alumni *Joven Egresado Destacado*, 2014, University of Chile

George Trimis Prize for Distinguished Dissertation in Economics, Yale University, 2014

Northeast Rugby Championship and 3rd place at Nationals, All Black New Haven Rugby, 2014

Anderson Fellowship, Cowles Foundation, 2012

City of New Haven, Board of Aldermen Official Citation for Robotics Coaching Program, 2011

Distinction - Industrial Organization field examination, Yale University, 2010

*100 Young Leaders of Chile* El Mercurio 2007

Best Economics MA Student, Dept. of Economics, University of Chile 2006

Best Economics Student at graduation, University of Chile 2005

Alumni Association prize at graduation, University of Chile 2005

International Labor Organization (ILO) Undergraduate Thesis Fellowship, 2003

Athletic Scholarship-Rugby, Universidad de Chile 1999-2004

2nd Place-Chile U21, South American Rugby Championship, Asuncion, Paraguay 1998

7th Place-Chile U19, Junior Rugby World Cup, Toulouse, France 1998

Best Athlete, Saint George's College, Santiago, Chile 1998

Chilean National Rugby Team (U21), 1998-2002

Chilean National Rugby Team (U19), 1997-1998

## LANGUAGES

Native speaker of English and Spanish.