

## EDUCATION

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### Northwestern University

Ph.D. in Economics

Evanston, IL

2015 – Expected 2021

- Thesis: “Essays in Development Economics”
- Dissertation Committee and References:
  - \* Professor Seema Jayachandran
    - 2211 Campus Dr, Evanston, IL 60208. +1 (847) 491-4757
    - [seema@northwestern.edu](mailto:seema@northwestern.edu)
  - \* Professor Nancy Qian
    - 2211 Campus Dr, Evanston, IL 60208. +1 (847) 491-2531
    - [nancy.qian@kellogg.northwestern.edu](mailto:nancy.qian@kellogg.northwestern.edu)
  - \* Professor Christopher Udry
    - 2211 Campus Dr, Evanston, IL 60208. +1 (847) 491-8216
    - [christopher.udry@northwestern.edu](mailto:christopher.udry@northwestern.edu)
  - \* Professor Jacopo Ponticelli
    - 2211 Campus Dr, Evanston, IL 60208. +1 (847) 467-4623
    - [jacopo.ponticelli@kellogg.northwestern.edu](mailto:jacopo.ponticelli@kellogg.northwestern.edu)

### University of California

Visiting Graduate Student

San Diego, CA

2019 – 2020

### Pontificia Universidade Catolica

M.A. in Economics

Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

2013 – 2015

- Thesis: “Choosing Institutions Locally: Evidence from Brazil”

### Pontificia Universidade Catolica

B.A. in Economics

Rio de Janeiro, RJ, Brazil

2008 – 2012

### Sciences Po

Exchange Student

Paris, France

2010 – 2011

## WORKING PAPERS

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1. “Development via Administrative Redistricting: Evidence from Brazil,” Job Market Paper (with Christiane Szerman)

We exploit a large redistricting episode in Brazil to examine if, and how, administrative unit splits impact local development. Using a rich panel of administrative and spatial data, we first document that requests to split are more likely to be initiated by poor and rural districts. Employing a difference-in-differences strategy with areas whose requests to split were never approved serving as a control group, we find that splitting leads to an expansion of the public sector, some improvements in public service delivery and children’s education attainment, but no impacts on the private sector. Meanwhile, outcomes are unaffected in parent municipalities. Results are consistent with adaptations of policy to local preferences. Our results inform the equity-efficiency trade-off embedded in decentralization reforms worldwide.

2. **“Selecting Top Bureaucrats: Admission Exams and Performance in Brazil,”** (with Laura Schiavon and Thiago Scot)

In the absence of strong incentive schemes, public service delivery depends crucially on bureaucrat selection. Despite being widely adopted by governments to screen candidates, it is unclear whether civil service examinations can predict performance on the job. This paper investigates this question focusing on a highly prestigious and influential set of bureaucrats in Brazil: state judges. We first explore rich data on judges’ monthly output and cross-court movement to separately identify what share of observed performance is explained by judges and courts. We estimate that judges account for at least 23% of the observed variation in the number of cases disposed. Using a novel data set on examinations, we then show that, within cohorts of candidates taking the same exam, those with higher grades perform better than their lower-ranked peers. Our results suggest that competitive examinations can be an effective way to screen candidates, even among highly qualified contenders.

3. **“The Political Effects of Policy: Evidence from the Brazilian Amazon,”** (with Arthur Bragança)

Public policy often generates effects beyond its initial scope by changing the behavior of politicians and voters in response to it. This may be beneficial in a context of decentralized public good provision where individual and social incentives misalign. In this paper we study how a centralized environmental policy, which synced real-time satellite deforestation data with enforcement on the ground, further reduced forest loss by causing pro-agriculture politicians to cut back on effort. We assemble a comprehensive data set covering six electoral terms and show that, before the reform, municipalities governed by pro-agriculture mayors earmarked more resources to agriculture and had higher deforestation rates. However, after the reform, these differences disappear. We provide suggestive evidence that the policy affected political entry by making running for office less attractive for pro-agriculture candidates. Our findings indicate that the decline of the political influence of interest groups representing agriculture was an important mechanism through which the increases in the enforcement of the environmental legislation reduced deforestation.

4. **“Choosing Racial Identity in the United States, 1880-1940,”** (with Emily Nix and Nancy Qian)

This paper documents that a large number of African American men experienced a change in racial identity to white during 1880 to 1940, while analogous changes were negligible for other races. We provide descriptive evidence that is consistent with the conventional wisdom that “passing” for white was a response to severe discrimination, and came at great personal cost. The findings suggest that contrary to traditional economic thinking, racial identity is neither entirely exogenous nor fixed over the lifetime, and responds to incentives.

5. **“Value of a Statistical Life under Large Mortality Risk Change: Theory and an Application to COVID-19,”** (with Diego Cardoso)

Benefit analyses of mortality reduction policies typically use multiples of the value of a statistical life (VSL). This approach approximates risk premia for small changes in mortality, but inaccurately characterizes premia for large risk changes because it implies increasing marginal utility and a risk-loving attitude. We propose a method to calculate the benefits of large mortality reductions adjusting for risk aversion. We apply this method to calculate the benefits of social distancing and other mitigation strategies to combat COVID-19 in the US and 42 other countries. Our findings show that the typical approach underestimates the benefits of social distancing in the US by a factor of 4.1 and in other countries by a factor of 2.2 on average.

## EXPERIENCE

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### Base dos Dados

Evanston, IL

Founder

Fall 2019

- Free data repository and search engine in Brazil
- We provide the most comprehensive repository and search engine for data sets in Brazil. We catalog hundreds of data sets from multiple sources (i.e. government, independent projects, private sector, etc) and provide both standardized versions of the data or direct download links to original sources.

### Northwestern University

Evanston, IL

Research Assistant

2016-2020

- Prof. Nancy Qian (2017-2020)
- Prof. Seema Jayachandran (J-PAL Bangalore, India. Winter 2018)

- Prof. Jesse Shapiro (Summer 2016)
- Prof. Erika Deserranno (Winter-Spring 2016)

### Climate Policy Initiative (CPI)

Research Assistant

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
2011-2012

### Pontifícia Universidade Católica (PUC-Rio)

Research Assistant

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
2009-2012

- Prof. Claudio Ferraz (2012)
- Prof. Marcio Garcia (2009-2010)

## TEACHING

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- **Teaching Assistant** at Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University Fall 2019  
*Business Analytics II (MBA)*
- **Teaching Assistant** at Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University Fall 2018, Winter 2019, Fall 2019  
*Statistical Decision Analysis (EMBA)*
- **Teaching Assistant** at Northwestern University Spring 2017  
*Economics of Education (Undergraduate)*
- **Teaching Assistant** at Northwestern University Winter 2017  
*Economic Growth and Development (Undergraduate)*
- **Teaching Assistant** at Northwestern University Fall 2016  
*Economics of Developing Countries (Undergraduate)*
- **Teaching Assistant** at PUC-Rio Spring 2014  
*Econometrics 1 (Graduate)*

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

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- University Fellowship, Northwestern University 2020–2021
- Susan Schmidt Bies Prize for Doctoral Student Research on Economics and Public Policy 2018
- BRASA Mentorship Program 2018
- Distinguished TA Award, Northwestern University 2016 –2017
- Doctoral Fellowship, Northwestern University 2015–2016
- CAPES Scholarship 2013–2015

## SKILLS

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- Python
- R
- Stata
- SQL
- GIS
- Matlab
- Latex

## LANGUAGES

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- **Portuguese** Native
- **English** Fluent
- **French** Fluent
- **Spanish** Intermediate
- **German** Beginner
- **Hebrew** Beginner

## INVITED TALKS (INCLUDING SCHEDULED)

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- 2021: PacDev (UCSD), Political Economy Workshop at BI Norwegian Business School, University of Tokyo, New Economic School, PUC-Rio, Universidad del Rosario, University of Mannheim
- 2020: Universidade Católica de Brasília, DEVPEC (UC Berkeley), Urban Economics Association (UEA), NEUDC, Encontro Brasileiro de Econometria (SBE)
- 2018: MIEDC (U. Minnesota)
- 2017: EMCON (U. Chicago), Omni Methods Group (UCSD)
- 2016: DEVPEC (UC Berkeley)

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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- Founder of the Empirics and Methods in Economics Conference (EMCON) 2016 –2018  
*EMCON is an annual conference for PhD students interested in applied topics and empirical methods in economics. Jointly organized by PhD students from The University of Chicago and Northwestern University, the conference offers its participants an excellent opportunity to present their work, exchange ideas and foster research collaboration.*
- Volunteer at Kinderland, Rio de Janeiro 2010 –2014  
*At various capacities as director, assistant coordinator and counselor for kids 9-14 years old.*
- Volunteer Math Teacher at Vetor, Rio de Janeiro 2011  
*Taught mathematics for underprivileged children before country-wide competitive examinations.*