

Sergio S. Urzúa

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PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Maryland (2014-)
- NBER Research Associate (2016-)
- IZA Research Fellow (2009-)

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of Chicago, 2007.
M.A. Economics, University of Chicago, 2003.
M.A. Economics, University of Chile, 2001.
B.A. Economics, University of Chile, 2000.

FIELDS

Applied Micro-econometrics, Labor and Development Economics

SUBMITTED PAPERS

- [1] “Birth Order, Education, and Family Size” (with J. Bagger, J. Birchenall, H. Mansourz). *R & R (Second round), The Economic Journal*, 2019.
Available: NBER working paper N 19971.
- [2] “Bullying among Adolescents: The Role of Cognitive and Non-cognitive Skills” (with M. Sarsoza), *R & R, Quantitative Economics*, 2019.
Available: NBER Working Paper No. 21631.
- [3] “The Effect of the Minimum Wage on Employment in Brazil” (with F. Saltiel). *R & R, Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 2019.
- [4] “Should I Stay or Should I Go? Career Choices for Young Workers in Latin America.” (with F. Saltiel and G. Rucci). *R & R, Economic Inquiry*, 2019.
- [5] “The Transmission of Commodity Price Super-Cycles” (F. Begunria and F. Saffie). *Reject & R. The Review of Economic Studies*, 2019.
Available: NBER Working Paper No. 24560.
- [6] "The children of the missed pill " (with M. Sarzosa and T. Rau), *Reject & R. The Economic Journal*, 2019.
Available: NBER Working Paper No. 23911.

[7] “Dynamic Treatment Effects of Job Training” (with F. Saltiel and J. Rodriguez). submitted, 2019.

Available: NBER Working Paper No. 25408.

[8] “Between- versus Within-Firm Inequality in Latin America”, (with G. Rucci, F. Saltiel and E. Muñoz), submitted, 2019.

Available: IADB Working Paper Series No. 1004.

[9] “The Returns to Private Education: Evidence from School-to-Work Transitions” (with D. Contreras and J. Rodriguez), submitted, 2019.

[10] “Training, Soft-skills and Productivity: Evidence from a Field Experiment” (with M. Prada and G. Rucci), submitted, 2019.

Available: IZA Discussion Working Paper Series, No. 12447.

WORK IN PROGRESS (AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

[11] “The Value of Education Services: A Comparison of Average Costs and Private Rate of Returns to Education”, 2019.

[12] “Shooting stars? Firms and Education as Mediators of the Returns to Skills” (with F. Saltiel), 2019.

[13] “Voting for Democracy: Evidence from Chile’s Plebiscito” (with E. Kaplan and F. Saltiel), 2019.

[14] “Have the Returns to AFQT scores really Declined?” (with J. Hellerstein and S. Luo), 2019.

[15] “The Causal Effect of Skills: An International Study” (with R. Espinoza, K. Miyamoto, M. Sarzosa), 2019.

[16] “Unobserved Heterogeneity, School Choice and The effects of Voucher on Academic Achievement: New Evidence from Chile” (with C. Sanchez and T. Rau), 2019.

BOOKS

[1] *Education on the Fast Track (Educación con Patines)* (with A. Fontaine). Editorial el Mercurio, February 2018.

<http://educacionconpatines.com/prologue-of-education-on-the-fast-track/>

[2] *At a Crossroad: Higher Education in Latin America and the Caribbean* (with M. Ferreira, C. Avitabile, J. Botero and F. Haimoivh). The World Bank, 2017.

[3] *Disconnected: Skills, Education and Employment in Latin America* (with M. Bassi, M. Buso and J. Vargas). IADB, 2012.

<http://www.iadb.org/en/topics/education/disconnected-downloads,6114.html>

PUBLICATIONS

[1] The (Un)expected Economic Consequences of the Recent Expansion of Higher Education in Latin America (with R. Espinoza). *Latin American Policy Journal*, Vol. 7 spring 2018.

- [2] One Size Does Not Fit All: Multiple Dimensions of Ability, College Attendance and Earnings (with M. Prada), *Journal of Labor Economics* 35, no. 4 (October 2017): 953-991.
- [3] Heterogeneous Economic Returns to Postsecondary Degrees: Evidence from Chile (with J. Rodriguez and L. Reyes), *Journal of Human Resources*, Spring 2016, Vol. 51(2).
- [4] Implementing Factor Models with Unobserved Heterogeneity in Stata: The *heterofactor* command (with. M. Sarzosa), *Stata Journal*, Vol. 156(1), 2016.
- [5] Early Exposure to Hazardous Waste and Academic Achievement: Evidence from a Case of Environmental Negligence (with T. Rau and L. Reyes), *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, Vol. 2, (December 2015), pp 527-563.
Recipient of the 2015 Best Article published in JAERE.
- [6] Cost benefit analysis of an integrated ECD program in a low-income country (with F. Lopez Boo and G. Palloni), *Annals of the New York Academy of Science*, 1308 (2014) 129-138.
- [7] Economic Perspectives on Integrating Early Child Stimulation with Nutritional Interventions (with H. Alderman, J. Behrman, S. Grantham-McGregor, F. Lopez Boo), *Annals of the New York Academy of Science*, 1308 (2014) 139-148.
- [8] Do as You're Told! Facets of Agreeableness and Early Adult Outcomes for Inner-City Boys (with M. Kern, A. Duckworth, R. Loeber, M. Loeber and D. Lynam), *Journal of Research in Personality*, 2013 Dec, 47(6).
- [9] The Labor Market Return to an Attractive Face: Evidence from a Field Experiment (with F. Lopez Boo and M. Rossi). *Economics Letters*, Vol. 118, Issue 1, Jan. 2013 (Top 10 downloads from March 2012, IZA)
- [10] The Effects of Participation in Public Child Care Centers: Evidence from Chile (with G. Noboa-Hidalgo). *Journal of Human Capital*, Vol. 6, N. 1, Spring 2012.
- [11] The Education Health-Gradient (with G. Conti and J. Heckman). *American Economic Review, Papers and Proceedings*, May 2010.
- [12] Testing the Correlated Random Coefficient Model (with J. Heckman and D. Schmierer). *Journal of Econometrics*, vol. 157, 2010. (featured by *The Economist* <http://www.economist.com/node/21552566>)
- [13] Comparing IV With Structural Models: What Simple IV Can and Cannot Identify (with J. Heckman). *Journal of Econometrics*, Vol. 156(1), 2010.
- [14] Occupational Choice with Financial Intermediation: Linking Mechanism Design with Heterogeneity to Econometric Policy Evaluation (With R. Townsend). *Macroeconomic Dynamics*, 13 (2), 2009-268-316, 2009.
- [15] Racial Labor Market Gaps: The Role of Abilities and Schooling Choices. *Journal of Human Resources*, Vol. 43(4): pp. 919-971, 2008.
- [16] Instrumental Variables in Models with Multiple Outcomes: The General Unordered Case

(with J. Heckman and E. Vytlačil). *Les Annales d'Economie et de Statistique*, 91-92, 2008.

[17] The use of instrumental variables in the presence of heterogeneity and self-selection: an application in breast cancer patients (2007) (With A. Basu, J. Heckman and S. Navarro). *Health Economics* 16(11):1133-1157, 2007.

[18] Understanding instrumental Variables in Models with Essential Heterogeneity (with J. Heckman and E. Vytlačil). *Review of Economics and Statistics*, v88, n3, 2006.

[19] The effect of cognitive and Non-cognitive factors in behavioral and labor outcomes” (With J. Heckman and J. Stixrud). *Journal of Labor Economics*, v24, n3, 2006.

OTHER PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

English:

[20] Cognitive and Socio-emotional Ability (with F. Saltiel and M. Sarzosa). In *Handbook of Contemporary Education Economics*, Johnes, G., Johnes, J., Agasisti, T., López-Torres, L. (Eds), Edward Elgar, Northampton, MA, USA, Dec. 2017.

[21] Economic Perspectives on Some Important Dimensions of Early Childhood Development in Developing Countries (with J. Behrman). In *Handbook of Early Childhood Development Research and Its Impact on Global Policy*, Rebello, P., Engle, P., and Super, C. (Eds). Oxford University Press, 2013.

[22] The Economic Consequences of Chile's Free Higher Education Plan (with Ricardo Espinoza), *Revista de Educación*, Vol. 370, Oct-Dec 2015. (also available in Spanish)

[23] Human Capital and the Economic Development in Latin America: Where are we? Where are we going? (with G. Rucci and M. Bassi), chapter prepared for *Development in the Americas* (DIA) 2014, Interamerican Development Bank, 2014.

[24] Identifying Labor Market Discrimination using an Experimental Design (with D. Bravo and C. Sanhueza) in *Discrimination in Latin America: An Economic Perspective*, Ñopo, H., Chong, A., Moro, A. (Eds), Inter-american Development Bank, 2009.

[25] Ability, Schooling Choices and Gender Labor Market Discrimination: Evidence for Chile (with D. Bravo and C. Sanhueza) in *Discrimination in Latin America: An Economic Perspective*, Ñopo, H., Chong, A., Moro, A. (Eds), Inter-american Development Bank, 2009.

Spanish:

[26] La inconveniencia de un impuesto a los graduados para financiar una educación superior gratuita (with Ricardo Espinoza). *Economía y Política*, Vol. 2, 2015.

[27] El Impacto de los Establecimientos Educativos de Excelencia: El caso del Instituto Nacional de Chile. (with A. Bucarey, M. Jorquera and P. Muñoz) *Estudios Públicos*, 2014.

[28] Los Retornos Económicos de la Educación Media Técnica (with A. Bucarey), *Estudios Públicos*, vol. 129, 2013.

[29] La Demanda y Oferta de Educación Temprana en Chile (with L. Reyes). *Estudios Públicos*, Vol. 126, 2012.

[30] The Economic Returns to Higher Education in Chile: Revising the Foundations of 30 Years of Public Policies. *Estudios Públicos*, Vol. 125, 2012. (cited by *The Economist* <http://www.economist.com/node/21552566>)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

English:

[31] Review of *The Biological Consequences of Socioeconomic Inequalities* edited by Barbara Wolfe, William Evans, and Teresa E. Seeman, *Journal of Economic Literature*, 2014.

Spanish:

[32] Gratuidad en Educación Superior vía Impuestos a la Acumulación de Capital Humano: Propuesta Inconveniente (with Ricardo Espinoza) *Public Policy Series*, March 2015, Clapes-UC.

[33] Selección, diversidad y libertad de enseñanza (with Arturo Fontaine), *Public Policy Series*, November 2014, Clapes-UC.

[34] El fin de los Liceos Emblemáticos: ¿Por qué? ¿Cómo? ¿Impacto? (with Arturo Fontaine), *Public Policy Series*, September 2014, Clapes-UC.

[35] Gratuidad de la Educación Superior en Chile en Contexto (with Ricardo Espinoza), *Public Policy Series*, July 2014. Clapes-UC.

[36] Desigualdad, segregación y resultados educacionales. Evidencia desde el Metro de Santiago (with J. A. Echenique) *Punto de Referencia* 359, Mayo 2013, Centro de Estudios Públicos.

[37] Pobreza y Desigualdad ¿Dónde estamos? ¿Hacia dónde vamos? (with J. A. Echenique) *Punto de Referencia* 353, Noviembre 2012, Centro de Estudios Públicos.

PERMANENT WORKING PAPERS

“The Effect of Mandated Child Care on Female Wages in Chile”, (with G. Rucci, M. Prada), NBER working paper N 21080, April 2015.

“Returns to Higher Education in Chile and Colombia”, (with C. González-Velosa, G. Rucci, M. Sarzosa), IDB Working Paper Series, N. IDB-WP-587, March, 2015

“Education, Health, and Wages” (with J. Heckman, John Humphries and G. Veramendi), NBER working paper N 19138, March 2014.

“Loans for Higher Education: Does the dream come true?” (with E. Rojas and T. Rau), NBER working paper N 19138, June 2013.

Latest version: <http://www.econ.umd.edu/research/papers/645>

“The Impact of Publically Funded Innovation Projects: Evidence from Chile’s INNOVA program” (with G. Crespi, A. Maffioli, R. Stucchi), October, 2013.

“Firm Dynamics in Chile: Evidence from Matched employer-employee data”, (with M. Rodriguez-Chatruc), September, 2013.

“The Impact Of Out-Of-Home Childcare Centers On Early Childhood Development” (with Gregory Veramendi). Manuscript, 2012.

“Longer School Days, Better Outcomes?” (with T. Pires), Manuscript, 2011.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Member of the Steering Committee of the NBER Children's program (2018-2020).
- Editor in chief, *Economía*, the Journal of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (2018-).
- Co-editor of *Economía*, the journal of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (2016-2018).
- Co-director of The LACEA Labor Network (2014-).
- Member of the Executive Director Committee of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (2015-2019).
- Associate Editor of *Economía*, the journal of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (2015).
- International Research Fellow, Centro Latinoamericano de Estudios Sociales y Económicos, CLAPES-UC (since March 2014).
- Selected among the top ten young economists of Latin America by the Latin Trade magazine (www.latintrade.com).
- Distinguished Alumni Achievement Award (Best Chilean Economist), 2013. Elected by the alumni of the University of Chile.
- Co-organizer of the Employment, Productivity and Skills Network of Latin America and the Caribbean, (Jan 2013-).
- Organizer of the conference “Skills, Education and Labor Market Outcomes”, University of Maryland, May 2013.
- Co-organizer of Conference on Applied Microeconomics University of Maryland-College Park and the Latin American and Caribbean Chief Economist Office of the World Bank (<http://econweb.umd.edu/~urzua/AppliedMicroConf.html>), May 2012.
- Reid Dissertation Fellow, University of Chicago, 2006-2007.
- Esther and T.W. Schultz Endowment, Dissertation Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2005-2006.
- University of Chicago Graduate Fellowship, 2001-2005.
- Universidad de Chile Graduate Fellowship, 1999-2000.
- Universidad de Chile Undergraduate Fellowship 1998.
- Best Graduate Student, Department of Economics, Universidad de Chile 2000..
- Best BA Student, Department of Economics, Universidad de Chile 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999.

COMPLETED Ph.D. STUDENTS (as chair or co-chair of committee; first job post-Ph.D. listed)

Lisa Dettling (2013), Federal Reserve, DC

Maria F. Prada (2014), Inter-American Development Bank

Matija Jancec (2014), Amazon.

Leland Crane (2014), Federal Reserve of Chicago
Miguel Sarzosa (2015), Purdue University.
Giordano Palloni (2015), International Food Policy Research Institute.
Ricardo Espinoza (2017), OECD, Paris.
Cristian Sanchez (2018), ITAM, Mexico.
Heath Wilson (2019), Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.
Fernando Saltiel (2019), McGill University, Canada (and Duke University postdoctoral fellow).

Non University of Maryland Students:

John Jemus (2009, Northwestern), Uppsala University, Sweden.
Zhara Siddique (2009, Northwestern), IZA, Germany.
Carlos Madeira (2009, Northwestern), Central Bank of Chile.
Gregory Veramendi (2010, Northwestern), Aarhus University, Denmark.
Cristina Tealdi (2010, Northwestern), Lucca Institute of Economics, Italy.
Rodrigo Montero (2010, University of Chile), Universidad Diego Portales, Chile.

PUBLIC SERVICE AND OTHER PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

- President of the National Commission for Early Education of Chile (2019-)
- Member of the National Productivity Commission of Chile (2018-)
- Member of the Presidential Advisory Commission on the Pensions System of Chile (2014-2015)
- Member of the Presidential Commission for the design of the social program “Ingreso Ético Familiar” (2010-2012),
- Member of the Committee for the Evaluation of the Chilean training system (Labor Ministry 2011-2012),
- Member of the Committee for the Evaluation of the Casen surveys (Ministry of Planning, 2011),
- Member of the Committee for a new minimum wage (Ministry of Finance, 2010).

GRANTS

- Research and Scholarship Award (summer 2014), University of Maryland SEED (~9k)
- NIH (2010-2014): The Effects of Early Interventions (2.4 million dollars) (with Jere Behrman).
- IADB: Improving Early Childhood Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (~60k)
- Northwestern University Research Grant: Are Public Child-Care Centers Effective in Reducing Poverty? (~5K)

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

- NBER Research Faculty (2010-2016)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Maryland (2011-2014)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Northwestern University (2007-2011)
- Board of Directors, AFP Habitat, Chile (2017-).
- Board of Directors, Fundación para la Superación de la Pobreza, Chile (2015-).
- Senior Economist, Centro de Estudios Públicos, Chile (2011-2014).
- Head of Labor Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Chile (March 2010-May 2011).
- Consultant for World Bank, IADB, OECD, Alas Foundation.

REFEREE

Econometrica, American Economic Review, Economic Inquiry, Journal of Econometrics, Review of Economics and Statistics, American Sociological Review, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Population Economics, Journal of Business and Economic Statistics, Sociology of Education, Journal of Human Capital, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Applied Econometrics, Latin American Journal of Economics, among others.

COMPUTATIONAL SKILLS

Proficient in LaTeX, FORTRAN, MPI, Stata, MATLAB.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Labor Economics II (Econ 772) (PhD level), Department of Economics, University of Maryland, Fall 2018, Spring 2019.
- The Economics of Safety Nets (Econ 427), Department of Economics, University of Maryland, Spring 2017, Fall 2018.
- Econometrics II (Econ 423), Department of Economics, University of Maryland, Fall 2018.
- Econometrics I (Econ 422), Department of Economics, University of Maryland, Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017.
- Advanced Labor Market (Econ 771) (PhD level), Department of Economics, University of Maryland, Fall 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017.
- Economics of the Labor Market (Econ 440-1) (PhD level), Department of Economics, Northwestern University, Winter 2008., Fall 2009, Fall 2010.
- Advanced Econometrics I (Econ 381-1) and II (Econ 381-2), Department of Economics, Northwestern University, 2008 and 2009, 2010.
- The Economics of Education (Econ 341), Department of Economics, Northwestern University, Spring 2010.
- Advanced Micro-econometrics, Department of Economics, Catholic University of Chile, Summer 2008.
- Empirical Models with Unobserved Heterogeneity, Department of Industrial Engineering, University of Chile, Summer 2007.
- Econometrics B (Econ 211), Department of Economics, University of Chicago, Spring 2007.
- Econometrics A (Econ 210), Department of Economics, University of Chicago, Spring 2006.
- Elements of Economics Analysis 4 (Econ 203), Department of Economics, University of Chicago, Autumn 2004.
- Topics in Macroeconomics, Department of Economics, Universidad de Chile. Fall 2001
- Econometrics II, Department of Economics, Universidad de Chile. Fall 2001.
- Theory of Prices II, Department of Economics, Universidad de Chile. Spring and Fall 2000.
- Introduction to Economics, Department of Economics, Universidad de Chile. Fall 2000.