

Laia Navarro-Sola

Languages

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Economics

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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 B.A., Economics, Pompeu Fabra University			2016	
				2014	
				2013	
Fellowships &	Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award			2018	
Awards	Susan Schmidt Bies Prize for Research on Economics and Public Policy			2017	
	La Caixa Foundation Doctoral Fellowship			2014–2016	
	SEBAP Master Fellowship			2013–2014	
	Caixa Manresa Undergradua	ate Fellowship		2009–2010	
Teaching Experience	Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University Economics of Education, Prof. Scott Ogawa Economic Development in Africa, Prof. Christopher Udry Economics of Developing Countries, Prof. Seema Jayachandran			Spring 2018 Winter 2018	
	Economics of Developing	ig Countries, Prof. Seem	a Jayachandran	Fall 2017	
Research Experience	Research Intern, Innovations for Poverty Action Ghana			Summer 2017	
	Research Assistant, Prof. K	irabo Jackson, Northwest	tern University	Fall 2016–Spring 2017	
	External Consultant, PowerMyLearning			2016	
	Research Assistant, Prof. Caterina Calsamiglia, Autonomous University of Barcelona 20			of Barcelona 2012	
Presentations	2019: Bank of Mexico (scheduled), NEUDC (scheduled), Northwestern University, APPAM International				
Refereeing	American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, Journal of Human Resources				
Other	Empirics and Methods in Ec Northwestern University			2016, 2017	
	Development Lunch Seminar Organizer, Northwestern University		Fall 2017		
	Member of the Human Capi	•	•		

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"

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

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 high-stakes 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 and employ discrete choice models to estimate parental preferences. Parents value schools that causally improve high-stakes test scores conditional on average outcomes, proximity, and peer quality. Consistent with parents valuing the multidimensional output of schools, parents also prefer schools that increase formal labor market participation and those that reduce crime.

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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