

### Laia Navarro-Sola

Languages

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Fields	Development, Labor, Education				
Education	Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University  *Dissertation: Essays on Human Capital in Developing Countries  *Committee: Matthew Notowidigdo (Co-Chair), Christopher Udry (Co-Chair),  *Seema Jayachandran, Jonathan Guryan*				
	M.A., Economics, Northwestern University				
	M.A., Economics, Barcelona Graduate School of Economics			2014	
	B.A., Economics, Pompeu Fabra University				
Fellowships &	Northwestern University Dissertation Fellowship			2019–2020	
Awards	Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award			2018	
	Susan Schmidt Bies Prize for Research on Economics and Public Policy				
	La Caixa Foundation Doctoral Fellowship			2014–2016	
	SEBAP Master Fellowship		2013–2014		
	Caixa Manresa Undergradua	nte Fellowship		2009–2010	
Teaching Experience	Teaching Assistant, Northwe				
	Economics of Education, Prof. Scott Ogawa Economic Development in Africa, Prof. Christopher Udry			Spring 2018	
	Economics of Developin		•	Winter 2018 Fall 2017	
Research Experience	Research Intern, Innovations	s for Poverty Action, Gl	nana	Summer 2017	
	Research Assistant, Prof. Ki	search Assistant, Prof. Kirabo Jackson, Northwestern University			
	External Consultant, Powerl	ternal Consultant, PowerMyLearning 201			
	Research Assistant, Prof. Caterina Calsamiglia, Autonomous University of Barcelona 2012				
Presentations	2019: Bank of Mexico (scheduled), NEUDC, Northwestern University, APPAM International				
Refereeing	American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Journal of Human Resources				
Other	Empirics and Methods in Economics (EMCON) Conference Organizer,			2016, 2017	
	Northwestern University and University of Chicago				
	Development Lunch Seminar Organizer, Northwestern University			Fall 2017	
	Member of the Human Capi	tal and Economics Opp	ortunity (HCEO) gro	oup 2016–present	

Spanish (native), Catalan (native), English (fluent), French (basic)

#### Job Market Paper

## "Secondary School Expansion through Televised Lessons: The Labor Market Returns of the Mexican Telesecundaria"

In areas where there is an insufficient supply of qualified teachers, delivering instruction through technology may be a solution to meet the demand for education. This paper analyzes the educational and labor market impacts of an expansion of junior secondary education in Mexico through telesecundarias—schools using televised lessons, currently serving 1.4 million students. To isolate the effects of telesecundarias, I exploit their staggered rollout from 1968 to present. I show that for every additional telesecundaria per 50 children, ten students enroll in junior secondary education and two pursue further education. Using the telesecundaria expansion as an instrument, I find that an additional year of education induced by telesecundaria enrollment increases average income by 17.6%. This increase in income comes partly from increased labor force participation and a shift away from agriculture and the informal sector. Since schooling decisions are sequential, the estimated returns combine the direct effect of attending telesecundarias and the effects of further schooling. I decompose these two effects by interacting the telesecundaria expansion with baseline access to upper secondary institutions. Roughly 84% of the estimated returns come directly from junior secondary education, while the remaining 16% are returns to higher educational levels.

### Working papers

# "What is a Good School, and Can Parents Tell? Evidence on the Multidimensionality of School Output" with Diether W. Beuermann, C. Kirabo Jackson and Francisco Pardo (Submitted)

Is a school's impact on high-stakes test scores a good measure of its overall impact on students? Do parents value school impacts on tests, longer-run outcomes, or both? To answer the first question, we exploit quasi-random school assignments and data from Trinidad and Tobago. We construct exogenous instruments for each individual school and estimate the causal impacts of individual schools on several short- and longer-run outcomes. Schools' impacts on high-stakes tests are weakly related to impacts on low-stakes tests, dropout, crime, teen motherhood, and formal labor market participation. To answer the second question, we link estimated school impacts to parents' ranked lists of schools. We propose a modified multinomial logit model that allows one to infer preferences for school attributes even in some settings where choices are strategic. Parents of higher-achieving students value schools that improve high-stakes test scores conditional on average outcomes, proximity, and even peer quality. Parents also value schools that reduce crime and increase formal labor market participation. Most parents' preferences for school impacts on labor-market and crime outcomes are, as strong, or stronger than those for test scores. These results provide a potential explanation for recent findings that parent preferences are not strongly related to test-score impacts. They also suggest that evaluations based solely on test scores may be very misleading about the welfare effects of school choice.

### **Work in Progress**

## "Capturing the malleability of social and interpersonal skills in educational and organizational settings" with Caterina Calsamiglia

*Brief abstract:* It has been demonstrated that good social and interpersonal skills foster academic success and adaptation to the labor market, and help improve the individual's wellbeing throughout life. The main challenge is to find objective measures of these non-cognitive skills that can be used extensively to test the malleability of such traits. The first purpose of this study is to develop a set of measures that can be implemented on large populations and that have predictive power on future schooling and life outcomes. The second objective of this study is to provide evidence on the best performing practices to develop good social and interpersonal skills in educational and organizational environments, both in developed and developing country settings.

### "The Effects of School Discipline: Evidence from North Carolina" with Samuel Norris

*Brief abstract:* Overly harsh discipline practices (particularly zero-tolerance policies) may harm children by reducing instructional time, inducing dropout, and bringing children into contact with law enforcement. Conversely, non-punished students may benefit from fewer classroom distractions. We study the effect of discipline policies using principal moves between schools as an instrument for school discipline levels. We find that harsher principals reduce test scores for students near the margin of punishment, but have no effect on students unlikely to misbehave.

### References

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