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Personal Information:

Date of Birth: 13/2/1980, Gender: Female

Undergraduate Studies:

Licenciatura (BSc.) in Economics , Universidade Catolica Portuguesa, Portugal, 1998-2002

Graduate Studies:

University College London, 2004 to present

Expected Completion Date: June 2010

Thesis Committee and References:

Dr. Pedro Carneiro (Primary Advisor)

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Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Labor Economics, Microeconometrics

Secondary fields: Economics of Education, Program Evaluation, Development

Job Market Paper:

Income shocks and investments in human capital

This paper studies the link between income shocks and parental investments in children in time and goods. I create a unique panel data set of income, expenditures and time allocations, combining data on Children of the NLSY79 with the Consumer Expenditure Survey (CEX) and the American Time Use Survey (ATUS). Income shocks are instrumented by local labor market business cycles, which are measured by an unpredictable component of the county unemployment rate. I study different responses to shocks by type of shock (positive or negative), structure of age of children in family and mothers' education. I find that when there are surprise increases in the local unemployment rate (1) there are little changes on expenditures in children's education (even though families can only partially insure the effects of income shocks), and (2) families substitute time spent in children's educational activities for other leisure activities.

Teaching Experience:

2002-2004	Microeconomics I, Universidade Catolica Portuguesa Teaching fellow for Prof. Fernando Branco and Dr. Susana Peralta
2002-2004	International Economics, Universidade Catolica Portuguesa Teaching fellow for Prof. Teresa Lloyd Braga
2002-2003	Statistics, Universidade Catolica Portuguesa Teaching fellow for Prof. Ana Canhoto
2002-2003	Optimisation and Decision Models, Universidade Catolica Portuguesa Teaching fellow for Prof. Fernando Pacheco
2003-2004	Industrial Organization, Universidade Catolica Portuguesa Teaching fellow for Prof. Fatima Barros
2005-2007	Economics of Finance, University College London Teaching fellow for Dr. Giulio Seccia
2005-2007	Money and Banking, University College London Teaching fellow for Dr. Hugh Goodacre
2007-2010	Economics of the Public Sector, University College London Teaching fellow for Dr. Pedro Carneiro
2008-2009	Econometrics, University College London Teaching fellow for Dr. Simon Lee

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2003	Research Assistant - Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Microeconomic Theory (for Prof. Fernando Branco)
Since 6/2007	Consultant, <i>World Bank – Development Research Group – Poverty Unit</i> Evaluation of Anti-Poverty Programs in Chile

Presentations

Department of Economics – University College London	2006
Institute for Fiscal Studies – Cemmap Seminar	2007
European Economic Association Meetings (August, Budapest)	
Department of Economics – Universidade Catolica Portuguesa	2008
Royal Economic Society Conference (March, Warwick)	
Society of Labor Economists Annual Meetings (May, New York)	
IZA Summer School (May, Munich)	
European Society of Population Economics Annual Meetings (June, London)	
Second Meeting of the Portuguese Economic Journal (July, Evora)	
North American Winter Meeting of Econometric Society (January, San Francisco)	2009
Royal Economic Society Conference (April, Sussex)	
Society of Labor Economists Annual Meetings (May, Boston)	
European Economic Association Meetings (August, Barcelona)	

Institute for Fiscal Studies – Cemmap Seminar
Department of Economics – University College London
North American Winter Meeting of Econometric Society (January, Atlanta)

2010

Referee

Journal of Population Economics

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

1999-2002	Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Bolsa de Merito (academic achievement award)
2004-2005	Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Portugal (not used)
2004-2008	Fundação para a Ciência e Tecnologia, Portugal
2006	Teaching Award – UCL
2008-2009	Royal Economic Society - Junior Fellowship

Research Papers:

Preventing Behavior Problems in Childhood and Adolescence: Evidence from Head Start, joint with Pedro Carneiro.

The Impact of Providing Psycho-Social Support to Indigent Families and Increasing their Access to Social Services: Evaluating Chile Solidario, joint with Emanuela Galasso and Pedro Carneiro.

Work in Progress:

Understanding the Take-Up of Poverty Programs in Developing Countries: the case of Chile, joint with Emanuela Galasso and Pedro Carneiro.

Quality of welfare services and their effectiveness: the role of social workers, joint with Emanuela Galasso and Pedro Carneiro.

Changes in mechanism of program assignment and role of insurance of social programs, joint with Emanuela Galasso and Pedro Carneiro.

Computer Skills:

Stata, Matlab, Gauss, Latex.

Language Skills:

Portuguese (native), English (fluent), French (basic), Spanish (basic).

Abstracts

Preventing Behavior Problems in Childhood and Adolescence: Evidence from Head Start (joint with Pedro Carneiro)

This paper shows that participation in Head Start reduces the incidence of behavioral problems, grade repetition, and obesity of children at ages 12 and 13, and depression, criminal behavior, and obesity at ages 16 and 17. Head Start's eligibility rules induce discontinuities in program participation as a function of income, which we use to identify program impacts. Since there is a range of discontinuities (they vary with family size, state and year), we identify the effect of Head Start for the large set of individuals in the neighborhood of each of several discontinuities, as opposed to a smaller set of individuals around a single discontinuity.

The Impact of Providing Psycho-Social Support to Indigent Families and Increasing their Access to Social Services: Evaluating Chile Solidario (joint with Pedro Carneiro and Emanuela Galasso)

Chile Solidario is an innovative poverty program which targets indigent families in Chile. It attempts to lift families out of poverty through a coordinated set of stimulus to the demand and supply of social services, and through the provision of psycho-social support to beneficiary families. In this paper we analyze the short and medium term effectiveness of this program using both administrative and survey data. We use a RD design, exploring the fact that in order to be eligible a family must have a means-test score below a given cutoff, which varies by municipality. We find that the program leads to increases the take-up of subsidies and of employment programs. The impacts of CHS vary across families with different characteristics, and located in different municipalities: the impact of the program on the take up of subsidies is larger in municipalities with a better network of social services, for families served by social workers with relatively low caseloads, and in male headed families. The impact of the program on employment of spouse is larger in rural areas and for families served by social workers with relatively low caseload. We were not able to detect any positive impacts of CS on employment or income of the head.

Work in progress

Estimation of parameters of production function of skill formation using optimality conditions of parents.

The idea here is to estimate the structural parameters of the technology of skill formation using the Euler equations derived from a life-cycle model with one altruistic parent that invest in his child. The data to be used are the NLSY79 combined with CEX and ATUS.

Understanding the Take-Up of Poverty Programs in Developing Countries: the case of Chile, joint with Emanuela Galasso and Pedro Carneiro.

Chile Solidario is an innovative poverty program introduced in Chile since 2002 that explicitly targets extreme poor (or indigent) families using a proxy-means test. The objective of alleviating extreme poverty is achieved through two main components, working on both the demand and the supply side of social services. The logic of the program is to stimulate the demand (take-up) for the large array of subsidies and services they are entitled to, and they are promised preferential (if not guaranteed) access to several of them.

First, one key feature of the demand side component of the program is an intensive period of psychosocial support by a social worker that is phased out over the course of two years. Second, there is an equally strong stimulus of the supply of these services at the national and at the municipality level. Different government agencies and local providers of social services coordinate in assessing the needs of each municipality and in providing the adequate supply of services, to attend the needs of the target population.

The goal of this paper is to use exogenous variation provided by program eligibility thresholds to estimate an economic model of the take-up of social services in Chile. In order to do so one needs to

understand the costs and benefits of take up. On the benefit side, one option is to try to assign money values to every social program available in Chile. On the cost side, Chile Solidario provides a reduction in transaction costs and in inadequate information. It is also possible to learn about the role of information in a different way, because some households switch in and out of specific social programs even in the absence of Chile Solidario. If a household has ever participated in a specific program, then a household must have information about it, even before Chile Solidario comes into existence.

Quality of welfare services and their effectiveness: the role of social workers, joint with Emanuela Galasso and Pedro Carneiro.

The goal of this paper is to understand how do the quality of services available and the quality of the social worker affect the impact of Chile Solidario on poor households, in particular, the take-up of social services. The idea is to study the heterogeneity in program quality and relate it to its effectiveness. Our approach follows closely the literature that evaluates the importance of teacher quality on students' performance. We pair each participant family with information on characteristics of the social worker they work with (such as education, gender and performance).

Changes in mechanism of program assignment and role of insurance of social programs, joint with Emanuela Galasso and Pedro Carneiro.

Until 2006 the eligibility to social programs in Chile was based on a proxy means-test called CAS. The main goal of this score was measuring families' structural poverty conditions. In 2007 this score use replaced by new score, FPS. Comparing with previous measure, this new score weights more heavily dynamic components of families, such as income and demographic structure. The goal of this paper is to study how does the shift to new regime changes families' opportunities of insurance to idiosyncratic shocks. In particular, to which extent the degree of persistency of shocks insured under different regimes changed and the effects on the evaluation of the effectiveness of programs.