

Felipe Diaz Klaassen

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2023 (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 causal effect of fines and court fees on criminal reoffending for low-level misdemeanants by leveraging the quasi-random assignment of judges in North Carolina. I find strong deterrent effects, with the imposition of any fines or fees reducing the likelihood of reoffending by 9 percentage points within two years of the original offense. Treatment effects are weakly negative for almost all defendant types, contradicting the hypothesis that financial obligations induce poorer defendants to engage in crimes entailing economic gains, although I do find evidence of increased financial distress for poorer defendants. Reductions in recidivism are driven almost entirely by defendants living in wealthier neighborhoods and first time defendants. Using generic machine learning methods to fully characterize treatment effect heterogeneity, I compare alternative allocations of fines and court fees and find significant improvements in reducing reoffending by 20% when prioritizing fines and fees to wealthier defendants.

"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

"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 Alexander Bartik Summer 2021
Spatial analysis and heterogeneous treatment effects estimation using various Metalearners (S-, T-, X-, and R-Learners) as well as RATE metrics to compare different treatment allocation schemes (R).
- 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).

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

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| Professor Rebecca Thornton
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rebeccat@illinois.edu | Professor Alexander Bartik
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