

# FRANCISCO PARDO

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of Texas at Austin	May 2026 (Expected)
B.A., Economics, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú	2011

## RESEARCH FIELDS

Applied Microeconomics: Labor Economics, Economics of Education

## REFERENCES

Leigh Linden (Co-Chair)  
Department of Economics  
University of Texas at Austin  
leigh.linden@austin.utexas.edu

Scott Carrell (Co-Chair)  
Department of Economics  
University of Texas at Austin  
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Richard Murphy  
Department of Economics  
University of Texas at Austin  
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C. Kirabo Jackson  
Department of Economics  
Northwestern University  
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## PUBLICATIONS

### **What is a Good School, and Can Parents Tell? Evidence on the Multidimensionality of School Output**

(with Diether Beuermann, C. Kirabo Jackson, and Laia Navarro-Sola)

*Review of Economic Studies*, June 2022

## WORKING PAPERS AND SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

### **When the Household Becomes the School: Siblings, Parental Attention, and School Closures**

*Job Market Paper*

This paper examines how family structure affects educational outcomes when unexpected shocks dramatically increase parental time requirements for children's learning. Using administrative and survey data from Peru, I employ a difference-in-differences strategy that compares children with siblings to children without siblings before, during, and after school closures caused by COVID-19. Students with siblings experienced significantly larger learning losses of up to 0.06 standard deviations in GPA and 0.04 standard deviations in standardized exam scores, with effects intensifying as the number of siblings increased. Instrumental variable estimates using the same-sex instrument, which exogenously shifts family size, yield similar results. These differential impacts persist after schools reopened and appear across diverse subpopulations. Evidence points to parental time constraints as the primary mechanism. Effects are largest during primary education when parental investment matters most and among higher socioeconomic status families, who typically invest more time in their children. A regression discontinuity design based on the school starting age of the youngest sibling provides further evidence of the costs associated with increased childcare responsibilities. Households without a computer or a phone with internet access show similar results, which suggest that competition for scarce technological resources is not the main channel. Consistent with these results, parents of students with siblings also lowered their expectations that their children will attain higher education by 1 percentage point. Overall, these findings reveal fundamental insights about family resource allocation under stress. When external educational support disappears, the dilution of parental time across multiple children generates substantial disadvantages for larger families.

## **Long-Run Experimental Impacts of the “One Laptop Per Child” Program in Peru**

(with Diether Beuermann, Julian Cristia, Santiago Cueto and Ofer Malamud)

*Conditionally accepted at the Journal of Public Economics*

This paper examines a large-scale randomized evaluation of the One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) program in 531 rural primary schools, as implemented by Peru starting in 2009. We use administrative data on academic achievement and grade progression through 2019 to estimate the long-run effects of greater computer access on i) school performance over time and ii) students' educational trajectories from primary school to university. Results suggest negative effects on grade progression and no improvement in academic achievement for treated schools over time. In turn, treated students had lower on-time primary and secondary completion, no higher academic achievement in secondary school, and no significant differences in university enrollment. Survey data from 2013 indicate that computer access significantly improved students' computer skills but not their cognitive skills; treated teachers received some training but did not improve their digital skills and showed limited use of technology in classrooms, suggesting the need for additional pedagogical support.

## **Sibling Spillovers on Education Trajectories**

Family and social networks play a critical role in shaping educational decisions, with sibling influence being particularly significant. This paper examines the spillover effects of older siblings' college admission on the educational trajectories of their younger siblings, from school performance and completion to college application decisions and outcomes during both the admissions process and college attendance. I leverage admission cutoffs in Peru's decentralized public college system, where each institution administers its own entrance exam and application process, to isolate exogenous variation in college entry. The results show that younger siblings improve their academic performance in school and are significantly more likely to apply to four-year colleges when an older sibling is admitted. Using complementary survey data, I find that increased parental expectations are a key channel driving these effects. These findings suggest that in environments where college access is limited and admission processes are complex, siblings play an especially important role in bridging information gaps and serving as aspirational role models.

## **The Effect of Partisan Poll Watchers in Presidential Runoff Elections: 3 Close Elections in Peru**

The legitimacy of election results is key to democracy and political stability, and party poll watchers play an important role in this. I study elections in Peru, where parties are allowed to assign poll watchers to monitor the electoral process and vote count. I find effects of up to 0.3 percentage points on the vote margin, significant in an election won by less than 0.5%. I also find evidence of smaller but significant cross-party effects and poll watchers' effect cancel each other out when both are present. Once I control for site-fixed effects, poll watchers assignment behaves as if random, which is tested using results from a first round two months earlier with the same group of voters but no poll watchers. Finally, the results are consistent with poll watchers influencing invalid votes, especially by making votes for their party count. There is some suggestive evidence that poll watchers play a role in preventing fraud when in areas dominated by the rival party.

## **Joint Decisions Over Health Insurance: Spouses in the ACA and Medicare Part D**

## **Spillovers of Going to a Better School on Older and Younger Siblings**

(with Diether Beuermann, Patricio Dominguez, C. Kirabo Jackson and Diego Vera-Cossio)

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Research assistant at the Inter-American Development Bank.	2016-2020
Research assistant and Consultant	2012-2016
(International Labour Organization, Group of Analysis for Development, Ministries of Education & Production)	

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Introduction to Microeconomics (Assistant Instructor)	Summer 2022, 2023, 2024
Introduction to Microeconomics (TA to Prof. Dirk Mateer)	Spring 2021
Microeconomic Theory (TA to Prof. Gerald Oettinger)	Fall 2021, 2022
Development Economics (TA to Prof. Leigh Linden)	Spring 2022, Spring 2023-Fall 2025

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Southern Economics Association	2023, 2025
Texas Applied Microeconomics Student Workshop	2023, 2024, 2025
Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference [Poster]	2023, 2025

## WORKSHOPS

Price Theory Summer Camp (organized by Kevin Murphy)	2023
Russell Sage SI in Behavioral Economics (organized by David Laibson and Matthew Rabin)	2022
UC Davis Summer School on the Economics of Migration (organized by Giovanni Peri)	2022

## HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Research Excellence Award by the Peruvian Economic Association	2024
Fellowship from the Economics Department at UT-Austin	2020-2026
Prima AFP Excellence Award for outstanding academic performance	2012

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee for <i>Economics of Education Review</i>	
Founder and Organizer of the 1st Texas Applied Microeconomics Student Workshop	2023

## PROGRAMMING AND LANGUAGES

Programming: Stata (Proficient), Python, R, LaTeX  
Languages: English (Fluent), Spanish (Native)