Diego Escobar Salce

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LinkedIn • Research Website • Chicago, U.S.

Economics | Machine Learning | Causal Inference

Tech-savvy economist with successive experience enacting all key facets of research projects, data science applications, market-level experimentations, and statistical modeling to drive evidence-based decision-making.

Education

Ph.D. in Public Policy
The University of Chicago, U.S., 2023

M.S. in Computational Analysis and Public Policy (MSCAPP)
The University of Chicago, U.S., 2023

M.A. in Economics (Financial Economics)
Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC), Santiago, Chile, 2014

B.A. in Economics + Business
Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC), Santiago, Chile, 2013

Areas of Expertise

Economic Analysis

Machine Learning Algorithms

Causal Inference

Experimental Analysis/RCTs

Econometrics/Statistical Analysis

Group-Level Effects Estimation

Full-Stack Data Science

Labor Economics

Data Analytics

Technical Proficiencies

Python | R | SQL | Stata | MATLAB | Java | Git |

Languages

English | **Fluent**
Spanish | **Native**
Portuguese | **Intermediate**

Qualifications Summary

- Highly analytical with proven ability in conducting research exploiting complex statistical and computational tools to answer real-world questions.
- Technically astute with in-depth knowledge of statistical methods, econometrics, microeconomics, and machine learning techniques, as well as various programming languages/software, including Python, R, SQL, Stata, and MATLAB.
- Demonstrated history of successfully collaborating with technical and non-technical partners conducting applied research to produce concrete recommendations.
- Proficient communicator with a solid track record of instructing students and securing performance bonuses by obtaining outstanding student reviews.

Career Experience

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL — 2017 – Present
Ph.D. Researcher

Steer end-to-end functions associated with the deployment of experimental and quasi-experimental methods to evaluate the contagion effect of peers on individuals. Successfully employ supervised machine learning to synchronize large and unconnected text data sources.

- Estimated direct and spillover distributional effects of school selectivity policies on students by exploiting experimental and quasi-experimental methodologies
- Constructed novel data sources by programming web scrapping scripts and using supervised machine learning techniques to link them to administrative data
- Instructed 12 Ph.D. and master's level courses in Econometrics/Statistics, and Microeconomics at the Harris School of Public Policy and Booth School of Business.
- Get to know my current research projects at https://descobarsalce.github.io

J-PAL Poverty Action Lab, Santiago, Chile — 2015 – 2017
Research Associate

Managed operations related to the design, development, and execution of individual/market-level experiments, including RCTs and A/B testing.

- Fostered productive relationships collaborating with technical and non-technical partners such as international organizations, ministries, and NGOs.
- Prepared and communicated high-quality reports for our partners to orchestrate results.

PUC Chile, Economics Department, Santiago, Chile — 2014 – 2015
Research Assistant

Measured labor force responses to government regulations by coding economic simulations in MATLAB.