

BRIAN FELD

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📍 Department of Economics, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign , Urbana, IL <i>Ph.D. in Economics</i>	2020 (<i>Expected</i>)
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign , Urbana, IL <i>M.S. in Economics</i>	2016
Universidad de Buenos Aires , Buenos Aires, Argentina <i>B.S. in Economics, Cum Laude</i>	2010

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Labor Economics, Development Economics

Secondary: Applied Econometrics, Microeconomics

WORKING PAPERS

“Direct and Spillover Effects of Enforcing Labor Registration: Evidence from Argentina,” Job Market Paper.

“Immigration and its Effects Crime, Violence and Social Unrest,” with Marieke Kleemans.

“Comparing Methods to Estimate Valuations of Job Attributes,” with AbdelRahman Nagy and Adam Osman.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

“Collective Action: Experimental Evidence,” with María Victoria Anauati, Sebastián Galiani and Gustavo Torrens, *Games and Economic Behavior*, 99, pp.36-55, 2016.

“Climate change in Latin America and the Caribbean: policy options and research priorities,” with Sebastián Galiani, *Latin American Economic Review*, 24(1), pp.1-39, 2015.

PRESENTATIONS

2019 (including planned): University of Illinois, Department of Agricultural and Consumer Economics; CAF - Banco de Desarrollo de América Latina, Buenos Aires; North East Universities Development Consortium Conference, Northwestern University; Missouri Valley Economics Association Annual Conference, Kansas City MO; Illinois Economics Association Annual Meeting, DePaul University; Latin American and Caribbean Economics Association Annual Meeting, Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla; Southern Economics Association Annual Meeting, Fort Lauderdale FL.

2018: Midwest Economics Association Annual Meeting, Evanston IL; Health, History, Demography and Development (H2D2) Research Day, University of Michigan; Illinois Economics Association Annual Meeting, DePaul University.

2017: Missouri Valley Economics Association Annual Conference, Kansas City MO.

AWARDS

Tinker Foundation Summer Fellowship.	2019
Summer research award, University of Illinois.	2016
Merit-based full scholarship for graduate studies, University of Illinois.	2014-2020
Graduate studies fellowship, FIEL (Fundación de Investigaciones Económicas Latinoamericanas).	2011

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics, University of Illinois

Research Assistant for Prof. Marieke Kleemans

August 2015- December 2018

Research Assistant for Prof. Benjamin Marx

August 2015

Gies College of Business, University of Illinois

Research Assistant for Prof. David Molitor

June 2015 - August 2015

Departamento de Economía - Universidad de San Andrés

Research Assistant for Prof. Sebastián Galiani

September 2012 - June 2015

Research Assistant for Prof. Enrique Kawamura

September 2012 - August 2014

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics - University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Teaching Assistant

Intermediate Microeconomics, Prof. Bryan Buckley

Spring 2018 - Present

Migration and Economic Development, Prof. Marieke Kleemans

Fall 2017

Principles of Economics, Prof. José Vasquez

Fall 2015 - Spring 2017

School of Economics - Universidad de Buenos Aires

Teaching Assistant

Intermediate Microeconomics, Prof. Martín Rossi

Fall 2012 - Fall 2014

Department of Economics - Universidad de San Andrés

Teaching Assistant

Principles of Microeconomics, Profs. Gonzalo Fernández and Diego Fernández Felices

Fall 2013

Principles of Microeconomics, Prof. Diego Petrecolla

Fall 2012

Principles of Macroeconomics, Prof. Sebastián Katz

Fall 2012, Spring 2012

Graduation Paper Workshop, Prof. Walter Sosa Escudero

Spring 2012

REFERENCES

Professor Rebecca Thornton

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Professor Adam Osman

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Professor Marieke Kleemans

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Professor Elizabeth Powers

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Citizenship: Argentine, Italian.

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent), French (advanced), Italian (basic).

Programming skills: Stata (Advanced), R (Intermediate), Python (Basic), Matlab (Basic)

“Direct and Spillover Effects of Enforcing Labor Registration: Evidence from Argentina” (Job Market Paper)

This paper studies how increases in labor standards and higher enforcement of these standards affects workers and their families. To do this, I evaluate a policy introduced in Argentina that strengthened the labor standards of domestic workers and the cost of noncompliance for their employers on workers and their families. Until 2013, labor standards granted domestic workers fewer rights than those of other workers, and employers faced lower sanctions if they did not comply with these regulations. The policy removed most of these differences, increasing workers' rights and employer's penalties in case of noncompliance. It also increased the probability of detection of noncompliers.

I find that this policy led to a 36% increase in registration rates of domestic workers, a 4% increase in monthly earnings. Although I do not find an increase in unemployment following the policy, I do find a reduction of 3.4% in hours of work per week, suggesting that labor demand in this market is quite inelastic. Treatment effects at different deciles of the outcome variables (implemented using Athey & Imbens' changes-in-changes framework) show that hours of work decreased the most among those working longer hours, the increase in monthly earnings is higher among those in the middle of the income distribution, and the effect on wages per hour increases monotonically by decile.

Regarding spillover impacts to other household members, I find evidence of a reduction in hours of work and monthly earnings among spouses of domestic workers, of similar magnitude than that observed for domestic workers themselves. I also observe a significant reduction in labor force participation among children of domestic workers. Moreover, I find evidence of improvements in school attendance and years of education among boys of secondary school age (12-18), and increases in secondary school completion among boys aged 18 to 25. The reason why effects are concentrated among boys is that they have worse educational outcomes at baseline than girls.

Taken together, the results suggest that strengthening labor standards, when coupled with higher enforcement, can have important benefits for low-skilled workers, and these effects can in turn improve the socioeconomic conditions of other members of their households. This also means that when assessing the impact of changes in labor regulations, researchers should not restrict themselves to those directly affected by them.

“Immigration and its Effects Crime, Violence and Social Unrest,” with Marieke Kleemans

We estimate the causal effect of internal migration on crime in Indonesia by combining detailed migration data with reports of crime and violence from over 2 million local newspapers, and from individual victimization reports in nationally representative surveys. To address endogeneity in the choice to migrate, we instrument the share of migrants in a destination with rainfall shocks at the migrant origin locations. We find that a 1 percent increase in the proportion of migrants in the population is associated with a 3.9 percent increase in the number of economically-motivated crimes reported by local media. This is consistent with the existing literature on the effects of international migration to developed countries, but larger in magnitude. In contrast, when using data on individual victimization from household surveys, we instead find that an increase in the share of migrants leads to a reduction in the probability that a person is a crime victim at the destination. The reduction in crime victimhood is particularly large for migrants and for women. We explore various reasons for these competing results, including reporting bias in newspapers as a source of increased crime coverage in areas with an influx of migrants.

“Comparing Methods to Estimate Valuations of Job Attributes,” with AbdelRahman Nagy and Adam Osman

We estimate the value of different non-wage job amenities among a group of job seekers in Egypt. We use a series of randomly assigned elicitation methods (open-ended questions, payment card, and double-bound dichotomous choice) as well as a discrete choice experiment administered to all participants to estimate individual's valuation for characteristics such as commute time, health insurance, in-site provision of meals and daycare, and shift flexibility. We find that willingness to pay estimates vary substantially across elicitation methods, both in nominal terms as well as with respect to a baseline salary, which suggests estimates obtained using stated preference should be contrasted with revealed preference methods to assess their validity. In addition, we find that estimates obtained from some widely-used elicitation formats are inconsistent with what economic theory would predict, calling into question their reliability. For example, individuals assigned to the open-ended question format require an additional 3% of their baseline salary if the job provides meals or daycare on-site. Moreover, those assigned to the double-bound dichotomous choice format do not seem to require a higher compensation for a longer commute time to work. Finally, we find heterogeneous willingness to pay estimates within elicitation methods by gender, level of education and spell of job search.