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Personal Information

Date of Birth: February 20th, 1989
Citizenship: Colombian
Gender: Male

Pre-doctoral Studies

B.A. Economics, Universidad del Rosario, 2009
B.A. Finance and International Trade, Universidad del Rosario, 2010
M.A. Economics, Brown University, 2013

Doctoral Studies

Brown University, 2012 to present
Ph.D. Candidate in Economics
Thesis Title: Essays on Minimum Wages and Local Labor Market Policies
Expected Completion Date: May 2018

References

Professor Matthew Turner	Professor Pascal Michaillat	Professor John Friedman
Department of Economics	Department of Economics	Department of Economics
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Teaching and Research Fields

Primary field: Urban Economics
Secondary fields: Labor Economics, Public Economics

Teaching Experience

Summer, 2017	Intermediate Microeconomics , Universidad del Rosario
Summer, 2017	Econometrics, Pre-College Program, Brown University
Summer, 2016	Econometrics. Pre-College Program. Brown University
2014	Graduate Applied Econometrics, Brown University, TA for Professor Kenneth Chay
2010	Microeconomic Analysis, Undergraduate, Universidad del Rosario
2009-2016	Stata Instructor, Software Shop, Bogotá, Colombia
2005-2009	Time Series Econometrics, Introductory Econometrics, Microeconomics, Statistics, Introduction to Economics, Undergraduate, Universidad del Rosario, teaching assistant

Research Experience and Other Employment

Summer 2015	London School of Economics, visiting postgraduate researcher, London, UK
Summer 2014	Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Nathaniel Hilger, Providence RI, USA
Summer 2014	Short Term Consultant, World Bank Poverty Gender and Equity Group, Washington DC, USA
Summer 2013	Brown University, Research Assistant for Professor Nathaniel Baum-Snow, Providence RI, USA
2010-2012	Inter-American Development Bank, Research Fellow, Washington DC, USA
2008-2010	Universidad del Rosario, Research Assistant, Department of Economics, Bogotá, Colombia

Honors and distinctions

2017 Dissertation completion award. Brown University
2012 Fulbright Beca Francisco Jose de Caldas Grant, Fulbright Commission and Colciencias
2009-10 Excellence for best GPA in Finance, Class of 2010 and Economics, Class of 2009. Universidad del Rosario

Publications

Articles

Cortés, Darwin and Pérez, Jorge (2010). "El Consumo de los Hogares Colombianos, 2006-2007: Estimación de Sistemas de Demanda". *Desarrollo Y Sociedad* 66: 7-44. (Link)

Policy Briefs

Fernández-Arias, Eduardo and Pérez, Jorge (2014). "Grading Fiscal Policy in Latin America in the Last Decade". IDB Policy Brief 216. Inter-American Development Bank. (Link)

Presentations

2017 American Association of Geographers, Brown Applied Micro Lunch, Universidad Javeriana Urban Workshop, Urban Economics Association (Scheduled)
2016 World Bank, National Tax Association, Brown Applied Micro Lunch
2015 LACEA Annual Meeting
2014 Brown, Winter GIS Institute
2010 II Congress of Colombian Economics, VII National Microeconomics Symposium
2009 Dynamics, Economic Growth and International Trade DEGIT XIV

Professional Service

Referee: Journal of Urban Economics (4), Cuadernos de Economia (2), Stata Journal (2), Ensayos de Economia (1)

Research Papers

City Minimum Wages (Job Market Paper)

Local minimum wage laws are becoming common across U.S. cities, and their effects may be different from the effects of state or nationwide minimum wage policies. This paper studies the effect of changes in the minimum wage on spatial equilibriums in local labor markets. Using residence and workplace data for the United States, I analyze how commuting, residence, and employment locations change across city and state borders if the minimum wage changes on one side of the border. I find that areas in which the minimum wage increases receive fewer low-wage commuters. A 10 percent increase in the minimum wage reduces the inflow of low-wage commuters by about 3 percent. Rises in the minimum wage are also associated with employment relocation across borders toward areas that did not witness an increase in the minimum wage. I formulate a spatial equilibrium gravity model to explain the distribution of workers between low- and high-minimum wage areas. I calculate counterfactual equilibriums with a higher minimum wage for U.S. cities that are considering an increase, highlighting the role of commuting and migration responses. About two-thirds of the cities considering increases would receive fewer low-wage commuters. These commuting losses are driven by employment relocations and are similar to those suggested by the reduced form analysis.

Minimum Wages in Formal and Informal Sectors: Evidence from the Colombian crisis (Link)

I estimate the effect of the minimum wage on formal wages, informal wages and employment in Colombia. I exploit an unexpected increase in the real minimum wage during the 1999 Colombian economic crisis to estimate short-term effects of the minimum wage along the distribution of wages in both sectors. I find evidence of wage responses, with a stronger incidence in the formal sector. Markets with a 10 % higher incidence of the minimum wage, measured by the number of workers affected, experienced wage increases of 4 % and 1.3 % in the formal and informal sector, respectively. I find negative employment effects on the informal sector, but no employment effects on the formal sector, and a lack of pass-through across sectors. My results suggest that minimum wages affect the informal labor market directly and not through the formal sector.

Unpacking the MPI: a Decomposition Approach of Changes in Multidimensional Poverty Headcounts (With Carlos Rodríguez-Castelán, José Daniel Trujillo and Daniel Valderrama) (Link)

Multidimensional measures of poverty have become standard as complementary indicators of poverty in many countries. Multidimensional poverty calculations typically comprise three indices: the multidimensional headcount, the average deprivation share among the poor, and the adjusted headcount ratio. While several decomposition methodologies are available for the last index, less attention has been paid to decomposing the multidimensional headcount, despite the attention

it receives from policy makers. This paper proposes an application of existing methodologies that decompose welfare aggregates—based on counterfactual simulations—to break up the changes of the multidimensional poverty headcount into the variation attributed to each of its dimensions. This paper examines the potential issues of using counterfactual simulations in this framework, proposes approaches to assess these issues in real applications, and suggests a methodology based on rank preservation within strata, which performs positively in simulations. The methodology is applied in the context of the recent reduction of multidimensional poverty in Colombia, finding that the dimensions associated with education and health are the main drivers behind the poverty decline.

Research Papers in Progress

The Efficacy of Hiring Credits in Distressed Areas (with Michael Suher)

We analyze the efficacy of hiring tax credits, particularly in distressed labor markets. These types of programs have proven hard to assess as their introduction at the state level tends to be endogenous to local conditions and future prospects. We conduct an empirical study of a hiring tax credit program implemented in North Carolina in the mid-1990s, which has a quasi-experimental design. Specifically, the 100 counties in the state are ranked each year by a formula trying to capture their economic distress level. The generosity of the tax credits jumps discontinuously at various ranking thresholds. We estimate the impact of the credits using difference in differences and regression discontinuity methods. Our estimates show positive impacts on employment levels of around 3% and fairly sizable impacts on unemployment - a $10,000 credit leads to a 0.7 percentage point reduction in the unemployment rate.