

# MAGDALENA BENNETT

Last updated: November 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  
|  
2020



### Assistant Professor

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

Present  
|  
2022



### Research Affiliate

Learning Collider

Present  
|  
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

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 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
- 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 • **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**  
ASHE Seminar. *Online*.
- 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




## 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  
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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

- 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)
- 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)

## 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