

# MAGDALENA BENNETT

Last updated: August 2025

## Summary

Research Scientist at the Demography and Survey Science team @ Meta

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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🌐 magdalenabennett.com  
🐦 maibennett  
🐙 github.com/maibennett

## RESEARCH POSITIONS

- Present  
|  
2025  
● **Research Scientist**  
Demography and Survey Science Team, Meta
- 2025  
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2020  
● **Assistant Professor**  
IROM Department, McCombs School of Business, the University of Texas at Austin
- 2025  
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2022  
● **Research Affiliate**  
Learning Collider
- 2025  
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2022  
● **Research Affiliate**  
Population Research Center at The University of Texas at Austin

## 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

- 2023  
● **Research Excellence Grant (\$12,900)**  
The University of Texas at Austin  
· Bennett, M. "Changes in School Attendance Zones over Time: The Effect of Segregation on Zoned-In and Zoned-out Areas"

- 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 (I-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



## PUBLICATIONS

- 2022 ● **Cancer History is Associated with Slower Speed of Cognitive Decline in Patients with Amnesic 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
- 2020 ● **Physical activity patterns in healthy and cognitively impaired older Chileans using wireless-enabled wearable technology devices**  
*Alzheimer's & Dementia*  
· Co-authored with N. Rogers, J. Lazcano, S. Herrera, J. More, C. San Martin, C. Romero, N. Grispen, J. Valdes, M. I. Behrens
- 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

- 2024 • **Biased Beliefs and the Dynamic Role of Information in College Choice**  
Randomized Controlled Trial in Chile  
· Project with Claudia Allende
- 2024 • **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
- 2024 • **Difference-in-Differences using Mixed-Integer Programming Matching**  
Working Paper
- 2024 • **QB or not QB: Measuring Discrimination in Football Labor Markets**  
Working Paper
- 2023 • **Determinants of Success in the Context of Microcredits**  
Ongoing observational study and field experiment  
· Project with William Fuchs and Jaime Millan
- 2022 • **How Far is Too Far? Generalization of a Regression Discontinuity Design Away from the Cutoff**  
Job Market Paper



## SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 • **A Differences-in-Differences Approach using Integer Programming Matching**  
Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile. Santiago, Chile.
- 2024 • **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**  
AEFP Annual Conference. Baltimore, MD.
- 2023 • **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**  
Workshop on Economics of Education. Universidad de Los Andes, Valle Nevado, Chile.
- 2023 • **Changes in School Attendance Zones over Time: The Effect of Segregation on Zoned-In and Zoned-out Areas**  
AEFP Annual Conference. Denver, CO.
- 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)*
- 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 • **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
- 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)*

## 🔍 RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2020  
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2016 • **Senior Research Assistant**  
Prof. Peter Bergman, Teachers College, Columbia University
- 2017  
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2015 • **Research Assistant**  
Prof. Jose Zubizarreta, Columbia University
- 2014  
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2011 • **Research Assistant**  
Prof. Ricardo Paredes, P. Universidad Catolica de Chile
- 2013/2014  
|  
2012 • **Research Analyst**  
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Santiago, Chile
- 2012 • **External Consultant**  
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Washington, DC

## 👤 TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Present  
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2021 • **Professor**  
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, Fall '22, Fall '23)

2019  
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2015



## Teaching Assistant

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)



## STUDENT ADVISING

2023



### PhD. Dissertation Committee, Economics Department

Gue Sung Choi  
Jinyeong Son

- University of Texas at Austin

2023



### PhD. Dissertation Committee, Statistics Group, McCombs School of Business

Pedro Santos  
Shentao Yang

- University of Texas at Austin

## 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