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JUAN MARTIN PAL

OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

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PLACEMENT OFFICERS

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PLACEMENT ADMINISTRATOR

Louise Strachan

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DISSERTATION TITLE: "Essays in Applied Microeconomics"

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE AND REFERENCES:

Professor Matteo Bobba Toulouse School of Economics Toulouse School of Economics matteo.bobba@tse-fr.eu

Professor Ana Gazmuri ana.gazmuri@tse-fr.eu

Professor Thierry Magnac **Toulouse School of Economics** thierry.magnac@tse-fr.eu

EDUCATION

PhD MRes MSc	Economics (expected) Economics Economic Theory and Econometrics	Toulouse School of Economics	2020-2026 2021-2022 2020-2021
	Visiting Scholar (Prof. Agostinelli)	University of Pennsylvania	2025
MA BA	Economics Economics	Universidad Nacional de La Plata Universidad de Buenos Aires	2018-2019 2012-2017

FIELDS

Labor Economics Primary:

Secondary: Industrial Organization, Development Economics

PERSONAL DETAILS

Citizenship: Argentina and Hungary

English, Spanish, French (intermediate) Languages:

RELEVANT POSITIONS

Research Assistant Research Assistant Research Assistant Research Assistant Junior Researcher	Travis Baseler María Laura Alz Guillermo Cruce Leonardo Gaspa	es	University of Rochester Universidad Nacional de La Plata Universidad Nacional de La Plata Universidad Nacional de La Plata CEDLAS	2023 2018-2020 2019-2020 2019 2018-2021			
TEACHING							
Toulouse School of Economics							
Applied Econometrics RCT and Policy Evaluation Microeconomics 3 Introductory Econometrics				2023-2024 2021-2024 2024-2025 2021-2023			
Universidad Nacional	de La Plata						
Econometrics Microeconomics International Economics			luate luate ergraduate	2019-2020 2019-2020 2019			
Universidad de Bueno	os Aires						
Development Economics Mathematics for Economists Calculus II HONORS AND AWARDS		Und	ergraduate ergraduate ergraduate	2018-2020 2016 2015			
Mobility Grant Doctoral Fellowship Full Funding for MRes Full Funding for M2 ETE Graduate Student Scholarship Honor's Diploma		Toulouse School of Economics Toulouse School of Economics Toulouse School of Economics Toulouse School of Economics Universidad Nacional de La Plata Universidad de Buenos Aires		2025 2022-2025 2021-2022 2020-2021 2018-2019 2017			
PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDING SCHEDULED)							
Penn Empirical Micro Lunch, TSE EEE Workshop, HEC Economics PhD Conference, TSE Economics of Education Workshop, EEA Congress (Bordeaux), SAEe (Barcelona)							
TSE Economics of Education Workshop (Poster Session), IAAE Annual Conference (Thessaloniki), TSE EEE Workshop, TSE Empirical Micro Workshop							

1. Optimal Policy Design for Teacher Recruitment

(Job Market Paper)

Abstract: This paper studies the design of higher education policies targeted at improving teacher recruitment. I leverage the introduction of a policy in Chile that aimed to raise teacher quality by combining financial incentives and admission standards. Exploiting the sharp assignment rule I estimate that, at the threshold, enrollment of high performing students at teacher colleges increased by 42%, with low-income students coming disproportionately from non-enrollment. The policy generated a positive composition effect of 0.25SD in the scores at the college entry exam, which led to an increase in 0.11SD in Teacher Value Added and 0.12SD in Teaching Skills. I develop a demand and supply model of higher education that embeds a novel method for solving discrete-continuous games in large markets. Counterfactual policies lead to increases of up to 6.6% in the test scores of students enrolled at teacher colleges, and up to 27% in Teacher Value Added. Targeting the policy to low-income students yields further gains in Teacher Value Added at no additional cost.

2. Effort Choices and Funding Instruments in Higher Education

(with Guillem Foucault)

Abstract: This paper examines the effects of Free College policies on student enrollment and academic performance, with a focus on the 2016 Chilean reform that granted tuition-free higher education to students from the lowest five income deciles. Using a difference-in-differences approach, we find that Free College increased enrollment and persistence in higher education but had modest effects on graduation and dropout rates. To disentangle the role of student effort from selection effects, we develop a structural model in which students choose effort levels in response to financial incentives. Our results highlight that while Free College expands access, it may also weaken performance incentives due to the removal of academic progress requirements. Counterfactual simulations suggest that alternative funding mechanisms could improve both access and academic outcomes by balancing affordability and incentives for effort.

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. The Educational PPP: Parents, Peers, Prices

(with Joaquin Varvasino)

Abstract: This paper studies the roles of financial constraints and information frictions in enrollment and progression in higher education. Our results show that subsidies increase university access, peers enhance enrollment and match quality, and parental exposure to university causally affects children's university enrollment. We build a dynamic structural model that quantifies these mechanisms and evaluates equity-oriented education policies.

2. Enhancing the Effectiveness of Early Warning System in Education

(with Francesco Agostinelli, Ciro Avitabile and Matteo Bobba)

3. Competition in Online Labor Markets

(with Ana Gazmuri, Estrella Gómez-Herrera and Frank Mueller-Langer)