

# Rocío Valdebenito

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Citizenship: Chilean

## EDUCATION

<b>University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</b> <i>PhD Agricultural and Applied Economics</i> <i>Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics</i>	Illinois, USA 2024 (Expected)
<b>Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez</b> <i>Master of Science, Management</i>	Santiago, Chile 2014
<b>Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez</b> <i>Bachelor's Degree, Business Administration and Economics</i>	Santiago, Chile 2013

## WORKING PAPERS

Peer Influence and College Major Choices in Male-Dominated Fields. *Job Market Paper*

Migration of High School Graduates: How Relevant are the Degree Type and Field of Study? *with Sandy Dall'Erba, Mary Arends-Kuenning, and William Ridley.*

## PUBLICATIONS

Anukriti, Herrera-Almanza, Karra, Valdebenito (2022). Convincing the Mummy-ji: Improving Mother-in-Law Approval of Family Planning in India. *AEA Papers and Proceedings*, 112, 568-72.

Aroca, González, Valdebenito (2017). The heterogeneous level of life quality across Chilean regions. *Habitat International*, 68, 84-98.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

Quality Certification in Higher Education: A Policy Evaluation from Chile. *with Cristhian Molina.*

The Effect of Transitory Environmental Factors on Human Capital Formation: Evidence from Chile. *with Verónica Vienne, Ron Chan, Jeanne Tschopp, and Martino Pelli.*

Assessing the Effect of Commuting on Students' Achievement: Evidence from Chile. *with Esteban López and Patricio Aroca.*

The effect of Vocational Education on Outcomes in Higher Education. *with Patricio Aroca and Juan Eberhard.*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Research Assistant

Agricultural and Consumer Economics, University of Illinois 2021 – Present

- Social Networks and Women's Reproductive Outcomes: Evidence from a Randomized Experiment in Rural India. PIs: S Anukriti, Catalina Herrera-Almanza, Mahesh Karra.

### Short-term Consultant World Bank

Development Economics Research Group. Task team lead: S Anukriti 2021, 2023

- Informational Barriers to Female Employment in India: Experimental Evidence from Vocational Training Students. PI: S Anukriti.

### Associate Researcher

Center of Regional Economics and Policy, Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez 2015 – 2018

- Competitiveness Index of the Chilean Regions. Ministry of Interior and Public Security, Chile.
- Regional Economic Elements of the Chilean Educational Policy. PI: Patricio Aroca, Professor, Universidad Andrés Bello, Chile.
- Methodology to Assess the Establishment of New Administrative Divisions. Ministry of Interior and Public Security, Chile.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### **Instructor (Full responsibility)**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Applied Statistics Lab using R, (Fall 2023)

Universidad Adolfo Ibañez, Business School

- Microeconomics (2016, 2017)
- Econometrics Laboratory (2017, 2018)
- Industrial Organization (2018)

### **Teaching Assistant**

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

- Applied Statistical Methods and Data Analytics II (Fall 2022)
- Data Science for Applied Economics (Python) - Graduate Level (Spring 2021)
- Applied Statistical Methods (Fall 2020).

Universidad Adolfo Ibañez, Chile

- Statistics I, Statistics II (2012)
- Operations Research (2013)

## GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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**Spencer Foundation - Small Research Grant** (*finalists-awaiting final decision*). “The Effect of Transitory Environmental Factors on Human Capital Formation: Evidence from Chile”, *with Verónica Vienne (PI), Ron Chan, Jeanne Tschopp, and Martino Pelli*.

**Becas-Chile Scholarship 2018–2022:** for Doctoral Studies. Chilean National Commission of Scientific and Technological Research (ANID).

**Graduate Student Fellowship 2018–2019:** Jean M and John F. Due Fellowship, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

## TECHNICAL SKILLS & SOFTWARE

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**Software/Programming:** R, Stata, Python, QGIS

**Languages:** Spanish (Native), English (Fluent)

## PRESENTATIONS: CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

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**2023** Development Day, *Michigan State University* | North East Universities Development Consortium, *Harvard University* | Southern Economic Association, *New Orleans, LA*. | Department of Human Sciences, *The Ohio State University* | Agricultural and Applied Economics Association, *Washington DC*. | International Policy and Development Seminar, *University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* | Midwest Economics Association, *Cleveland, OH*. | Association For Education Finance and Policy, *Denver, CO*.

**2022** Population Association of America, *Atlanta, GA*.

**2020** Regional Economics Applications Laboratory Seminar | North American Regional Science Council, *Online*.

**2014–2017** North American Regional Science Council, *Vancouver, Canada*. Chilean Society of Regional Studies, *Chillan, Chile*. | **2016** Chilean Society of Regional Studies, *Santiago, Chile*. | **2015** Regional Economics Applications Laboratory Seminar | **2014** Chilean Society of Regional Studies, *Chile*.

## SERVICE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

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Abstract Reviewer: Agricultural and Applied Economics Association 2021–2022.

Local Organizing Committee of the Annual Midwest Graduate Student Summit: Applied Economics, Regional and Urban Studies, 2019.

Local Organizing Committee of the Pacific Regional Science Conference Organization, 2015.

## REFERENCES

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### **Mary Arends-Kuenning**

Associate Professor  
Associate Dean, International Programs Office  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[marends@illinois.edu](mailto:marends@illinois.edu)

### **Catalina Herrera-Almanza**

Assistant Professor  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
[cataher@illinois.edu](mailto:cataher@illinois.edu)

### **S Anukriti**

Senior Economist  
World Bank  
[sanukriti@worldbank.org](mailto:sanukriti@worldbank.org)

## JOB MARKET PAPER

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### **Peer Influence and College Major Choices in Male-Dominated Fields**

This paper investigates the causal impact of high school peers' choices on individuals' college major choices, while also exploring whether the gender of both individuals and their peers plays a mediating role in these effects. Utilizing Chilean data spanning from 2006 to 2019, this study addresses key challenges in the peer effects literature and proposes two distinct approaches. The first approach explores idiosyncratic within-school variations in the proportion of classmates enrolled in male-dominated post-secondary programs. The second approach employs a regression discontinuity design, taking advantage of the unpredictable admission cutoffs within the centralized admission system for Chilean universities. The primary findings indicate that both classroom peers and older high school peers significantly shape students' choices of college majors in male-dominated fields. Furthermore, the results suggest the greater influence of female peers enrolled in male-dominated areas compared to male peers, particularly in influencing female applicants towards similar majors.