
CHRISTOPHER A. NEILSON

*Yale University
Department of Economics
Jackson School of Global Affairs*

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Professor of Economics and Global Affairs, Yale University, since 2022
Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, since 2015

PAST APPOINTMENTS

Professor of Economics, Princeton University, 2022
Assistant Professor of Economics, Princeton University, 2015 - 2022
Visiting Researcher, Microsoft Research, New England, 2017 - 2018
Visiting Scholar at Stern School of Business, New York University. 2014-2015

EDUCATION

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

PUBLISHED RESEARCH PAPERS

Report Cards: Parental Preferences, Information and School Choice in Haiti
Education Economics Review (October 2024)
with M. Borger, G. Elacqua, I. Jacas, A. Westh Olsen

Aftermarket Frictions and the Cost of Off Platform Options In Centralized Assignment Mechanisms
Journal of Political Economy (July 2024).
with A. Kapor and M. Karnani

Smart Matching Platforms and Heterogeneous Beliefs in Centralized School Choice
Quarterly Journal of Economics (March 2022)
with F. Arteaga, A. Kapor and S. Zimmerman

Centralized School Choice with Unequal Outside Options
Journal of Public Economics (June 2022)
with M. Akbarpour, A. Kapor, W. van Dijk, S. Zimmerman

Small Firms and the Pandemic: Evidence From Latin America
Journal of Development Economics March 2022
with M.E. Guerrero, J.E. Humphries, N. Shimberg, G. Ulyssea

O Brother, Where Start Thou? Sibling Spillovers on College and Major Choice in Four Countries
The Quarterly Journal of Economics (August 2021)
with A. Altmejd, A. Barrios-Fernandez, M. Drlje, J. Goodman, M. Hurwitz, D. Kovac, C. Mulhern, J. Smith

Information Frictions and Access to the Paycheck Protection Program
Journal of Public Economics 190, October 2020, with J. E. Humphries and G. Ulyssea

Heterogeneous Beliefs and School Choice Mechanisms

American Economic Review , 110(5), May 2020 with A. Kapor and S. Zimmerman

Health at Birth, Parental Investments, and Academic Outcomes

Journal of Labor Economics 36(2), April 2018, with P. Bharadwaj and J. Eberhard

Gray Matters: Fetal Pollution Exposure and Human Capital Formation

Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists, 4(2), 2017, with P. Bharadwaj, M. Gibson, J. G. Zivin

The Gender Gap in Mathematics: Evidence from middle/low income countries

Economic Development and Cultural Change, 65(1), October 2016, with G. Giorgi, D. Hansen and P. Bharadwaj

(Un)informed College and Major Choice: Evidence from Linked Survey and Administrative Data

Economics of Education Review vol. 51, April 2016, with J. Hastings, A. Ramirez and S. Zimmerman

Connecting Student Loans to Labor Market Outcomes: Policy Lessons from Chile

American Economic Review Papers and Proceedings, May 2015, with H. Beyer, J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

The Effect of School Construction on Test Scores, School Enrollment, and Home Prices

Journal of Public Economics, vol. 120, December 2014, with S. Zimmerman

Early Life Health Interventions and Academic Achievement

American Economic Review, 103(5), August 2013, with P. Bharadwaj and K. Loken

WORKING PAPERS

Elite Universities and the Intergenerational Transmission of Human and Social Capital

Conditionally accepted at *American Economic Review* (2025)

with A. Barrios and S. Zimmerman

Targeted Vouchers, Competition Among Schools, and the Academic Achievement of Poor Students

Conditionally accepted at *Econometrica* (2025)

PhD Thesis, Yale University (October 2013)

Search and Biased Beliefs in Education Markets

R&R at *Econometrica* (2025)

with A. Kapor, C. Allende, N. Ochoa, P. Agte

Parents' Earnings and the Returns to Universal Pre-Kindergarten

R&R at *Econometrica* (2025)

with J. E. Humphries, X. Ye, S. Zimmerman

College Application Mistakes and the Design of Information Policies at Scale

R&R at the *Journal of Political Economy*

with A. Fabre, T. Larroucau, I. Rios

Approximating The Equilibrium Effects of Informed School Choice

R&R at *The Review of Economic Studies*; Princeton WP No. 628 (July 2019)

with C. Allende and F. Gallego

Teacher Compensation and Structural Inequality: Evidence from Centralized Teacher School Choice in Peru

R&R at the *Journal of Political Economy*; Princeton WP No. 648 (March 2021)

with M. Bobba, T. Ederer, G. Leon-Ciliotta, M. Nieddu

Equilibrium Effects of Asymmetric Information on Consumer Credit Markets
R&R at the *Journal of Finance*; NBER WP No. 25097 (September 2018)
with A. Liberman and S. Zimmerman

Firm Sorting, College Major, and the Gender Earnings Gap
Princeton WP No. 649 (May 2021)
with F. Huneeus, C. Miller, S. Zimmerman

The Equilibrium Effects of Public Provision in Education Markets: Evidence from a Public School Expansion
Princeton WP No. 645 (November 2020)
with M. Dinerstein and S. Otero

The Potential of Smart Matching Platforms in Teacher Assignment: The Case of Ecuador
IDB Working Paper Series (Number IDB-WP-01395)
with Gregory Elacqua, Leidy Gómez, Thomas Krussig, Luana Marotta, Carolina Mendez

Screening and Recruiting Talent At Teacher Colleges Using Pre-College Academic Achievement
Princeton WP No. 636 (December 2019)
with F. Calle and S. Gallegos

The Effects of Earnings Disclosure on College Enrollment Decisions
NBER WP No. 21300 (June 2015, updated July 2017)
with J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

Are Some Degrees Worth More than Others? Evidence from College Admission Cutoffs in Chile
NBER WP No. 19241 (July 2013)
with J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

The Effect of School Choice on Intrinsic Motivation and Academic Outcomes
NBER WP No. 18324 (August 2012)
with J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

PUBLISHED RESEARCH PRIOR THE PHD

Poverty Dynamics in Chile 1996 – 2001 (*undergraduate thesis*)
Journal of Latin American Studies vol. 40, May 2008, with D. Contreras, R. Cooper and J. Herman

Pro-poor growth in Chile
El Trimestre Económico vol. 75, October 2008, pp. 931-944 with D. Contreras and R. Cooper

Another Passthrough Bites the Dust? Inflation and Oil Prices
ECONOMIA, Journal of LACEA vol. 7, Spring, 2007, with J. De Gregorio and O. Landerretche

Chile's Fiscal Rule as Social Insurance in: *Fiscal Policy and Macroeconomic Performance*, (2013)
edited by L. F. Céspedes and J. Galí; coauthored with E. Engel and R. Valdes

Worker Flows and Labor Dynamics in Chile: A Retrospective Story in: *Job Hopping: Issues and Coping Strategies*, (2009)
edited by K Sangeetha; coauthored with J. Ruiz-Tagle

Financial Diversification, Sudden Stops and Sudden Starts in: *Current Account and External Finance*, (2007)
edited by K. Cowan, S. Edwards, and R. Valdes; coauthored with J. De Gregorio, K. Cowan, A. Micco

ADVISING

Current PhD Students

Fernando Ochoa
Nicolas Rojas Souyet

Program

6th year, New York University Economics Ph.D.
7th year, Columbia University Teacher's College Ph.D.

Students Advised

2025 Patrick Agte
2024 Karl Schulze
2023 Carolina Concha-Arriagada
2020 Claudia Allende

Initial Placement

Assistant Professor, Stockholm School of Economics
Postdoctoral Associate, Yale University
Assistant Professor, Columbia Teachers College
Assistant Professor, Stanford University GSB Economics

Students Supported

2024 Felipe Arteaga
2024 Alvaro Carril
2022 Antonia Paredes, Yale University
2022 Fernanda (Pumi) Ramirez-Espinoza
2021 Tomas Larroucau, UPenn
2019 Federico Huneeus, Princeton University
2019 Andres Barrios-Fernandez, LSE
2017 John Klopfer, Princeton University

Initial Placement

Data Scientist, Amazon
Data Scientist, Revelio Labs
UC Berkeley Haas, Postdoctoral Fellow
Assistant Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
Arizona State University, Department of Economics
Yale University, Postdoctoral Fellow
Senior Researcher, VATT Helsinki, Finland
Assistant Professor, United States Naval Academy

REFEREEING

American Economic Review, Econometrica, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economics and Statistics, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Policy, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Theory, Economic Journal, Journal of the European Economic Association, 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, World Bank Economic Review.

PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES

Founder and CEO of TetherEd 2022

Topics: EdTech startup that builds software to digitalize access to education and implement AI enabled platforms for
Currently working with the governments in Latin America, cities in the US and Europe.

Founder of ConsiliumBots 2018

Topics: EdTech NGO focused on helping researchers with with governments design, test and evaluate AI bots to help
get access to education, housing, health and other important social services.

Consultant to the Ministry of Education, Government of Peru. 2021-2022

Topics : Supporting the design of policy helping more students get free access to higher education in Peru.

Consultant for the World Bank, 2020

Topics: Assist with the design and implementation of education vouchers in response to COVID19.

Founder Researcher of DataLAB Republica Dominicana 2019

Topics: Incubating the data science capabilities inside the government of the Dominican Republic.

*Founding Researcher of MineduLAB within the Ministry of Education, Government of Peru
founding Principal Investigator 2014, Board member 2015*

Advisor to New Haven Public Schools Office of Choice and Enrollment. 2018-2022

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

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

Topics : The design and implementation of the national coordinated application and assignment platform.

Associate Partner of IDEICE, Research Unit of the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic 2014-2017

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.

Consultant for the World Bank, 2014-2015

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

Consultant for the IDB 2016, 2018

Topics: The design of platforms to disclose earnings by field and type of study in Peru.

GRANTS

Biased Beliefs and Search in Education Markets 2019-2023

Donor: **National Science Foundation (NSF)** via Princeton University - Grant Amount: USD 558,589.00

Beliefs, Understanding, and Strategic Behavior in School Choice Mechanisms 2015-2018

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

Incubation of Human Capital Technology Organization 2018-2020

Donor: **Wellspring Philanthropic Fund** - Grant amount USD 500,000

Learning the Value of Education in the Dominican Republic 2014-2019

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 2015-2020

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 2018

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 2017-2019

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

via IPA - Grant amount: USD 202,000

Education Mismatch and Information about Relative Performance 2018

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 on earnings and financial aid in the Dominican Republic 2019

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

Financial Aid and College Access in the Dominican Republic 2018-2020

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 2017-2018

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

Making Centralized School Choice Work in Practice: Evaluating Informational Interventions in Equilibrium 2020

Donor: **Overdeck Princeton Education Fund** - Grant amount: USD 95,000

How the Design of School Choice Systems Affects Welfare and Student Outcomes 2019

Donor: **Overdeck Princeton Education Fund** - Grant amount: USD 85,000

Invited Presentations:

2022 **Invited Seminars:** Northwestern University, University of Copenhagen, University of Zurich, Stockholm School of Economics

Conference Presentations: AEA's (x3); Conferencia Anual de Políticas Públicas UDD, Santiago Chile (Keynote Speaker), Bank of Italy Human Capital (Keynote Speaker), University of Washington Saint Luis, NBER Economics of Digitalization

Public Policy Talks : Ministry of Finance (Chile) Budget Office, World Bank, Ministry of Education (Chile)

2021 **Invited Seminars:** Harvard University (Economics), UC San Diego (Economics), Michigan State University

Conference Presentations: AEA's (x3); UCLA Education Markets Conference; WEAI Conference (x3)

Public Policy Talks : IDB Conference on Teacher Pay

2020 **Invited Seminars:** MIT Economics; Harvard University (HKS); UCLA ; University of Chile; World Bank Research Group/Georgetown University; Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta;

Conference Presentations: AEA's San Diego; SITE, World Congress of the Econometric Society, NBER Education

Public Policy Talks : Launch of *The Evidence Laboratory of the Cabinet for Social Policy Coordination* of the government of the Dominican Republic; Presentation to Vice Minister of Education of the Dominican Republic; Presentation to *Comisión Nacional de Productividad* of the government of Chile.

2019 **Invited Seminars:** Yale University; University of Chicago, Booth; University of Wisconsin Madison; Columbia University; University of Southern California; University of Minnesota; Rochester University; Bocconi University, Milan, Italy; Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, Colombia

Conference Presentations: NBER IO, Cambridge, MA; Education Economics NBER, Cambridge, MA; APPAM, Denver, CO, Cambridge, MA; SEA Conference, Ft Lauderdale; Y-RISE Conference, Grand Cayman

Public Policy Talks : ICFES, Bogota, Colombia; IDB, Washington D.C.; MIT SEII Conference

2018 **Invited Seminars:** Stanford GSB; UCL, London; UC San Diego; New York University; University Maryland University; Statistics Norway, Oslo University of Oslo; Arizona State University; ITAM, Mexico City

Conference Presentations: 30 year REStud Tour Reunion Conference, Copenhagen; Nordic Labor Economics Key Note Speaker, Helsinki; NBER SI Education Economics, Cambridge;

Y-RISE Conference, Grand Cayman; SREE Conference, Washington, D.C.

Public Policy Talks : Policy Launch, Ministry of Education, Lima Peru ; Policy Launch, Ministry of Education, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

2017 **Invited Seminars**: London School of Economics, London; University College London, London; Warwick University; London School of Economics ; IIES, University of Stockholm, Sweden; Rice University, Texas; Paris School of Economics, Paris; Universidad Adolfo Ibanez, Santiago, Chile; Microsoft Research, Cambridge, MA

Conference Presentations: NBER IO, Stanford University; Applied Microeconomics Conference, Einaudi Rome ; SBIF, Santiago, Chile

Public Policy Talks : USAID, Washington D.C. ; IDEICE, Ministry of Education, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

2016 **Invited Seminars**: Harvard University; Rutgers University; Toulouse University, France; Paris School of Economics University, France ; Uppsala University, Sweden ; Namur University, Belgium; Pontifical Universidad Catolica de Chile

Conference Presentations: NBER IO, Stanford University; AEA, San Francisco, CA

Public Policy Talks : Policy and Evidence, Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic ; GDN Annual Global Development Conference, Lima Peru ; Policy Workshop , JPAL Offices Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

2015 **Invited Seminars**: Columbia University, Washington University in St. Louis, Federal Reserve Bank of New York City, The World Bank, The Inter-American Development Bank.

Conference Presentations: Duke University, Structural Microeconometrics Conference ; Theory and Data Microeconomics Conference, Miami, FL; University of Santa Clara, Cuba

Public Policy Talks : Ministry of Education, Lima, Peru

2014 **Invited Seminars**: University of Wisconsin (Economics), UC Berkeley (Economics)

Job Market Talks: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, (Economics); Stanford University (Graduate School of Business); Stanford University (Economics); University of Pennsylvania (Wharton School of Business), University of Pennsylvania (Economics); Princeton University (Economics); Northwestern University (Economics); Northwestern University (Kellogg); New York University (Stern School of Business); Brown University; University of Chicago (Booth School of Business); University of Chicago, (Economics)

Public Policy Talks : Ministry of Education, Government of Peru; Office of the Vice president of the Dominican Republic;

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow in Economics, 2021-2022
Círculo de Honor, Facultad de Economía y Negocios, Universidad de Chile, 2021
Excellence in Refereeing Award, American Economic Review, 2017
Best Graduate Student Advisor - Princeton University, 2016
Review of Economic Studies Tour, 2014
Northeast Rugby Championship and 3rd place at Nationals, All Black New Haven Rugby, 2014
Joven Egresado Destacado, Facultad de Economía y Negocios, Universidad de Chile, 2014
George Trimis Prize for Distinguished Dissertation in Economics, Yale University, 2014
Anderson Fellowship, Cowles Foundation, 2012
City of New Haven, Board of Aldermen Official Citation, 2011
Distinction - Industrial Organization field examination, Yale University, 2010
100 Jóvenes Líderes El Mercurio, Santiago Chile 2007
Highest Ranked Economics MA student at graduation, Dept. of Economics, University of Chile 2006
Highest Ranked Economics BA student at graduation, Dept. of Economics, University of Chile 2005
Alumni Association prize at graduation, University of Chile 2005
International Labor Organization (ILO) Undergraduate Thesis Fellowship, 2003
Chilean National 7's Rugby Team (Adult), 2001-2002
Chilean National Rugby Team (U21), 1998-2002
Athletic Scholarship, Universidad de Chile 1999
Chilean National Rugby Team (U19), 1997-1998
Junior Rugby World Cup 7th place Chile, Toulouse, France 1998

LANGUAGES

Native speaker of English and Spanish (mother tongue).