

JUAN PASCUAL

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University of Barcelona, John M. Keynes 1-11, (08034)

EDUCATION

University of Barcelona	2024 - 2028 (expected)
PhD Candidate in Economics	
Thesis committee: Jennifer Ruiz-Valenzuela & Daniel Montolio	
Barcelona School of Economics	2021
MSc in Economics	
University of Valencia	2016 - 2020
BSc in Economics – Summa Cum Laude (Top 1%)	
Exchange: University of Bristol (UK) and Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Spain)	

AFFILIATIONS

Barcelona Institute of Economics (IEB)	2024 -
Affiliated Researcher	
Laboratorio de Oportunidades (Spanish Opportunity Lab)	2025 -
Affiliated Researcher	
Future Policy Lab	2024 -
Research Fellow	

FIELDS OF INTEREST

Primary: Economics of Education
Secondary: Intergenerational Mobility, Economics of Crime

WORK IN PROGRESS

From Detention to Prevention: Firm-Based Vocational Education and Crime. (with Montolio, D. & Ruiz-Valenzuela, J.)

This paper examines the impact of an innovative firm-based vocational training program (DVT) on youth crime rates in Catalonia. Exploiting the staggered geographical implementation of DVT, which emphasizes extensive on-the-job training in companies relative to regular school-based vocational training, we use a Difference-in-Differences approach to estimate causal effects. Leveraging detailed administrative education and geolocated crime data, our analysis reveals that increased availability of firm-based vocational training significantly reduces local youth crime rates.

Reshuffling the Desks? Affirmative Action, Segregation, and Educational Attainment (with Oberhuemer C. & Quintana S.)

Barcelona's 2019 admission quotas reserve seats for socioeconomically vulnerable students in each public and charter school. We estimate impacts on school segregation, parental applications, and achievement-parental education gradients using difference-in-differences and a structural model of school and neighborhood choice. Preliminary results show sizable reductions in segregation as schools converge to quota targets, but higher vulnerable student shares lead to fewer applications.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2025** 19th North American Meeting of the Urban Economics Association (UEA);
Second Freiburg PhD-Workshop on the Economics of Criminal Behavior
- 2024** UB PhD Applied Student Seminar; BSE Jamboree; UB Internal Applied Seminar

REFERENCES

Jennifer Ruiz-Valenzuela

Associate Professor at Universitat de Barcelona
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Daniel Montolio

Full Professor at Universitat de Barcelona
montolio@ub.edu

Santiago Reyes

Economist at The World Bank
sreyesortega@ifc.org

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The World Bank	2023 - 2025
Field Coordinator	
International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)	2023 - 2024
Research Consultant	
Knowledge Sharing Network (KSNET)	2022 - 2023
Research Economist	
University of Zurich	2021 - 2022
Pre-Doctoral Fellow	
Supervisors: Bruno Caprettini & Hans-Joachim Voth	
University of Valencia	2020
Research Assistant	
Supervisor: Luis Miguel Granero	
University of Bristol	2019
Research Assistant	
Supervisor: Gianluca Veronesi	

TEACHING

Universitat de Barcelona	2024 - 2025
Teaching Assistant – Spanish Economy (undergraduate)	

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Referee for Journal of Policy Evaluation

GRANTS AND HONOURS

FPU Scholarship – Spanish Ministry of Universities	2024 -
Extraordinary Degree Award – University of Valencia	2020
Undergraduate Scholarship – Ministry of Education	2016
Honors Distinction – High School Graduation	2016

MISCELLANEOUS

Citizenship Spanish

Languages Spanish (native), Catalan (native), English (fluent), French (intermediate)

Software Stata, Python, R, ArcGIS, L^AT_EX

Updated January 2026