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Department of Economics

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Contact Information:

Department of Economics London School of Economics and Political Science Houghton Street, London. WC2A 2AE

Personal Information:

Gender : Male Citizenship : Chile

Languages: Spanish (native), English.

Pre-doctoral studies:

2013 to 2015 MRes. in Economics, London School of Economics. 2009 to 2010 MSc. in Engineering, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile. 2003 to 2008 BSc. in Engineering, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Doctoral studies:

London School of Economics, 2013 to present. Thesis Title: "Essays on Economics of Education"

Expected Completion Date: June 2019.

References:

Steve PischkeJohannes SpinnewijnLondon School of EconomicsLondon School of EconomicsHoughton StreetHoughton StreetLondon, WC2A 2AELondon, WC2A 2AEs.pischke@lse.ac.ukj.spinnewijn@lse.ac.ukTel. (44-20) 7955-6509Tel. (44-20) 7955-7022

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Fields:

Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Public Economics.

Teaching Experience:

From 2014 to present Graduate teaching assistant. London School of Economics.

EC212 Introduction to Econometrics EC220 Introduction to Econometrics EC221 Principles of Econometrics

EC270 Public Finance EC325 Public Economics

From 2012 to 2013 Lecturer. Engineering Faculty. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

ICS1513 Introduction to Economics

Relevant Positions Held:

2018 Research Assistant to Christopher Neilson.

National Bureau of Economics Research.

From 2015 to 2018 Course Manager. Introduction to Econometrics and Econometrics Principles

Department of Economics. London School of Economics.

From 2011 to 2013 Research Officer and Minister's Advisor.

Ministry of Education. Government of Chile

Professional Activities:

Referee Economics of Education Review

Honors, Scholarships and Fellowships:

2014 - 2018 LSE Fellowship

2013 – 2018 Conicyt-Chile. Ph.D. Fellowship, 2013.

Research papers:

Job Market Paper: "Should I stay, or should I go? Neighbors' Effects on University Attendance"

This paper combines rich administrative data from Chile and exploits an original source of variation to study neighbors' effects on university enrollment. I investigate how having a close neighbor going to university affects potential applicants by using a fuzzy RD that takes advantage of a discontinuity generated by the eligibility rules of student-loans. Thus, I instrument neighbors' enrollment with their eligibility for funding. My findings show that having a close neighbor going to university increases enrollment probabilities by 10 percentage points and that these effects are stronger when applicants and their neighbors are more likely to interact. The effects decline both with physical and social distance and increase with the time spent in the neighborhood. My results suggest that policies that expand access to university not only have an effect on their direct beneficiaries, but also on their peers. Finally, I show that the effects are mediated by an increase in the share of individuals taking the admission test and applying to university.

"It's Time to Learn: School Autonomy and Returns to Instruction Time" with Giulia Bovini.

We study how school autonomy affects the returns to a large-scale reform that increased daily instruction time in Chilean primary schools by 30%. Using an IV strategy, we find larger gains in charter schools than in public schools. Autonomy over personnel decisions emerges as an important institutional feature: while charter schools mostly respond by hiring new teachers, public schools tend to increase contract hours of the incumbents. We also document that disadvantaged students -who receive less academic support at home- benefit more from longer school schedules. We discuss the reduced frequency of homework as a potential driver of this heterogeneity.

Research in progress:

"Family Ties, Educational Investment and College Choice" with Marin Drlje, Dejan Kovac and Christopher Neilson. We study how individuals major choice is affected by older siblings in Chile and Croatia. In both countries, universities select their students using deferral admission systems (DA). We exploit the discontinuities generated by the DA and compare applicants whose older siblings were marginally admitted or rejected to specific majors and institutions. We find substantial spillovers in both settings. Younger siblings are more likely to attend the same institution and major as their older siblings. Information emerges as a potential mechanism behind these results. Applicants are more likely to follow their siblings when their experience at university is good, and even when not following the same path, applicants give more importance to attributes in which their siblings' programs stand out.

"Heterogeneous effects of class size on academic achievement: What can we learn from class size RD?" with Steve Pischke. Class size is one of the school inputs that more attention has received in the economics of education literature. Since the seminal work of Angrist and Lavy (1999) many others have followed and exploited maximum class size rules to identify the effects of this school input on academic achievement. In this project we analyze these studies and discuss the main patterns that emerge when looking at heterogeneous effects.

Conferences:

- 3rd IZA Workshop: The Economics of Education. Bonn, Germany.
- EDP Jamboree 2018. Florence, Italy.
- Annual Conference of the European Association of Labor Economists 2017. St. Gallen, Switzerland.
- International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education 2017. Catanzaro, Italy.
- LEER Workshop on Education Economics 2017. Leuven, Belgium.
- Efectos del Ranking de Notas en la Admisión a las Universidades Chilenas. Centro de Estudios Públicos. Chile.