

## **JEAN-LOUIS BARNWELL**

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### **PLACEMENT DIRECTORS**

Prof. Francesco Amodio	<a href="mailto:francesco.amodio@mcgill.ca">francesco.amodio@mcgill.ca</a>	(514) 398-2184
Prof. Francisco Alvarez-Cuadrado	<a href="mailto:francisco.alvarez-cuadrado@mcgill.ca">francisco.alvarez-cuadrado@mcgill.ca</a>	(514) 398-8804

### **EDUCATION**

Ph.D.	Economics, McGill University, expected May 2022
M.S.	Economics, Université de Sherbrooke, 2015
B.S.	Economics, Université de Sherbrooke, 2013

### **FIELDS OF SPECIALIZATION**

Primary: Child Development and Household Economics  
Secondary: Applied Econometrics and Real Estate

### **DISSERTATION**

*Essays on the Determinants of Children's Cognitive Skill Formation*  
Committee: Prof. Fabian Lange (Chair), Prof. Saraswata Chauduri, Prof. Theodore Papageorgiou

### **JOB MARKET PAPER**

“Parental Investment and the Birth Order Gap in Cognitive Skill Formation: The Role of Resource Dilution”

Siblings compete for limited parental time and financial resources, so that investments available to each child decline as the number of children in the family increases. This resource dilution is present for secondborns throughout their life, whereas firstborns have the natural advantage of experiencing a period alone with parents. This paper shows that resource dilution is a quantitatively convincing mechanism to explain why firstborn children tend to outperform their secondborn siblings on cognitive exams. Using a framework similar to Del Boca, Flinn, and Wiswall (2014), structural estimates of the child quality production function suggest an extra (counterfactual) year alone with parents for the firstborn leads to a 0.12 standard deviation increase of the birth order gap in child quality between the ages of 6 and 12. This effect accounts for a little over 1/3 of the observed gap in cognitive ability test scores for a US representative sample of two-child families of white mothers from the (C)NLSY79. Investment spillovers between siblings add to the dynamic impacts of resource dilution and make the uplift of the firstborn's relative position persist over time.

### **OTHER RESEARCH PAPERS**

“[A Note on Efficient Estimation with Monotonically Missing-At-Random Data](#),” submitted, with Saraswata Chauduri

“Directed Search in the Housing Market with Public Valuations,” work in progress, with Jean-François Fournel

[“A Review of Parametric Doubly-Robust Estimators using Missing-At-Random Data,”](#) [Non-Technical Review], submitted, with Saraswata Chauduri

“On the Racial Gap in Achievement Test Scores: Birth order and Parental Investment”, work in progress

[“Effects of Categorization Method, Regression Type, and Variable Distribution on the Inflation of Type-I Error Rate when Categorizing a Confounding Variable,”](#) *Statistics in Medicine*, 34(6), 936-949, 2015

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Introductory Econometrics (undergraduate), McGill University, Fall 2018  
Teaching Assistant, Introductory Micro (undergraduate), McGill University, Spring 2019-Present  
Teaching Assistant, Econometrics (first year Ph.D.), McGill University, Fall 2017  
Teaching Assistant, Quantitative Methods (M.A.), McGill University, Fall 2017  
Teaching Assistant, Introductory Macro (undergraduate), McGill University, Fall 2015-Spring 2016

## RESEARCH AND RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Prof. Saraswata Chauduri, McGill University, Spring 2017–Spring 2019  
Research Assistant, Prof. Fabian Lange, McGill University, Fall 2017  
Research Assistant, Prof. Theodore Papageorgiou, McGill University, Spring 2017-Fall 2017  
Economic Consultant (Intern), E.C.A. Economics, Berlin, Summer 2016

## GRANTS AND AWARDS

SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship, 2018-2020  
FQRSC Doctoral Research Scholarship (ranked 1st among applications in Economics), 2018-2020  
Third Year Paper Award, McGill University, Fall 2018

## LANGUAGES

French (native), English (fluent)

## COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

Matlab, R, Stata

## REFERENCES

Prof. Fabian Lange	McGill University	<a href="mailto:fabian.lange@mcgill.ca">fabian.lange@mcgill.ca</a> (514) 398-4400 Ext. 09358
Prof. Saraswata Chauduri	McGill University	<a href="mailto:saraswata.chauduri@mcgill.ca">saraswata.chauduri@mcgill.ca</a> (514) 398-1033
Prof. Theodore Papageorgiou	Boston College	<a href="mailto:theodore.papageorgiou@bc.edu">theodore.papageorgiou@bc.edu</a> (617) 552-3786