

# 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

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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

Abstract: To explore whether schools' causal impacts on test scores measure their overall impact on students, we exploit plausibly exogenous school assignments and data from Trinidad and Tobago to estimate the causal impacts of individual schools on several outcomes. Schools' impacts on high-stakes tests are weakly related to impacts on important outcomes such as arrests, dropout, teen motherhood, and formal labor-market participation. To examine if parents' school preferences are related to these causal impacts, we link them to parents' ranked lists of schools and employ discrete-choice models to infer preferences for schools. Parents choose schools that improve high-stakes tests even conditional on peer quality and average outcomes. Parents also choose schools that reduce criminality and teen motherhood, and increase labor-market participation. School choices among parents of low-achieving students are relatively more strongly related to schools' impacts on non-test-score outcomes, while the opposite is true for parents of high-achieving students. These results suggest that evaluations based solely on test scores may be misleading about the benefits of school choice (particularly for low-achieving students), and education interventions more broadly.

## **WORKING PAPERS AND SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS**

### **When the Household Becomes the School: Sibling Effects on Parental Attention and Educational Outcomes During 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 only children 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 exams, with effects intensifying as the number of siblings increased. 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 the most and in families with higher socio-economic resources who tend to spend more time with their children. Households without PC or phone with internet show similar results which suggests siblings are not competing for access to resources. Regression discontinuity and IV approaches provide further evidence of the negative cost of increased childcare and family size. Consistent with these results, parents of students with siblings also reduced their expectations that their children will achieve higher education by up to 3.2 percentage points. Overall, these findings reveal fundamental insights about family resource allocation under stress. When external education support disappears, the dilution of parental time across multiple children creates 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)

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 playing a role in preventing fraud when in areas dominated by the rival party.

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

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

## **Complementarities of Joint Decisions Over Health Insurance within a Household: Evidence from Medicare Part D**

### **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, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Production)	

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

93rd Southern Economics Association	2023
Texas Applied Microeconomics Student Workshop	2023, 2024, 2025
Stata Texas Empirical Microeconomics Conference [Poster]	2023, 2025

### **HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

Research Excellence Award by the Peruvian Economic Association	2024
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
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)