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UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Office Contact Information

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Personal Information:

Date of Birth: August 31, 1992
Sex: Male
Citizenship: USA, Israel

Undergraduate Studies:

B.S., Economics and Mathematics, George Washington University, *summa cum laude*, 2014

Graduate Studies:

University of Pennsylvania, 2016 to present
Thesis Title: “Essays in College Investment and Income Inequality”
Expected Completion Date: June 2022

Thesis Committee and References:

Dirk Krueger (Advisor) 133 South 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 (215) 573-1424, dkrueger@econ.upenn.edu	José Víctor Ríos Rull 133 South 36th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104 (215) 898-7701, vr0j@upenn.edu
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Jesús Fernández-Villaverde
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Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Macroeconomics; Inequality

Secondary fields: Household Finance; Economics of Education

Teaching Experience:

Instructor:

Summer 2020	Game Theory, UPenn
Spring 2019, Summer 2019	International Economics, UPenn

Teaching Assistant:

Spring, 2020-2021	Macroeconomic Modeling, UPenn, Teaching Assistant for Professor José Víctor Ríos Rull
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Fall, 2020	Money, Credit, and Banking, UPenn Teaching Assistant for Professor Harold Cole
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Fall, 2019	Economic Growth, UPenn, Teaching Assistant for Professor Joachim Hubmer
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Fall, 2018	Strategic Reasoning, UPenn, Teaching Assistant for Professor David Dillenberger
Spring, 2018	Macroeconomic Theory (Graduate), UPenn, Teaching Assistant for Professor Jeremy Greenwood
Fall, 2017	Macroeconomic Theory, UPenn, Teaching Assistant for Professor Guillermo Ordoñez

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2016 – 2021	University Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
2014	Hsieh Prize in Economics, George Washington University

Research Papers:

“College Admissions and Inequality” (with Ricardo Marto) ([Job Market Paper](#))

Empirical studies have found that high achieving, low-income students are less likely to apply to selective colleges despite the generous financial aid typically offered. To reconcile this seeming puzzle, we build a model of the college market featuring tuition discrimination and a decentralized admissions system. Students, who differ in their financial resources and innate ability, apply to a subset of colleges and are uncertain about their prospective admissions and financial aid. Colleges observe only a noisy signal of student ability, and compete by choosing admissions standards and tuition schedules. We find that differences in application rates are due to student expectations over admissions and financial aid, which are consistent with college policies in equilibrium. Low-income students receive generous financial aid at selective colleges because only the highest-ability among them apply, making their signals highly informative. If signals became less informative (e.g. colleges stopped using the SAT), all high-ability students would be worse off and low-ability students would modestly benefit. Finally, we find overall welfare gains from increasing Pell Grants, which would greatly benefit low-income, high-ability students by alleviating credit constraints.

Research Papers in Progress

“Earnings Risk, Student Loan Repayment, and College Completion”