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# MATIAS BUSO

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## Employment

- 2008-        Lead Economist, *Research Department*, Inter-American Development Bank.
- 2005-2008   Research Assistant. *Ford School of Public Policy*, University of Michigan.
- 2002-2003   Research Assistant. *Research Department*, Inter-American Development Bank.
- 1999-2001   Economist, *Research Department*, Secretary of Finance, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina.
- 1997-1999   Research Assistant, *Research Department*, Secretary of Finance, Buenos Aires Province, Argentina.

## Education

- 2008    Ph.D. in Economics, University of Michigan.
- 2005    M.A. in Economics, University of Michigan.
- 2002    M.A. in Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina.
- 1999    Licentiate in Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Argentina.

## Affiliations and Professional Activities

- 2018    Visiting Scholar (UNU-WIDER)
- 2016-   Associate Editor, *Economia* (Journal of LACEA)
- 2014-   Executive Committee Member. *Network of Inequality and Poverty (NIP)*, LACEA
- 2003-   Research Fellow. *Center for Income Distribution, Labor and Social Studies (CEDLAS)*, Argentina.

## Fields of Interest

Development Economics: Education, Health, Labor, Productivity.

## Publications

### Articles in Refereed Journals

1. “Assessing the Incidence and Efficiency of a Prominent Place Based Policy”, with Jesse Gregory and Patrick Kline. *American Economic Review*, 103, April 2013, pp. 897-947.
2. “Productivity and Resource Misallocation in Latin America” with Lucia Madrigal and Carmen Pagés. *The B.E. Journal of Macroeconomics*, vol 13:1, June 2013.
3. “New Evidence on the Finite Sample Properties of Propensity Score Reweighting and Matching Estimators”, with John DiNardo and Justin McCrary. *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, vol. 96(5), December 2014, pages 885-897.
4. “Enrollment, Graduation, and Dropout Rates in Latin America: Is the Glass Half Empty or Half Full?”, with Marina Bassi and Juan Sebastian Muñoz. *Economia*, Fall 2015, pages 113-156, October.
5. “Did You Get Your Shots? Experimental Evidence on the Role of Reminders from Rural Guatemala”, with Julian Cristia and Sarah Humpage. *Journal of Health Economics*, Elsevier, 2015, vol. 44(C), pages 226-237.

6. “How Much Are We Willing to Contribute for Better Educational Outcomes? Evidence from a survey experiment”, with Samuel Berlinski. *Economic Inquiry*, 2016, vol. 54(1), pages 63-75, 01.
7. “Challenges in educational reform: An experiment on active learning in mathematics”, with Samuel Berlinski. *Economics Letters*, 2017, vol. 156, pages 172175.
8. “The effects of financial aid and returns information in selective and less selective schools: Experimental evidence from Chile”, with Taryn Dinkelman, Claudia Martinez and, Dario Romero. *Labour Economics*, 2017, vol 45, pages 79-91.
9. “Improving Access to Preventive Maternal Health Care Using Reminders: Experimental Evidence from Guatemala”, with Dario Romero and Dario Salcedo. *Economics Letters*, 2017, vol 161, pages 43-46.
10. “The Causal Effect of Competition on Prices and Quality: Evidence from a Field Experiment”, with Sebastian Galiani. *forthcoming, American Economic Journal: Applied*.

## Books

11. “Learning Better: Public Policy for Skills Development” co-editor with Julian Cristia, Diana Hincapie, Julian Messina and Laura Ripani. *Inter-American Development Bank*. 2017.
12. “Disconnected: Skills, Education and Employment in Latin America” with Marina Bassi, Sergio Urzua and Jaime Vargas. *Inter-American Development Bank*. 2012.
13. “Ethnicity and MDGs in Latin America”, with Martin Cicowiez and Leonardo Gasparini. *United Nations*. 2005.

## Book Chapters

14. “Firm Productivity as an Engine of Saving”, with Andres Fernandez and Cesar Tamayo. In “Saving for Development: How Latin America and the Caribbean Can Save More and Better”, Eduardo Cavallo and Tomas Serebrisky (Eds), 2016
15. “Facts and Determinants of Female Labor Supply in Latin America”, with Dario Romero Fonseca. In “Bridging gender gaps? The rise and deceleration of female labor force participation in Latin America”, Leonardo Gasparini and Mariana Marchioni (Eds), 2015.
16. “Computers in Schools: Why Governments Should Do their Homework”, with Samuel Berlinski, Julian Cristia, and Eugenio Severin. In “Development Connections: Unveiling the Impact of New Information Technologies”, Alberto Chong (ed), New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011.
17. “Productivity from the Bottom Up: Firms and Resource Allocation in Latin America”, with Lucia Madrigal and Carmen Pagés. In “The Age of Productivity”, Carmen Pagés (ed), New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2010.
18. “Job and Worker Dynamics: The Hidden Side of the Labor Market”, with Alejandro Micco. In “Good Jobs Wanted”, Carmen Pagés (ed). Inter-American Development Bank. 2003.

## Articles (Non-Refereed)

19. “Results of the Federal Urban Empowerment Zone Program” with Jesse Gregory and Patrick Kline, *Focus*, vol 30:1, 2013.
20. “(In)Formal and (Un)Productive: The Productivity Costs of Excessive Informality in Mexico” with Victoria Fazio and Santiago Levy. IDB Working Paper 341. 2012.

21. “Finite Sample Properties of Semiparametric Estimators of Average Treatment Effects”, with John DiNardo and Justin McCrary. In “Three Essays on Semiparametric Methods for the Evaluation of Social Programs”, Chapter 3, pp. 62-125, University of Michigan, 2008.
22. “A Sequential Method of Moments Variance Estimator of Weighting Estimators of Average Treatment Effects.” In “Three Essays on Semiparametric Methods for the Evaluation of Social Programs”, Chapter 4, pp. 126-154, University of Michigan, 2008.
23. “Do Local Economic Development Programs Work? Evidence From the Federal Empowerment Zone Program”, with Patrick Kline. *Cowles Foundation Discussion Papers* 1639, Cowles Foundation for Research in Economics, Yale University, 2008.

## Working Papers

24. “Adapting to Climate Change: Long-Term Effects of Drought on Local Labor Markets”, with Paulo Bastos and Sebastian Miller. IDB Working Paper 466
25. “Unbundling Returns to Skills: Evidence from Postsecondary Education in Colombia”, with Juan Sebastian Munoz.
26. “Labor Market Adjustments to Import Competition”, with Juan Blyde, Valeria Faggioni, and Dario Romero.
27. “Skills, Informality and the Size Distribution of Firms”, with Andres Neumeyer and Mariano Spector.
28. “Remedial Reading in Small Group Tutorials: Short and Medium Run Effects of Three Experiments in Colombia”, with Samuel Berlinski and Horacio Alvarez.
29. “Reducing parent-school information gaps and improving education outcomes: Evidence from high frequency text messaging in Chile”, with Samuel Berlinski, Taryn Dinkelmann and Claudia Martinez.
30. “Intention-to-teach: Teachers career and incentives in Peru”, with Mariana Alfonso and Hugo Nopo.
31. “Ability Peer Effects, Academic Achievement, and Student Behavior in Secondary Evidence from a Randomized Experiment in Mexico”, with Veronica Frisancho.
32. “Informal establishment dynamics”, with Santiago Levy and Jessica Torres Coronado

## Policy and Technical Notes

33. “The Longitudinal Linkage of Mexico’s Economic Census 1999-2014”, with Santiago Levy and Oscar Fentanes. IDB TN 1477. 2018.
34. “Firm Productivity and an Engine for Savings”, with Andres Fernandez and Cesar Tamayo. IDB TN 963. 2016.
35. “Measuring the Effect of Competition on Prices and Quality in the Dominican Republic”, Policy Brief, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), 2015.
36. “¿Cómo mantener a los niños en la escuela?”, Vox Lacea, Feb 23, 2015 & Ideas que Cuentan 2015.

## Presentations and Dissemination

### Conferences

7th Development Workshop (Chile) (2018) UNU-WIDER Human Capital and Growth (2016) Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association Annual Meetings (2008, 2009, 2010, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017), Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society (2008, 2009), Research Institute for Development Growth and Economics (RIDGE, 2015), Research in Economic Development (RECODE, 2013) NBER Labor Studies Spring Meeting (2009)

## **Invited Academic Seminars**

[2019:] IFPRI [2018:] UNU-WIDER, several talks to policy makers in Uruguay. [2017:] RAP, Universidad Torcuato DiTella, Universidad de La Plata, CIDE (Mexico), London School of Economics, OECD. [2016:] University of Miami, IFPRI [2015:] University of Maryland, Universidad de Montevideo, The World Bank. [2014:] Urban Institute [2013:] University of Michigan, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Universidad de San Andres, Universidad de Chile. [2002-2012:] Universidad Nacional de La Plata (2002), University of Michigan (2006, 2007, 2008), United States Treasury Department (2011), Universidad Torcuato DiTella (2010), Inter-American Development Bank (several during 2008-2013).

## **Comments in Conferences and Workshops**

Chile Development Workshop (2018), Research Institute for Development Growth and Economics (Ridge)–Inequality, Poverty and Politics Forum (2015, 2016), Effects of Tax Reform in Colombia (LMK-IDB 2015), Structure and Composition of Firms’ Balance Sheets (RES-IDB, 2015), Gender and Agency in LAC (World Bank, 2014), Universidad de Chile Meeting of NIP-LACEA (2014), Public Policies for the Reduction and Prevention of Urban Crime (IFD-IDB, 2014), Skills for the Labor Market (LMK-IDB, 2013).

## **Selected Mentions in the Press**

Bastion Digital (Argentina, Feb 24, 2015), Huffington Post (US, Jan 23, 2014), Infobae (Argentina, Feb 11, 2014), New York Times (US, Feb 4, 2012), CNN en Español, La Tercera (Brazil, 2012), Excelsior (Mexico, Mar 3, 2012), El Mercurio (Chile, 28 Jun 2011), Clarin (Argentina, Mar 19, 2012), ABC (Paraguay, 2012), La Industria (Peru, 2012), La Nacion (Argentina), Todo Noticias (Argentina), El Espectador (Uruguay, 2011), El Pais (Uruguay, 2011).

## **Grants and Projects**

### **External Grants**

1. 2015-2016. Spencer Foundation. Project: “Leveraging School-generated data to improve parent-school communication and schooling outcomes”. (\$50,000). Co-principal Investigator.
2. 2014-2016. Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL). Project: “SMS-based School-Parents Communication Technology”. (\$220,000). Co-principal Investigator.
3. 2010-2012. Fundacion Costa Rica Estados Unidos para la Cooperacion (CRUSA). “Evaluating the Benefits and Costs of Alternative ICT Uses in Education”. (\$250,000). Co-principal Investigator.
4. 2008-2014. Census Bureau Research Data Center. Project. “Job Availability and Employment”. Co-principal Investigator.
5. 2006-2007. National Poverty Center. Project: “Local Economic Development Programs”. Co-principal Investigator.

### **Field Work**

1. 2016-. Project: “Reading Tutoring for Low Achieving Students”. IDB (EDU). Country: Colombia. Co-Principal Investigator.
2. 2014-. Project: “Revaluing Teachers: Selection and Incentives”. IDB (EDU). Country: Peru. Co-Principal Investigator.
3. 2014-. Project: “Group Assignment, Peer Effects and Class Dynamics: Evidence from an RCT in Middle Schools”. IDB (RES). Country: Mexico. Co-Principal Investigator.

4. 2013-. Project: “Information, Parenting Skills, and School Performance”. IDB-Universidad Catolica de Chile-Dartmouth College. Country: Chile. AEARCTR-0000458. Co-Principal Investigator.
5. 2013-2015. Project: “Information and Higher Education School Choice”. IDB-Universidad Catolica de Chile-Dartmouth College. Country: Chile. Co-Principal Investigator.
6. 2009-2014. Project: “Competition, Prices of Goods and Welfare in the Dominican Republic”. IDB-University of Maryland. Country: Dominican Republic. AEARCTR-0000343. Co-Principal Investigator.
7. 2010-2013. Project: “Evaluating the Benefits and Cost of Alternative ICT Uses in Education.” IDB-CRUSA-FOD. AEARCTR-0000337. Country: Costa Rica. Co-principal Investigator.
8. 2010-2012. Project: “Electronic Medical Records in Guatemala”. IDB-USAID. Country: Guatemala. Co-principal Investigator.
9. 2008-2011. Project: “Measuring Skill Demand using Firm Level Data”. IDB (EDU). Countries: Argentina, Chile, and Brazil. Co-principal Investigator.

## Country Experience

Throughout my career I have performed analytic or field work in: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, and the United States.

## Professional Service

2015-2016 Economics Seminar, Co-Coordinator, Research Department, Inter-American Development Bank.

2008- Research Fellow Program, Coordinator, Research Department, Inter-American Development Bank.

2011- Recruiting Panels, Member, Inter-American Development Bank. SPH(2011, 2014), EDU(2011, 2013).

2006 Ph.D. Admissions Committee, Department of Economics, University of Michigan.

Program Committee of: Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA) Program Committee (2009, 2014, 2017), IDB Studies Committee (2008-), Latin American Meeting of the Econometric Society Program Committee (2014).

Referee for *American Economic Review*, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *American Economic Journal - Economic Policy*, *Journal of European Economic Association*, *Economia*, *Economic Bulletin*, *Economic Development Quarterly*, *Economic Journal*, *Economics Letters Economica*, *Economics of Education Review*, *El Trimestre Economico*, *Empirical Economics*, *European Journal of Comparative Economics*, *Journal of Applied Econometrics*, *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics*, *Journal of Development Economics*, *Journal of Development Effectiveness*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Journal of Human Resources*, *Journal of Housing Economics*, *Journal of International Development*, *Journal of Labor Research*, *Journal of Public Economics*, *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, *Journal of Urban Economics*, *Labour Economics*, *Oxford Development Studies*, *Public Budgeting and Finance*, *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, *Regional Studies*, *Review of Development Economics*, *Urban Affairs Review*, *Urban Studies*, *World Development*.

External reviewer for: The National Science Foundation (US); FONCyT (Argentina); Swiss Science Foundation; Centros de Estudios Laborales y Distributivos

## Teaching Experience

- Spring 2013 Visiting Professor, Department of Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata  
Econometrics II
- 2004-2007 Graduate Student Instructor, Department of Economics, University of Michigan.  
Graduate Econometric Theory I (Fall 2004, 2005, 2006 and, 2007.)  
Graduate Econometric Theory II (Winter 2006 and 2007.)  
Principles of Economics (Winter 2005.)
- 1997-2002 Department of Economics, Universidad Nacional de La Plata.  
Teaching Assistant, Graduate Microeconomics (Spring 2001.)  
Lecturer, Public Finance (Spring 1999-2001.)  
Teaching Assistant, Calculus I (Fall 1997-1999.)

## Honors, Awards and Fellowships

- Best teaching assistant for a graduate class in 2005 and 2007 (elected by first year Ph.D. students.)
- Selected among the best 10 Graduate Student Instructors in Fall 2004 & 2005, Winter 2006 & 2007.
- Graduate Summer Grant, Department of Economics, University of Michigan, 2005.
- Regents Fellowship, *Rackham Graduate School*, University of Michigan, 2003-2004.

## Languages

Proficient in Spanish (native) and English

## Professional Society Memberships

American Economic Association, Econometric Society, Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association

*Last updated: December 2018*