

# MAGDALENA BENNETT

Last updated: July 2022

## Summary

Assistant Professor in the Statistics Group at McCombs School of Business, the University of Texas at Austin.

Research interests in **statistical methodologies for causal inference**, and how new techniques can be applied to the fields of **economics of education, health, and poverty**.

## Contact information

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Present  
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2020

### Assistant Professor

IROM Department, McCombs School of Business, the University of Texas at Austin

Present  
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2022

### Research Affiliate

Learning Collider



## EDUCATION

2020  
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2015

### PhD., Economics and Education

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

2014  
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2013

### MSc. Social Policy (Research)

London School of Economics, *Merit Distinction*, London UK

2012  
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2010

### MSc. Engineering Science (Applied Microeconomics)

P. Universidad Catolica, *Maximum Distinction*, Santiago, Chile

2010  
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2005

### BS. Industrial Engineering

P. Universidad Catolica, *Maximum Distinction*, Santiago, Chile



## AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

2022

### Research Excellence Grant (\$20,000)

The University of Texas at Austin & Herb Kelleher Entrepreneurship Center

· Bennett, M., Fuchs, W., and Millan, J. "Determinants of Success in the Context of Microcredits"

2019

### Distinguished Student Paper Award

ENAR International Biometrics Society

· Bennett, M., Vielma, J., and Zubizarreta, J., "Building Representative Matched Samples with Multi-valued Treatments" (2019)

- 2018 **Post-Primary Education Initiative Grant (\$45,000)**  
Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)  
· Allende, C. and Bennett, M., "Biased Beliefs and the Dynamic Role of Information in College Choice"
- 2018 **Education Policy Dissertation Research Fellowship**  
Teachers College, Columbia University
- 2014 **Fulbright PhD Scholar**  
Fulbright Foundation



## PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 **Cancer History is Associated with Slower Speed of Cognitive Decline in Patients with Amnestic Cognitive Impairment**  
*Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*  
· Co-authored with M. I. Behrens, R. Castillo, D. Ponce, N. Rogers, & R. Vergara
- 2021 **All Things Equal? Heterogeneity in Policy Effectiveness against COVID-19 Spread in Chile**  
*World Development. Vol 137. 105208*
- 2021 **Better Together? Social Networks in Truancy and the Targeting of Treatment**  
*Journal of Labor Economics. Vol 39 (1)*  
· Co-authored with Peter Bergman
- 2020 **Building Representative Matched Samples with Multi-valued Treatments in Large Observational Studies**  
*Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics. Vol 29 (4) pp 744-757*  
· Co-authored with J. Vielma and J. Zubizarreta
- 2018 **Design and Implementation of an Alternative Admission Program to Engineering: Talent and Inclusion**  
*Studies of Higher Education (CSHE), 43(8) p.1454-1467*  
· Co-authored with I. Hiliger, C. Gelmi, L. Cifuentes, and J. de la Llera
- 2013 **Incentives for studying teaching: The case of the vocational scholarship**  
*Estudios Publicos N 131, Centro de Estudios Publicos*  
· Co-authored with F. Claro, R. Paredes, and T. Wilson



## WORKING PAPERS AND ON-GOING RESEARCH

- 2022 **Biased Beliefs and the Dynamic Role of Information in College Choice**  
Randomized Controlled Trial in Chile  
· Project with Claudia Allende

- 2022 **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**  
Working Paper  
· Co-authored with C. Neilson and N. Rojas
- 2022 **Determinants of Success in the Context of Microcredits**  
Ongoing observational study and field experiment  
· Project with William Fuchs and Jaime Milln
- 2020 **How Far is Too Far? Generalization of a Regression Discontinuity Design Away from the Cutoff**  
Job Market Paper
- 2019 **Breastmilk and its effects in Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia and other major morbidities in Very Low Birthweight Infants**  
Working Paper  
· Co-authored with J. Tapia, J. Fabres, G. Marshall, P. Mena, M. Escalante, D. Sabatelli, N. Dinerstein, D. Masoli, and J.R. Zubizarreta
- 2014 **Socioeconomic Diversity within Schools: The Impact of a Preferential Voucher Scheme in Chile**  
Working Paper  
· LSE Master Dissertation
- 2012 **Rethinking Sequencing of Pregnancy, School Dropout and Marriage: An Analysis of DHS Data on Early Childbearing and Educational Trajectories in Six Latin American Countries**  
Report, Inter-American Development Bank  
· Co-authored with E. Naslund-Hadley, E. Vezza, and P. Giovagnoli
- 2012 **Cognitive Abilities and Preschool Education in Chile**  
Working Paper  
· PUC Master Dissertation

## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 **A Differences-in-Differences Approach using Integer Programming Matching**  
Universidad Diego Portales. Santiago, Chile.
- 2022 **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**  
Microsoft Research Seminar. *Online. (Invited talk)*
- 2022 **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**  
American Causal Inference Conference (ACIC). UC Berkeley. Berkeley, CA. *Poster Presentation*
- 2021 **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**  
SREE Conference. *Online. (Presented by co-author in a conference that we both attended)*

- 2021 **A Differences-in-Differences Approach using Integer Programming Matching**  
SREE Conference. *Online*
- 2021 **How Far is Too Far? Generalization of a Regression Discontinuity Design Away from the Cutoff**  
UCSD Econometric Seminar. University of California San Diego. San Diego, CA. *Online*
- 2021 **A Differences-in-Differences Approach using Integer Programming Matching**  
AEFP 46th Annual Conference. *Online*
- 2021 **How Far is Too Far? Generalization of a Regression Discontinuity Design Away from the Cutoff**  
International Methods Colloquium, Wake Forest University. *Online*
- 2020 **All Things Equal? Heterogeneity in Policy Effectiveness against COVID-19 Spread in Chile**  
Economics and COVID-19 Seminar. *Universidad Adolfo Ibanez*. Santiago, Chile
- 2020 **All Things Equal? Heterogeneity in Policy Effectiveness against COVID-19 Spread in Chile**  
3rd Workshop of Applied Modelling for COVID-19 in Chile. *Mesa Social COVID-19*. Santiago, Chile
- 2020 **How Far is Too Far? Generalization of a Regression Discontinuity Design Away from the Cutoff**  
Atlantic Causal Inference Conference. *Suspended due to COVID-19*. Austin, TX
- 2019 **Building Representative Matched Samples with Multivalued Treatments in Large Observational Studies**  
ENAR Spring Meeting, Philadelphia, PA
- 2019 **How Far is Too Far? Generalization of a Regression Discontinuity Design Away from the Cutoff**  
AEFP Annual Conference, Kansas City, MO
- 2019 **How Far is Too Far? Generalization of a Regression Discontinuity Design Away from the Cutoff**  
SREE Spring Conference, Washington, DC
- 2018 **Better Together? Social Networks in Truancy and the Targeting of Treatment**  
APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC
- 2018 **Better Together? Social Networks in Truancy and the Targeting of Treatment**  
NBER Economics of Education Meeting. Cambridge, MA. *(Presented by co-author in a conference that we both attended)*
- 2018 **Better Together? Social Networks in Truancy and the Targeting of Treatment**  
AEFP Annual Conference, Portland, OR
- 2017 **Building a representative matched sample with treatment doses**  
Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference, Chicago, IL

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2020  
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2016 **Senior Research Assistant**  
Prof. Peter Bergman, Teachers College, Columbia University




2017   2015	<b>Research Assistant</b> Prof. Jose Zubizarreta, Columbia University
2014   2011	<b>Research Assistant</b> Prof. Ricardo Paredes, P. Universidad Catolica de Chile
2013/2014   2012	<b>Research Analyst</b> Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Santiago, Chile
2012	<b>External Consultant</b> Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Washington, DC





## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2021	<b>Professor</b> McCombs School of Business, The University of Texas at Austin  · Data Science for Business Applications (Spring '21); Data Science For Business Applications - Honors (Fall '21)
2019   2015	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> Columbia University  · Advanced Microeconomics (Prof. Peter Bergman, Fall 19 and Fall 17) · Causal Inference Methods (Prof. Sarah Cohodes, Fall 18) · Field Experiments (Prof. Peter Bergman, Spring 18) · Data Mining (Prof. Ben Goodrich, Fall 16) · Data Analysis (Prof. Ben Goodrich, Spring 16) · Economics of Education (Prof. Henry Levin, Fall 15)

## Software Skills

-  Statistical software: R (advanced), Stata (advanced)
-  Programming Languages: Python (advanced)
-  Other software: ArcGIS (advanced), MS Excel (advanced)

## Additional information

-  Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (native)
-  Nationality: Chilean