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Employment Research Director, Education Lab and Crime Lab, August 2022 - today
 University of Chicago

Education Ph.D., Economics, Northwestern University June 2022
 M.A., Economics, Northwestern University 2017
 M.A., Economics (*summa cum laude*), University of Bologna 2016
 B.A., Business and Economics (*summa cum laude*), University of Bologna 2014

Working Papers **“College Expansion and Unequal Access to Education in Peru”** with José Flor-Toro
Brief abstract: Enrollment gaps in developing countries continue despite efforts to improve college access, e.g., through the creation of free-tuition public colleges. Using Peruvian census data, we show that while overall enrollment rates increased, ethnic minority students gained only half as much as others, highlighting the impact of initial advantages and meritocratic criteria on educational inequality. Combining detailed administrative data and a structural model suggests that enhancing high school quality is a more effective solution for reducing college enrollment inequality than creating new public colleges.

“College Licensing and Reputation Effects on the Labor Market” with José Flor-Toro and Fabiola Alba Vivar

Brief abstract: We study the effects on labor market effects of a 2016-2022 licensing process providing public signals regarding the quality of Peruvian colleges. Using a rich panel dataset of recent college graduates and a difference-in-differences model, we find an increase in wages for graduates from colleges that received a license, along with evidence suggesting improvements in the reputation of their institutions.

“Improving the Distribution of Quality in Health Provision: Two Incentive Reforms in Peru’s Healthcare System” with José Flor-Toro

Brief abstract: We analyze the labor supply decisions of healthcare providers in Peru. The Peruvian government enacted two incentive reforms aimed at reducing vacant positions and enhancing healthcare quality in health centers that serve poorer, predominantly rural populations. Using two regression discontinuity designs, we find that career advancement incentives attract significantly more skilled physicians to the targeted areas but are nearly ineffective for nurses; however, the opposite holds true for monetary incentives, which draw more skilled nurses to the areas with the greatest need. However, we find no meaningful improvements in utilization and perceived quality of healthcare services in the targeted areas.

“Local Specialization and Growth: The Italian Land Reform” with Giampaolo Lecce and Riccardo Bianchi-Vimerati

Brief abstract: We analyze how a 1950s national land reform affected Italy's industrial structure and economic development. Using new data and a difference-in-differences model, we find that areas with more expropriations stayed more agricultural over the decades. Our results suggest intergenerational occupational transmission significantly contributed to persistent employment and resulted in lower long-term income growth.

“Vote for Hollywood: the Effects of US Indirect Propaganda on Italian Elections” with Mario Cannella

Brief abstract: We examine how cinema influences electoral choices, specifically during the Cold War in Italy. Using a panel dataset and an instrumental variable approach, we combine spatial access to cinema with box office success of U.S. films before elections. Our findings reveal that increased exposure to U.S. movies resulted in support for U.S.-endorsed parties and losses for the Italian Communist Party, with minimal impact on voter turnout.

Work in Progress

“Personalized Learning Initiative” with Monica P. Bhatt, Terence Chau, Barbara Condliffe, Rebecca Davis, Jean Grossman, Jonathan Guryan, Jens Ludwig, Shira Mattera, Fatemeh Momeni, Philip Oreopolous, and Greg Stoddard – Pre-Analysis Plan available at <https://osf.io/hvu2f>

“Effects of Academic Remediation on Violence” with Monica P. Bhatt, Jens Ludwig, and Fatemeh Momeni – Pre-Analysis Plan available upon request

“Scaling Virtual Tutoring for New Mexico Charter Schools” with Jens Ludwig

“Evaluating the Impact of a Two-Generation College Pipeline Program” with Lesley J. Turner

Policy Reports

Realizing the Promise of High Dosage Tutoring at Scale: Preliminary Evidence for the Field with Monica P. Bhatt, Terence Chau, Barbara Condliffe, Rebecca Davis, Jean Grossman, Jonathan Guryan, Jens Ludwig, Shira Mattera, Fatemeh Momeni, Philip Oreopolous, and Greg Stoddard (2024)

“Consultoria para describir el efecto de la regulacion universitaria en la insercion laboral de los egresados en el Peru, segun familias de carreras” with José Flor-Toro and Fabiola Alba Vivar (2020, in Spanish), developed for the Peruvian Ministry of Education

[Consultancy for the description of the effects of regulation on college graduates' employment, by major groups]

“Los factores que limitan la transicion a la Educacion Superior: Situacion actual y recomendaciones de politica publica” with José Flor-Toro and Fabiola Alba Vivar (2020, in Spanish), developed for the Peruvian Ministry of Education

[Factors limiting the transition to Higher Education: current situation and recommendations for public policy]

“Diseno de indicadores de desempeno de universidades publicas para la determinacion de acuerdos de desempeno con el Sector Educacion” with José Flor-Toro (2020, in Spanish), developed for the Peruvian Ministry of Economics and Finance

[Design of performance indicators for public colleges for the determination of sectoral funding agreements]

Sponsored Research

Arnold Ventures, “Evaluating the Impact of a Two-Generation College Pipeline Program,” \$299,993, Principal Investigator, with Lesley J. Turner. 2025-2028

MIT Blueprint Lab - Charter School Research Collaborative, “Scaling Virtual Tutoring for New Mexico Charter Schools,” \$217,492, Principal Investigator, with Jens Ludwig. 2024-2026

Grant by Center for Economic History (Northwestern), \$1474 2019

Fellowships and Awards

Dissertation University Fellowship, Northwestern University 2021-2022

Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, Northwestern University 2020-21

Study-Abroad Exchange Programme Scholarship (Unicredit Bank) 2016

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| Erasmus Visiting Student Scholarship (European Union) | 2016 |
| Prize for Best Graduating Student (University of Bologna) | 2014 |

Presentations at Conferences and Invited Seminars

2025 – Association for Education Finance & Policy (AEFP) 50th Annual Conference (upcoming), Liberal Arts Colleges Public and Labor Economics (LAC-PaL)
 2024 – Northeastern Universities Development Consortium Conference (NEUDC), SV High Dosage Tutoring Summit, Society of Labor Economics (SOLE) Fifth World Labor Conference
 2022 – Association for Education Finance & Policy (AEFP) 47th Annual Conference, Applied Micro Seminar of the University of Piura (MAP)
 2021 – Economic History Seminar at Peking University, Market Warm-Up Mini-Conference at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee

Professional Affiliations

Association for Education Finance & Policy

Refereeing for Journals

The Economic Journal

Other Research Experience

Research Assistant, Jacopo Ponticelli and Filippo Mezzanotti, Northwestern University 2018

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, Northwestern University 2017-2021
 Labor Economics, Public Finance (3x),
 Introductory Econometrics (3x), Advanced Econometrics (3x)

Languages

English (fluent), Italian (native), Spanish (fluent), German (basic)

Programming

Stata (advanced), LaTeX (advanced), Python (intermediate), R (basic), ArcGIS (basic)