

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 ^A T _E X

Updated January 2026