

Rocío Valdebenito

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1301 W Gregory Dr, Urbana, IL 61801.

Citizenship: Chilean

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

PhD Agricultural and Applied Economics

Fields: Applied Microeconomics, Development Economics

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

Master of Science, Management

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

Bachelor's Degree, Business Administration and Economics

Illinois, USA

2024 (*Expected*)

Santiago, Chile

2014

Santiago, Chile

2013

WORKING PAPERS

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

High School Graduates and Education Migration Decisions. *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.*

Assessing the Effect of Commuting on School Performance: 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

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)

SCHOLARSHIPS/FELLOWSHIPS

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

Softwares: R, Stata, Python, qGIS

Languages: Spanish (Native), English (Fluent)

PRESENTATIONS: CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

2023 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*.

* Scheduled

SERVICE AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

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

Mary Arends-Kuenning

Associate Professor
Associate Dean, International Programs Office
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
marends@illinois.edu

Catalina Herrera-Almanza

Assistant Professor
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
cataher@illinois.edu

S Anukriti

Senior Economist
World Bank
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JOB MARKET PAPER

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.