MAGDALENA BENNETT

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Contact information

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Summary

Assistant Professor in the Statistics Group at McCombs School of Business, the University of Texas at Austin.

Research interests in **statistical methodologies for causal inference**, and how new techniques can be applied to the fields of **economics of education, health, and poverty**.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Present – 2020
Assistant Professor
IROM Department, McCombs School of Business, the University of Texas at Austin

Present – 2022
Research Affiliate
Learning Collider

Present – 2022
Research Affiliate
Population Research Center at The University of Texas at Austin

EDUCATION

2020 – 2015
PhD., Economics and Education
Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY

2014 – 2013
MSc. Social Policy (Research)
London School of Economics, *Merit Distinction*, London UK

2012 – 2010
MSc. Engineering Science (Applied Microeconomics)
P. Universidad Catolica, *Maximum Distinction*, Santiago, Chile

2010 – 2005
BS. Industrial Engineering
P. Universidad Catolica, *Maximum Distinction*, Santiago, Chile

AWARDS, HONORS, AND GRANTS

2023
Research Excellence Grant ($12,900)
The University of Texas at Austin

· Bennett, M. "Changes in School Attendance Zones over Time: The Effect of Segregation on Zoned-In and Zoned-out Areas"

2022 **Research Excellence Grant ($20,000)**
The University of Texas at Austin & Herb Kelleher Entrepreneurship Center
· Bennett, M., Fuchs, W., and Millan, J. "Determinants of Success in the Context of Microcredits"

2019 **Distinguished Student Paper Award**
ENAR International Biometrics Society
· Bennett, M., Vielma, J., and Zubizarreta, J., "Building Representative Matched Samples with Multi-valued Treatments" (2019)

2018 **Post-Primary Education Initiative Grant ($45,000)**
Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)
· Allende, C. and Bennett, M., "Biased Beliefs and the Dynamic Role of Information in College Choice"

2018 **Education Policy Dissertation Research Fellowship**
Teachers College, Columbia University

PUBLICATIONS

2022 **Cancer History is Associated with Slower Speed of Cognitive Decline in Patients with Amnestic Cognitive Impairment**
Journal of Alzheimer's Disease
· Co-authored with M. I. Behrens, R. Castillo, D. Ponce, N. Rogers, & R. Vergara

2021 **All Things Equal? Heterogeneity in Policy Effectiveness against COVID-19 Spread in Chile**
World Development. Vol 137. 105208

2021 **Better Together? Social Networks in Truancy and the Targeting of Treatment**
Journal of Labor Economics. Vol 39 (1)
· Co-authored with Peter Bergman

2020 **Building Representative Matched Samples with Multi-valued Treatments in Large Observational Studies**
Journal of Computational and Graphical Statistics. Vol 29 (4) pp 744-757
· Co-authored with J. Vielma and J. Zubizarreta

2020 **Physical activity patterns in healthy and cognitively impaired older Chileans using wireless-enabled wearable technology devices**
Alzheimer's & Dementia
· Co-authored with N. Rogers, J. Lazcano, S. Herrera, J. More, C. San Martin, C. Romero, N. Grispun, J. Valdes, M. I. Behrens

2018 **Design and Implementation of an Alternative Admission Program to Engineering: Talent and Inclusion**
Studies of Higher Education (CSHE), 43(8) p.1454-1467
· Co-authored with I. Hiliger, C. Gelmi, L. Cifuentes, and J. de la Llera

2013 **Incentives for studying teaching: The case of the vocational scholarship**
Estudios Publicos N 131, Centro de Estudios Publicos
· Co-authored with F. Claro, R. Paredes, and T. Wilson

WORKING PAPERS AND ON-GOING RESEARCH

2024 **Biased Beliefs and the Dynamic Role of Information in College Choice**
Randomized Controlled Trial in Chile
· Project with Claudia Allende

2024 **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**
Working Paper
· Co-authored with C. Neilson and N. Rojas

2024 **Difference-in-Differences using Mixed-Integer Programming Matching**
Working Paper

2023 **Determinants of Success in the Context of Microcredits**
Ongoing observational study and field experiment
· Project with William Fuchs and Jaime Milln

2022 **How Far is Too Far? Generalization of a Regression Discontinuity Design Away from the Cutoff**
Job Market Paper

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

2023 **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**
Wokshop on Economics of Education. Universidad de Los Andes, Valle Nevado, Chile.

2023 **Changes in School Attendance Zones over Time: The Effect of Segregation on Zoned-In and Zoned-out Areas**
AEFP Annual Conference. Denver, CO.

2022 **A Differences-in-Differences Approach using Integer Programming Matching**
Universidad Diego Portales. Santiago, Chile.

2022 **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**
Microsoft Research Seminar. *Online. (Invited talk)*

2022 **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**
American Causal Inference Conference (ACIC). UC Berkeley. Berkeley, CA. *Poster Presentation*

2021 **Beyond Exclusion: The Role of the Causal Effect of Testing on Attendance on the Day of the Test**
SREE Conference. *Online. (Presented by co-author in a conference that we both attended)*

2021 **A Differences-in-Differences Approach using Integer Programming Matching**
SREE Conference. *Online*

2021 **How Far is Too Far? Generalization of a Regression Discontinuity Design Away from the Cutoff**
UCSD Econometric Seminar. University of California San Diego. San Diego, CA. *Online*

2021 **How Far is Too Far? Generalization of a Regression Discontinuity Design Away from the Cutoff**
International Methods Colloquium, Wake Forest University. *Online*

2020 **All Things Equal? Heterogeneity in Policy Effectiveness against COVID-19 Spread in Chile**
Economics and COVID-19 Seminar. *Universidad Adolfo Ibanez*. Santiago, Chile

2020 **All Things Equal? Heterogeneity in Policy Effectiveness against COVID-19 Spread in Chile**
3rd Workshop of Applied Modelling for COVID-19 in Chile. *Mesa Social COVID-19*. Santiago, Chile

2020 **How Far is Too Far? Generalization of a Regression Discontinuity Design Away from the Cutoff**
Atlantic Causal Inference Conference. *Suspended due to COVID-19*. Austin, TX

2019 **Building Representative Matched Samples with Multivalued Treatments in Large Observational Studies**
ENAR Spring Meeting, Philadelphia, PA

2018 **Better Together? Social Networks in Truancy and the Targeting of Treatment**
APPAM Fall Research Conference, Washington, DC

2018 **Better Together? Social Networks in Truancy and the Targeting of Treatment**
NBER Economics of Education Meeting. Cambridge, MA. *(Presented by co-author in a conference that we both attended)*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2020 | 2016 **Senior Research Assistant**
Prof. Peter Bergman, Teachers College, Columbia Univesity

2017 | 2015 **Research Assistant**
Prof. Jose Zubizarreta, Columbia University

2014 | 2011 **Research Assistant**
Prof. Ricardo Paredes, P. Universidad Catolica de Chile

2013/2014 | 2012 **Research Analyst**
Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), Santiago, Chile

2012 **External Consultant**
Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), Washington, DC

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Present – 2021

Professor

McCombs School of Business, The University of Texas at Austin

· Data Science for Business Applications (Spring '21); Data Science For Business Applications - Honors (Fall '21, Fall '22, Fall '23)

2019 – 2015

Teaching Assistant

Columbia University

· Advanced Microeconomics (Prof. Peter Bergman, Fall 19 and Fall 17)
· Causal Inference Methods (Prof. Sarah Cohodes, Fall 18)
· Field Experiments (Prof. Peter Bergman, Spring 18)
· Data Mining (Prof. Ben Goodrich, Fall 16)
· Data Analysis (Prof. Ben Goodrich, Spring 16)
· Economics of Education (Prof. Henry Levin, Fall 15)

STUDENT ADVISING

2023

PhD. Dissertation Committee, Economics Department

Gue Sung Choi
Jinyeong Son

· University of Texas at Austin

2023

PhD. Dissertation Committee, Statistics Group, McCombs School of Business

Pedro Santos
Shentao Yang

· University of Texas at Austin

Software Skills

- Statistical software: R (advanced), Stata (advanced)
- Programming Languages: Python (advanced)
- Other software: ArcGIS (advanced), MS Excel (advanced)

Additional information

- Languages: English (fluent), Spanish (native)
- Nationality: Chilean