MAGDALENA BENNETT

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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

🎓 EDUCATION

2020 — 2015

PhD., Economics and Education

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

2014 — 2013

MSc. Social Policy (Research)

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

2012 — 2010

MSc. Engineering Science (Applied Microeconomics)

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

2010 — 2005

BS. Industrial Engineering

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

⭐ AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

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

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

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 — 2016 | **Senior Research Assistant** |
| | Prof. Peter Bergman, Teachers College, Columbia Univesity |

| 2017 — 2015 | **Research Assistant** |
| | Prof. Jose Zubizarreta, Columbia University |

| 2014 — 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

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)

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), CSPro (advanced)

Additional information

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