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EDUCATION

University of Mannheim

2018 - 2023

PhD Economics

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

2013 - 2015

MA Economics

University of Paris Dauphine

2012 - 2014

MRes Development Economics

2009 - 2012

BS Applied Economics

RESEARCH FIELDS

Macroeconomics, Family, Public, Urban and Development Economics

JOB MARKET PAPER

Why Don't Poor Families Move? A Spatial Equilibrium Analysis of Parental Decisions with Social Learning

Abstract: Parents' neighborhood choices shape childrens economic opportunities in the United States. However, most children raised in bottom-quality neighborhoods still live in low-quality neighborhoods in adulthood. Could parents' neighborhood choices also affect their children's future choices? I develop a quantitative spatial model of parental decisions that incorporates a novel mechanism: social learning about the technology of skill formation. Segregation generates information frictions that systematically distort parents' subjective beliefs and behavior. Using several United States representative datasets, I calibrate the model to the average commuting zone in the country. The calibrated model matches targeted and non-targeted parental behaviors and generates an endogenous distribution of subjective beliefs. A relatively modest level of delusion increases inequality by 3% and decreases social mobility by 12%. Housing vouchers improve the neighborhood quality of eligible families, raising children's future earnings. When scaled-up, general equilibrium responses in local prices and subjective beliefs amplify the policy effects on eligible households, reducing inequality and improving social mobility. Ignoring subjective belief responses greatly undermines the policy effects.

OTHER RESEARCH

Published Paper

Machine Learning and Mobile Phone Data Can Improve the Targeting of Humanitarian Assistance, with Emily Aiken, Dean Karlan, Christopher R. Udry and Joshua Blumenstock. Nature 2022.

Working Papers

The Impact of Cash Transfers in Togo: Digital Data Do Not Recover Treatment Effects Found in Survey Data, with Emily Aiken, Joshua Blumenstock, Dean Karlan and Christopher R. Udry.

Teacher Training Program, Teacher Practices and Student Performance in Science: Evidence from a Randomized Study in French Primary Schools, with Adrien Bouguen, Marc Gurgand, Valerie Munier and André Tricot

Work in Progress

Macroeconomic Consequences of Early Education Tracking, with Lukas Mahler

Employment Transitions: Mechanisms For Gender Earnings Gap, with Valentina Melentyeva

RELEVANT POSITIONS HELD

Teaching Assistant

STEG Virtual Course

2021, Demographic Transition and Development lecture

J-PAL Europe, Executive Education Programs

2018 - 2019, Randomized Control Trials

Sciences Po Paris

2016 - 2017, Public Economics

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

2014, Macroeconomics

Research Assistant

University of Mannheim

2019 - ... , Research assistant to Professor Michèle Tertilt

J-PAL Europe

2015 - 2018, Senior Research Manager

J-PAL Latin America and the Caribbean

2015, Research Associate

SCHOLARSHIP, WORKSHOP AND AFFILIATION

CRC Member

since 2019

DAAD Scholarship

2019 - 2023

WOVEN Pro

2019 - 2020

REFERENCES

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