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INFORMATION The University of Chicago Booth School of Business

Chicago, Illinois

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FIELDS Trade, Spatial Economics, Urban Economics

Secondary: Public Finance, Development Economics

EDUCATION Ph.D. in Economics, The University of Chicago Booth School of Business

2018-present

Expected Completion Date: June 2024

M.A. in Economics, The University of Chicago

2019

B.S. in Civil Engineering of Industry, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

2015

Diploma in Transportation and Logistics Engineering

Graduated with a vote of distinction

References Professor Erik Hurst (co-chair)

Booth School of Business University of Chicago

E-mail: erik.hurst@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Esteban Rossi-Hansberg (co-chair)

Department of Economics University of Chicago

E-mail: earossih@uchicago.edu

Professor Jonathan Dingel

Booth School of Business University of Chicago

E-mail: jdingel@chicagobooth.edu

Professor Milena Almagro

Booth School of Business University of Chicago

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Working Papers "Transportation Distortions in Fragmented Cities" (Job Market Paper)

Abstract: Cities are divided into local governments responsible for local commuting infrastructure that is used by both their residents and outsiders. In this paper, I study how metropolitan fragmentation affects the provision of commuting infrastructure and the distribution of economic activity. I develop a quantitative spatial model in which municipalities compete for residents and workers by investing in commuting infrastructure to maximize net land value in their jurisdictions. In equilibrium, relative to a central metropolitan planner, municipalities underinvest in areas near their boundaries and overinvest in core areas away from the boundary. Infrastructure investment in fragmented cities results in higher cross-jurisdiction commuting costs, more dispersed employment, and more polycentric patterns of economic activity. Estimating the model using data from Santiago, Chile, I find substantial gains from centralizing investment decisions. Centralization increases aggregate infrastructure investment and population. More importantly, for a given amount of investment, centralization yields large welfare gains due solely to more efficient infrastructure allocation.

WORK IN PROGRESS "Banks and the Geography of Capital Within Borders" with Gustavo González and Marcos Sorá

Leveraging a rich dataset that covers the universe of loans in Chile, we document that variation in the cost of capital across cities is substantial and larger than differences in wages between

cities. We then establish that less competition between banks is associated with higher interest rates at the city level, while a larger pool of firms in the city is associated with lower interest rates. We are building a quantitative model that can account for these facts. We emphasize the role of competition between banks at the city level and how the geographic presence of a bank in cities with high deposits determines the marginal cost of raising deposits at the bank level and, indirectly, on the interest rate they charge.

"Social Capital and Geographic Mobility" with Milena Almagro and Gregorio Caetano

This paper explores the role of local social capital and within-household production on geographic mobility. We start by showing that lower-income households are less geographically mobile than their higher-income counterparts. Zooming in on childcare needs, we document that lower-income families rely more on local friends and relatives for their childcare needs rather than using market providers. Further, households living close to their local social networks are less likely to move, with lower income households showing the most negative effects. We propose a dynamic model of households' joint location and childcare production and estimate it by matching key moments in the data. Then, we quantify how this local social capital mechanism accounts for the patterns present in the data. Finally, we study the recently proposed American Families Plan, which heavily subsidizes market-based child care for lower-income households.

Teaching
EXPERIENCE

University of Chicago

Applied Macroeconomics: Micro data for macro models (PhD) for Erik Hurst and Chang-Tai Hsieh	2022
Advanced Decision Models with Python (MBA) for Don Eisenstein	2022
Macroeconomics (MBA) for Erik Hurst	2021-2022
Industrial Organization (Undergrad) for Michael Dinerstein	2021
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile	
Transportation Economics (Grad) for Patricia Galilea	2014
Research Assistant for Fernando Alvarez, University of Chicago	2020
Research Assistant for Jonathan Dingel, University of Chicago (Booth)	2019-2020
Senior Research Specialist I, Princeton University PI's: Christopher Neilson.	2017-2018
Research Assistant, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL LAC) PI's: Christopher Neilson, Lucas Coffman, Mushfiq Mobarak.	2015-2017

Conferences

RESEARCH

EXPERIENCE

CEP-Warwick Junior Trade Workshop, London

2023

Presented Transportation Distortions in Fragmented Cities

	12th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, Milan	2023
	Presented Social Capital and Geographic Mobility	
	Women in Economic Theory, Chicago	2022
	Presented Transportation Distortions in Fragmented Cities	
	Public Policies Chile, New York	2017
	Panelist at Election polls and it's effect on public opinion	
	Research Opportunities for Human Development, Dominican Republic	2017
	Presented Predicting School Dropout: A machine learning application	
Referee	Journal of Political Economy	
SERVICE		2023 021-2023 019-2023 2020
SOFTWARE SKILLS	Advanced user of Julia, Python, PySpark, Stata, Unix and $\+ \!$	
OTHER	Languages: Spanish (native), English Nationality: Chilean	