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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Economics, University of Texas at Austin, May 2023 (Expected)
Dissertation Title: *"Essays on Education and Development Economics"*
M.S., Economics, University of Texas at Austin, 2020
M.A., Economics, Universidad de Chile, 2012
B.A., Economics, Universidad de Chile, 2010

REFERENCES

Leigh L. Linden (Chair)
Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin
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Richard Murphy (Chair)
Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin
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Manuela Angelucci
Department of Economics
University of Texas at Austin
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TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

Fields: Development Economics, Labor Economics, Public Economics
Sub-Fields: Education Economics, Health Economics

WORKING PAPERS

Dissertation Chapters

"Nutritious School Meals and Educational Outcomes" with Carmen Quezada (*Job Market Paper*)

This paper estimates the impact of school meals quality on student outcomes. We take advantage of a staggered implementation of a national program that improved the nutritional content of meals in public schools in Chile starting in 2015. Using a Difference-in-Difference approach and national student-level data over six years, we estimate a credible Intention-to-Treat impact of healthier meals on Math and Reading test scores. We find an average increase of 0.036 standard deviations in combined scores. The students from the poorest and rural households present the largest effects. We explore possible mechanisms including attendance. We show indirect evidence that support the main hypothesized mechanism, the improvement of food nutrients. In particular, we find evidence that the students from low-income households that are more often exposed to these nutritious meals are the ones who get the largest increase in their test scores. Finally, we calculate that it would cost 87 USD per year to raise a student's test score in 0.1 standard deviations by providing healthier meals.

"Natural Disasters and Early Child Development"

This paper evaluates the effect of the 2010 Chilean earthquake in early life on children's cognitive and non-cognitive development in the short and medium-run. I exploit the quasi-random spatial and temporal variation using a Difference-in-Difference (DID) approach. I find that seven years later children between in-utero and five years old at the moment of the earthquake decrease their Peabody test score by 0.06 standard deviations (s.d.) by each additional unit of the Mercalli intensity. In the short-run, I also find negative and significant effects on cognitive development around the

same magnitude than in the medium-run. In terms of non-cognitive test scores, I find negative but not significant results seven years later. I explore three set of mechanisms. First, in terms of mother's risky behavior, I find that mothers in most affected places by the earthquake increase their probability of behaving riskily, specifically, in smoking from in-utero up to the first six months of the child's life. Second, I find a negative and significant effect on household income two months after the tremor equivalent to 11% decrease of it; however, this effect faded away two years after the shock. Finally, in terms of health investment, no significant effect is found in breastfeeding or health during and after pregnancy.

"Daylight Saving Time and Automobile Accidents: Evidence from Chile"

Under evidence that the Daylight Saving Time (DST) regime does not accomplish its primary goal of saving energy, I analyze one of the main side effects, automobile accidents in Chile between 2002-2018. I use a Regression Discontinuity Design (RDD) exploiting the discrete nature of the transition into DST, and a Difference-in-Difference (DID) approach, taking advantage on the changes in dates that the policy starts and ends over the years. I find a 2.7% reduction in the number of automobile accidents under the DST regime. I isolate the two main mechanisms: the sleep disruption and the reallocation of light. I find suggestive evidence that the sleep disruption effect plays a relevant role in both transitions: it increases automobile accidents in 7.4% the first week following the transition into DST and decreases them in 4.5% the first week following the transition into Standard Time (ST). However, I do not find conclusive evidence for the light effect. Under the DST regime, in the evening the negative effect on automobile accidents supports the light mechanism, however, in the morning, also a negative effect does not support it.

Work in Progress

"Daylight Saving Time and Work-related Accidents," with Gonzalo Castex, Evgenia Dechter and Isabel Poblete.

Peer Reviewed Publications

Contreras, D., Gillmore, R., Puentes, E. (2017). Self-Employment and Queues for Wage Work: Evidence from Chile. *Journal of International Development,* 29: 473-499. doi: 10.1002/jid.3074.

Castex, G., Gillmore, R., Poblete, I. (2019). Analyzing Flows in the Chilean Labor Market. *Economía chilena*, vol. 22, no. 2. (In Spanish).

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2013 – 2018 Junior Economist at the Research Department, Central Bank of Chile
I provided research assistance to senior economists in topics related to labor economics, health economics, macroeconomics and international trade. I managed large administrative data bases. Also, I provided assistance in administrative work such as editor assistant of the Journal *Economía Chilena* and the organization of economic conferences and workshops.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2021 –present Research Assistant for Prof. Kenneth Flamm, University of Texas at Austin
2012 – 2013 Research Assistant for Joaquin Vial (Board Member), Central Bank of Chile
2012 Research Assistant for Carola Moreno (Senior Economist), Central Bank of Chile
2009 – 2010 Research Assistant at INTELIS, Department of Economics, Universidad de Chile

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Fall, 2014 Lecturer of Microeconomics I, Department of Economics and Business, Universidad de Talca, Santiago, Chile.

TEACHING ASSISTANT EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant, The University of Texas at Austin

Spring 2020-2021 Introduction to Econometrics, for Dr. Helen Schneider
Fall 2020 Microeconomic Theory, for Dr. Dayanand Manoli
Summer 2019 Macroeconomic Theory, for Dr. Brian Trinque
Spring 2019 Introduction to Microeconomics, for Dr. Wayne Hickenbottom
Fall 2018 Introduction to Microeconomics, for Dr. Wayne Hickenbottom

Graduate and Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Universidad de Chile

2007-2012 Applied Microeconometrics, Applied Econometrics, Time Series: Theory and Applications, Industrial Organization (x2), Microeconomics, Econometrics I (x7), Econometrics II (x2), Statistics I, Algebra I, Algebra II (x2), Calculus I.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Conferences:

November, 2022 Southern Economic Association, Graduate Student Session, Fort Lauderdale, FL, "*The effects of meals' nutritional changes on educational outcomes*" (*Job Market Paper),* scheduled.
October, 2022 Missouri Valley Conference, St. Louis, MO, "*The effects of meals' nutritional changes on educational outcomes*" (*Job Market Paper)*
September, 2013 Chilean Economic Association Annual Meeting, Santiago, Chile, "*Self-Employment and Queues for Wage Work: Evidence From Chile*"
May, 2012 Centro de Microdatos Lunch Seminar, Santiago, Chile, "*Self-Employment and Queues for Wage Work: Evidence From Chile*"

Referee: *Journal of Development Studies*

HONORS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

2019 – 2021 Graduate Dean's Prestigious Fellowship Supplement, University of Texas at Austin
2018 – 2022 *Becas Chile* Scholarship for Ph.D. Studies abroad, Government of Chile
2011 Scholarship for tuition expenses of the MA in Economics, Universidad de Chile
2006 Scholarship for tuition expenses of the BA in Economics, Universidad de Chile

COMPUTER & LANGUAGE SKILLS & OTHERS

Programming Skills: Stata, Latex, Matlab, Python.
Language: English (fluent), Spanish (Native)
Citizenship: Chile