Felipe Diaz Klaassen

Department of Economics
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
214 David Kinley Hall, Urbana IL 61801

Phone: (217) 979 6631
Email: diazkla2@illinois.edu
Website: https://sites.google.com/view/felipe-diaz-k

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2022 (Expected)

M.S., Economics, University of Chile, 2015, *Maximum Distinction*

B.S., Industrial Engineering, University of Chile, 2013, *Maximum Distinction*

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Labor Economics, Law and Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Secondary: Political Economy, Applied Econometrics

RESEARCH

Working Papers

"Crime and (Monetary) Punishment" (Job Market Paper)

This paper examines the effects of fines and court fees on re-offense among criminal defendants. There is limited causal evidence on the direct effects of monetary sanctions on crime, due to the fact that fines and fees are typically not levied randomly and are usually bundled with other penalties. I identify the causal effect of monetary sanctions by leveraging the quasi-random assignment of judges and isolate the effects of these fines and fees by studying low-level misdemeanors in North Carolina, where penalties are limited to fines and fees only. I find strong negative effects of fines and fees (deterrents) on recidivism, reducing the likelihood of a financially motivated offense, within two years of the crime, by 78 percent; effects are driven by defendants living in wealthier neighborhoods (105% decrease with respect to the sample mean). Fines and fees do not increase crime, even among the most poor. However, I do not have the statistical power to reject large criminogenic effects for this group and I do find evidence of increased financial distress for them.

"Quorum Rules in a Multiple-Issue Referendum" (with Ricardo Piqué)

Quorum rules are commonly used to address the problem of low turnout in referenda. For single-issue referenda, the literature has argued that these do not serve their purpose as they increase the incentive to abstain. In this paper, we analyze the effect of quorum rules in a two-issue referendum, ethical voter model in which two political groups support different propositions. Unlike the single-issue case, the impact of quorum rules is not always negative and depends on the characteristics of the quorum rule and other electoral parameters. The findings can account for previously unexplained results in the empirical literature.

Work in Progress

"Driving Nowhere: the Effects of Driver's License Suspensions"

"Time to Trial: The Role of a Deadline in Plea Bargaining"

"Value-Added in the Criminal Justice System" (with Rebecca Thornton)

"Police Violence and Crime" (with Jennifer Doleac, Anna Kyriazis, and Kelsey Pukelis)

"Conflict and Intergenerational Impacts" (with Richard Akresh)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Graduate Fellowship. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	2015 - 2016
Research Fellowship. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	Summer 2017
List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent	Spring 2017

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Research Assistant to Professor Julian Reif — Fall 2020
Implement dynamic health production model to predict evolution over time of health and mortality rates (Constrained optimization; R, Matlab).

Research Assistant to Professor Rebecca Thornton — Summer 2020
Built and geocoded panel dataset of FOIA'd firearms licenses and web-scraped gun-related accidents. Data analysis and visualization for project studying the effects of gun shop closures (Python, Stata).

Research Assistant to Professor Peter Christensen — Summer 2019
Data analysis and spatial visualization for projects studying speed-limit enforcement using traffic cameras and subsidies on ride-hailing services (R, Python, Stata, GIS).

Research Assistant to Professor Richard Akresh — Summer 2016
Data analysis for project studying the impact of civil conflict on children's schooling (Inference with few clusters: wild cluster bootstrap/score bootstrap; Stata).

Superintendency of Banks and Financial Institutions

Professional Internship — 2013–2014
Implement stress-testing model to assess risk exposure of the banking system to different types of shocks (Stata)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Big Data Analytics (Graduate), Teaching Assistant to David Molitor and Julian Reif — 2020–2022
Topics: data visualization, regression analysis, randomized trials, LASSO, Trees, Random Forests, Boosting, Neural Networks, A/B testing, R programming within AWS.

Principles of Microeconomics (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant to Jose Vazquez — 2016–2019

SKILLS

Computational: R (Advanced), Stata (Advanced), Python, Matlab, Java, SQL

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent), Catalan (intermediate)

REFERENCES

Professor Rebecca Thornton	Professor Alexander Bartik	Professor Benjamin Marx
UIUC, Department of Economics	UIUC, Department of Economics	UIUC, Department of Economics
rebeccat@illinois.edu	abartik@illinois.edu	benmarx@illinois.edu