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

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Ph.D. in Economics

2014–present

Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV-EESP)

M.S. in Economics

2012

Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

B.S. Economics

2010

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Primary: Health

Secondary: Development, Applied Econometrics

WORKING PAPERS

Employment Shocks and Demand for Pain Medication (**Job market paper**)

When do Women Learn They Are Pregnant? The Introduction of Clinics and Pregnancy Uncertainty in Nepal (with Dirgha Ghimire and Rebecca Thornton)

WORK IN PROGRESS

The Mechanisms Underlying the Decline in Fertility during the Zika Epidemic in Brazil

The Effect of Presidential Election Outcomes on Alcohol Drinking (with Rodrigo Schneider)

PUBLICATIONS

The Impacts of Business Support Services for Small and Medium Enterprises on Firm Performance in Low-and Middle-Income Countries: a Systematic Review (with Caio Piza and others), 2016, *Campbell Systematic Reviews*

Determinants of access to credit for low-income population in Brazil from 2002 to 2008 (with Claudia Yoshinaga and William Eid Junior), 2011, *Cambridge Conference on Business & Economics Program, Proceedings*

The Profile of Individuals Seeking Professional Qualification in Brazil (with Ana Flavia Machado), 2013, *Economia e Sociedade* (in Portuguese)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Department of Economics and Department of Finance, University of Illinois

Research Assistant for Prof. David Molitor

2016–2019

Research Assistant for Prof. Tatyana Deryugina

2016

Research Assistant for Prof. Richard Akresh

2015–2016

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Big Data Analytics (Teaching Assistant, master's)

2017, 2018, 2019

Latin American Economies (Guest Instructor, Undergraduate) 2018
Macroeconomics Principles (Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate) 2016

Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal (ISER-N)

Introduction to R for Data Analysis (Main Instructor) 2017

Fundação Getúlio Vargas

Microeconomics and Strategic Competition (Teaching Assistant, Master's) 2011

Microeconomics (Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate) 2011

AWARDS

Robert W. Harbeson Memorial Dissertation Fellowship, University of Illinois 2019

Department Travel Grant, University of Illinois 2017, 2018, 2019

Policy Communication Fellowship, University of Michigan 2017

List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students, University of Illinois 2016, 2018

List of Teachers Ranked as Outstanding by Their Students (top 10% university-wide), University of Illinois 2018

Fundação de Amparo à Pesquisa do Estado de São Paulo (FAPESP) 2011, 2012

Instituto de Pesquisa Econômica Aplicada (IPEA) 2011

PRESENTATIONS

2019: Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) Annual Meeting, North American Regional Science Council (NARSC)

2018: Population Association of America Annual Meeting, H2D2 Research Day at the University of Michigan, Midwest Economics Association

2017: Economics Graduate Student Conference of Washington Univ. in St. Louis, Health and Society in South Asia Conference - University of Pennsylvania

2012/2013: LACEA Annual Meeting, 34^o Meeting of the Brazilian Econometric Society

WORK EXPERIENCE

Institute for Social and Environmental Research, Nepal (ISER-N)

Policy Communication Fellow *Summer 2017*

The World Bank

Researcher at the Development Impact Evaluation Unit (DIME) *Summer 2015–2016*

Impact Evaluation Field Coordinator (DIME) *2013–2014*

Itaú-Unibanco

Project Evaluation - Economic Research Analyst *2012-2013*

COMPUTER SKILLS

R, Stata, ArcGIS, AWS, Latex, MS Office Excel (VBA), Python

LANGUAGES

Portuguese (native), English (fluent), Spanish (fluent), French (intermediate), Danish (advanced)

REFERENCES

Prof. Rebecca Thornton
Department of Economics, UIUC
E-mail: rebeccat@illinois.edu

Prof. Nolan Miller
Department of Finance, UIUC
E-mail: nmiller@illinois.edu

Prof. David Molitor
Department of Finance, UIUC
E-mail: dmolitor@illinois.edu

Prof. Mark Borgschulte
Department of Economics, UIUC
E-mail: markborg@illinois.edu

WORKING PAPER ABSTRACTS

Employment Shocks and Demand for Pain Medication (Job Market Paper)

Declining economic opportunity is often portrayed as one of the drivers of the opioid epidemic. Better employment conditions can, however, affect opioid use through two channels: increasing physical pain from working or reducing mental distress that can contribute to substance abuse. I use a large dataset of opioid and over-the-counter (OTC) painkiller sales to measure the effect of employment shocks on demand for pain medication. To separate the channels, I contrast the effect of labor demand shocks on the use of opioids with the effect on the use of OTC painkillers—which address pain but not mental health—allowing for the effects to depend on the injury rate of local industries. I find that a 1 percent increase in the employment-to-population ratio decreases the per-capita demand for opioids by 0.20 percent, while it increases the per-capita demand for OTC painkillers by 0.14 percent. To decompose the effect of employment on opioid use in the two channels, I calculate the substitution between these pain medications, exploring the introduction of a policy that increased requirements to prescribe opioids. My findings show that during local economic expansions, the decline in opioid abuse is 40 percent larger than the total effect on use while, at the same time, the demand for pain relief medication increases and is related to jobs in high injury industries.

When do Women Learn They Are Pregnant? The Introduction of Clinics and Pregnancy Uncertainty in Nepal

The earlier a woman learns about her pregnancy status, the sooner she can make decisions about her own and her infant's health. This paper examines how women learn about their pregnancy status and measures how access to pregnancy tests affects pregnancy knowledge. Using ten-years of individual-level monthly panel data in Nepal, we find that, on average, women learn they are pregnant in their 5.4th month of pregnancy. Living approximately a mile farther from a clinic offering pregnancy tests increases the time they know they are pregnant by one week (a 4.5 percent increase), and decreases the likelihood of knowing in the first trimester by 3.8 percentage points (a 13.5 percent decrease). Women with prior pregnancies experience the most substantial effects of distance within the first two trimesters, while, for women experiencing their first pregnancy, distance does not affect knowledge in the first trimesters. This difference suggests that access to pregnancy tests is a binding constraint only after women's beliefs, or symptoms, about being pregnant are strong enough.