
CHRISTOPHER A. NEILSON
Princeton University
Economics Department
Woodrow Wilson School of Public Policy
Industrial Relations Section · Education Research Section

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Princeton University, 2015 -
Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, 2015 -
J-PAL Academic Affiliate, 2017 -

PAST APPOINTMENTS

Visiting Researcher, Microsoft Research, New England, 2017 - 2018
Visiting Scholar at Stern School of Business, New York University. 2014-2015
Aide to the Governor at Banco Central de Chile, 2005-2008

EDUCATION

Ph.D, Economics, Yale University, 2014
Msc., Economics, Universidad de Chile, 2006
B.A., Economics, Universidad de Chile, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

Early Life Health Interventions and Academic Achievement
American Economic Review, 103(5): 1862-91, 2013
(with Prashant Bharadwaj and Katrina Loken)

The Effect of School Construction on Test Scores, School Enrollment, and Home Prices
Journal of Public Economics, Volume 120, Pages 18-31, 2014
(with Seth Zimmerman)

Connecting Student Loans to Labor Market Outcomes: Policy Lessons from Chile
American Economic Review P&P, Vol. 105 No. 5, May 2015
(with Harald Beyer, Justine Hastings and Seth Zimmerman)

(Un)informed College and Major Choice: Evidence from Linked Survey and Administrative Data
Economics of Education Review, Volume 51, April 2016, Pages 136-151
(with Justine Hastings, Anely Ramirez and Seth Zimmerman),

The Gender Gap in Mathematics: Evidence from middle/low income countries
Economic Development and Cultural Change, Oct 2016, Volume 65, Issue 1, pp. 141 - 166
(with Giacomo Giorgi, David Hansen and Prashant Bharadwaj,

Do Initial Endowments Matter only Initially? Birth Weight, Parental Investments and Academic Achievement in School
Journal of Labor Economics,(2018)
(with Juan Eberhard and Prashant Bharadwaj)

Gray Matters: Fetal Pollution Exposure and Human Capital Formation
Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists (2017)
(with Prashant Bharadwaj, Matthew Gibson, Josh Graff Zivin),

WORKING PAPERS

Targeted Vouchers, Competition Among Schools, and the Academic Achievement of Poor Students (Revise and Resubmit, *Econometrica*)
Yale University (Job Market Paper, 2014, update June 2017)

Heterogeneous Beliefs and School Choice Mechanisms (Revise and Resubmit at AER)
(with Adam Kapor and Seth Zimmerman, NBER Working Paper No. 25096 (September 2018))

Equilibrium Effects of Asymmetric Information on Consumer Credit Markets
(with Andres Liberman and Seth Zimmerman, NBER Working Paper No. 25097 (September 2018))

The Effects of Earnings Disclosure on College Enrollment Decisions
(with Justine Hastings and Seth Zimmerman, NBER Working Paper No. 21300 (June 2015, update July 2017))

Are Some Degrees Worth More than Others? Evidence from College Admission Cutoffs in Chile
(with Justine Hastings and Seth Zimmerman), NBER Working Paper No. 19241 (July 2013)

The Effect of School Choice on Intrinsic Motivation and Academic Outcomes
(with Justine Hastings and Seth Zimmerman), NBER Working Paper No. 18324 (August 2012)

Getting Better Students to Become Teachers: The Effects of Targeted Tuition Subsidies
(with Fabian Duarte and Macarena Alvarado), MINEDUC WP series (November 2011)

WORK IN PROGRESS

The Equilibrium Effects of Informed School Choice
(with Claudia Allende and Francisco Gallego, first presentation: September 2016)

Student Choices and the Return to College Major and Selectivity
(with Justine Hastings and Seth Zimmerman, first presentation: October 2016)

What Goes in Must Come Out: Teacher Quality and Initial Teacher Ability
(with Sebastian Gallegos, first presentation: January 2016)

High-School Dropouts: Missing out or cutting losses?
(with Nano Barahona, Sebastian Otero, and Christina Kent (September 2017)

Subjective Beliefs and Human Capital Investment Decisions in Dominican Republic
(with James Berry, Lucas Coffman and Daniel Morales (first presentation: January 2016)

Teacher Wages, the Recruitment of Talent, and Academic Achievement in Rural Peru
(with Camila Alva, Matteo Bobba, Gianmarco Leon, and Marco Nieddu, (October 2017)

General Equilibrium Effects of a Large Scale Public School Construction Project
(with Michael Dinerstein)

Student Loans, Student Choices and the Market Structure of Higher Education
(first presentation: September 2016)

Dynamic Complementarities of Information Interventions and Human Capital in Peru
(with Francisco Gallego and Oswaldo Molina, first presented June 2017)

Teacher School Choice and the Wage Schedule for Equal Opportunities in Peru
(with Matteo Bobba and Gianmarco Leon)

Percived Own Ability, Information Provision and Formation in Dominican Republic
(with James Berry, Sebastian Otero and Giacomo de Gigorgi)

Carrots and Sticks for Teacher Colleges: An Application for an Optimal Teacher Recruitment Policy
(with Adam Kapor and Cristian Sanchez)

Externalities of Platform Adoption and the Efficiency of Centralized College Application Systems
(with Adam Kapor and Mohit Karnani)

Search Costs, Biased Beliefs and School Choice under Endogenously Limited Information
(with Claudia Allende and Patrick Agte)

GRANTS

Beliefs, Understanding, and Strategic Behavior in School Choice Mechanisms

Donor: **National Science Foundation (NSF)** via NBER - Grant Amount: USD 457,853.00

Learning the Value of Education in the Dominican Republic

Donor: **DIV-USAID** via JPAL - Grant amount: USD 1,258,979 + 240,000 expansion

Getting children to stay in school and out of work: The role of Informative and Persuasive Marketing

Donor: **United States Department of Labor (DoL)** via IPA- Grant amount: USD 977,690.00

Donor: **Post Primary Initiative JPAL Global** via IPA - Grant amount: USD 256,464

Leveraging Administrative Data and Machine Learning Techniques to Improve Education Policy in Developing Countries

Donor: **Microsoft Research** via JPAL - Grant Amount: USD 40,000 on Azure Computing Resources

Evaluating online platform to reduce information asymmetries w/in students and parents

Donor: **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IDB)** and MINEDU

via IPA - Grant amount: USD 202,000

Education Mismatch and Information about Relative Performance

Donor: **Post Primary Initiative JPAL Global** - Grant amount: USD 50,000

Building a better future with informed investment in higher education: Evaluating the impact of personalized provision of information

Donor: **Skills for Youth Program, J-PAL LAC** - Grant amount: USD 49,479

Financial Aid and College Access in the Dominican Republic

Donor: **Post Primary Education Initiative, J-PAL** - Grant amount: USD 256,893

Reducing free-riding in public goods: An experimental approach to improving payment compliance for trash collection in the Dominican Republic

Donor: **Governance Initiative, J-PAL** - Grant amount: USD 48,990

PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES

Associate Partner of IDEICE research department of the Ministry of Education

Government of the Dominican Republic, 2014-2016

Topics: The study of education issues and the scale up of policies proven to improve outcomes.

Consultant for MINEDU of the Ministry of Education, Government of Peru 2016

Topics: The design and implementation of informational platforms for college choice in Peru.

MineduLAB of the Ministry of Education, Government of Peru

founding Principal Investigator 2014, Board member 2015

Advisor to MINDUC of the Ministry of Education, Government of Chile. 2015

Topics : The design and implementation of centralized school choice mechanism.

Consultant for the World Bank 2014-2015

Topics: The design and implementation of free tuition policy in higher education in Chile.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS¹

Excellence in Refereeing Award, American Economic Review, 2017

Best Graduate Student Advisor - Princeton University, 2016

Review of Economic Studies Tour, 2014

Distinguished Young Alumni *Joven Egresado Destacado*, 2014, University of Chile

George Trimis Prize for Distinguished Dissertation in Economics, Yale University, 2014

Northeast Rugby Championship and 3rd place at Nationals, All Black New Haven Rugby, 2014

Anderson Fellowship, Cowles Foundation, 2012

City of New Haven, Board of Aldermen Official Citation for Robotics Coaching Program, 2011

Distinction - Industrial Organization field examination, Yale University, 2010

100 Young Leaders of Chile El Mercurio 2007

Best Economics MA Student, Dept. of Economics, University of Chile 2006

Best Economics Student at graduation, University of Chile 2005

Alumni Association prize at graduation, University of Chile 2005

International Labor Organization (ILO) Undergraduate Thesis Fellowship, 2003

Athletic Scholarship-Rugby, Universidad de Chile 1999-2004

2nd Place-Chile U21, South American Rugby Championship, Asuncion, Paraguay 1998

7th Place-Chile U19, Junior Rugby World Cup, Toulouse, France 1998

Best Athlete, Saint George's College 1998

¹After giving this a minimal amount of thought, I decided that if other academics can cite chess championships, spelling bees and math olympics they won when they were twelve, I feel like it is appropriate to cite championships playing rugby representing my club and country.

REFEREEING

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Policy, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Theory, Economic Journal, Journal of the European Economic Association, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, The International Economic Review, Journal of Human Resources, Labour Economics, Oxford Economics Papers and the Education Economics Review.

OTHER

Coach/Mentor - First Lego League Robotics (at Worthington Hooker Elementary School, New Haven, CT)
Fall 2010,2011,2012,2013

Player - Bulldog Rugby 7s 2014 (Summer)

Player - New Haven Old Blacks Rugby Football Club 2012 (Spring) - 2014 (Spring)
State Champions (2014), 3rd place Nationals (2014)

Player - Yale Graduate Rugby Squad, 2009-2013

Rugby Coach - DRIVE2SUCCEED, East Rock Rugby - Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2013

Rugby Coach - Cheshire, CT Rugby U12 - Summer 2012

Rugby Coach - Prince of Wales Country Club Rugby (Under 12s and Under 10s),2001-2004

Player - Prince of Wales Country Club Rugby, Santiago, Chile, 2001-2004

Player - Gordon Rugby Club, Sydney Australia, 2001

Player - Universidad de Chile Rugby, Santiago, Chile, 1999-2000

Chilean National Rugby Team (7s squad),2001-2002

Chilean National Rugby Team (U21),1998-2002

Player - Stade Francais, Santiago, Chile, 1998

Player - Saint George's College, Santiago, Chile, 1995-1998

Player - Chilean National Rugby Team (U19),1997-1998

LANGUAGES

Native speaker of English and Spanish.