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, 2014, *Maximum Distinction*

B.S. and M.S., Industrial Engineering, University of Chile, 2012, *Maximum Distinction*

RESEARCH FIELDS

Primary: Labor Economics, Law and Economics, Applied Microeconomics

Secondary: Applied Econometrics, Political Economy

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 increase turnout in referenda. The literature has argued that, a in single-issue referendum, these may actually increase the incentive to abstain among status-quo supporters. In this paper, we extend the ethical voter framework to analyze the effect of quorum rules when each of two political groups supports a different ballot measure. We show that bundling these two propositions in a single ballot can mitigate strategic abstention and help sustain no-quorum rules levels of turnout. This holds for both approval and participation quorum rules, which we show produce equivalent changes in voting behavior under both a single and a two-issue setting. Overall, our results show how the effects of referendum features such as ballot-measure bundling and quorum rules are interdependent.

Work in Progress

"Time to Trial: Plea Bargaining with a Deadline"

"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

Gathered (through FOIAS) and built panel dataset of Federal Firearms Licenses. Webscraped and built panel dataset on 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 and 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, machine learning, A/B testing, R programming within AWS

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

University of Chile

Economics (Undergraduate), Teaching Assistant to Matteo Triossi   2013–2014

SKILLS

Computational: Stata, Python, R, AWS, Matlab, Java, PHP, GIS

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