

Raul Mathias Leon

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Education

University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

Bachelor of Economics (Honours),
First Class Honours in Econometrics

February - December, 2022

Bachelor of Economics,
Major in Quantitative Methods

August, 2019 - December, 2021

Conservatorio Nacional de Música, Lima, Peru

Associate degree,
Musical Performance, Oboe

February, 2016 - December, 2017

Employment

Research assistant for Prof. Ricardo Nieva and Dr. Freddy Rojas Cama *November, 2022 - February, 2023*

The project will try to produce empirical evidence for a new general equilibrium theory of corruption and its relation with labor productivity and the complexity of goods produced in a economy. The [model](#) used in the study extends the Tullock contest model by letting identical workers and a non-productive enforcer contest over a resource. Main responsibilities include:

- Assist in literature review
- Database construction
- Data analysis via dynamic panel data methods in Stata

Research assistant for Dr. Edgar Brea, University of Queensland

May – December, 2022

The project will try to build predictive models of Australian firms' innovativeness.

- Mine textual data from firms' website and scrape PDFs using Octoparse and R
- Train and test supervised learning models predicting the innovativeness of firms listed in the ASX using R
- Construct data-based indicators from the ASX firms using natural language processing methods

Data Analyst, Scholist

December 2020 – July 2021

Database construction, through databases search and selection, web scraping and relational database analysis.

- The information collected is being used to create algorithms that allow students to identify, connect and apply to universities that best fit their profile
- Development of the data dictionary, ordering and description of variables in constant coordination with the data scientist, with the use of SQL and Excel
- It allowed the programming of specialists to be more effective

Design and implementation of campaigns on social networks to achieve a better positioning of the organization in the market, achieving a successful connection with future students and users.

Carrying out market studies in Asian countries with schools with potential students interested in pursuing university studies in the USA, UK, Australia and Europe.

- *This study allowed the application of the minimum viable product (MVP) in some of these institutions and to obtain feedback regarding the algorithm and the functionality of the website*

Research

Honours Thesis: [Leon, R. \(2022\). The good, the bad and the ugly of high school: measuring superstar effects in public schools in Greece](#)

Abstract: The literature has shown that female high-achieving students mostly create positive externalities in a classroom setting. Will these peer effects change with the use of stronger definitions to classify students with extremely high performance as superstars? I study the impact of being exposed to superstars in early high school on the remaining students' scholastic outcomes and university choices. To do so, I exploit the quasi-random assignment of students and teachers to classrooms in Greece. I find negative effects on remaining students from being exposed to superstars, possibly suggesting that remaining students—including other high achievers— may reduce effort. Using novel data from a representative sample of schools in Greece, I find that students exposed to superstars' test scores in geometry decreased by 0.031 standard deviations in their end-of-the-year exam. Their test scores in modern Greek dropped by 0.047 standard deviations. Interestingly, these superstar effects are mostly driven by the effects that female superstars have on other female students. I also find evidence for a perverse effect of heterogeneous abilities in effort by showing that the superstar effects are substantially smaller for the second best, top 3 and top 5 students of the classroom. Finally, I find that male and female STEM superstars do not influence the beliefs of women STEM related gender roles and preferences. I find that exposure to female non-STEM superstars increases a female student probability of being admitted to a STEM university program as well as choosing a STEM track choice in high school by approximately 0.02 and 0.05 percentage points, respectively.

Honors & Awards

Lima Summer SE Scholarship: awarded on a merit basis to pursue the following graduate courses - *Machine Learning for Economics* (Dr. Vadim Marmer) and *Difference in Differences: foundations and new methodology* (Sebastian Tello-Trillo), jointly from the Lima School of Economics and Vancouver School of Economics, 2023

Scholarship for academic performance: "Thomas A. Plein Endowed Scholarship", 2022

Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence, 2022

UQ Future Leader (5% of graduates), 2021

Dean's Commendation for Academic Excellence, 2021

Scholarship for excellence in social service and academic performance: "Latin America Global Leaders Scholarship", from the University of Queensland, 2019

Skills

R, STATA, Python, L^AT_EX

English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), German (elementary)

Community engagement

Emergency Service Volunteer for Red Cross, Brisbane, Australia

October, 2020 - March, 2021

Provide information to help people make informed choices about preparing, responding and recovering from emergencies. As well as, providing psycho-social support to people affected by emergencies and registering them so that they can be found by family and friends in an emergency

Volunteer: Hospital Visits, Lima, Peru

June - December 2019

Volunteered to visit Children Hospital San Bartolome in Lima, Peru to entertain and play with underprivileged sick children and to deliver toys and donations.

Construction Volunteer group, La Libertad, Peru

October - December 2018

Helped in the building of community stairways in the less developed Villa Maria del Triunfo district in Lima. In 2015, we also did a big project of digging ditches and implemented water pipes for remote agricultural communities in the high Andes Mountains.

Last updated: February 1, 2023