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Personal Information: Gender: Female. Date of Birth: 19th August 1976. Citizenship: Spanish

Undergraduate Studies:

BA, Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 1998

Graduate Studies:

MA, Economics, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, 1998 to 2000
Harvard University, 2000 to present

Thesis Title: "Essays on Applied Microeconomics"

Expected Completion Date: June 2006

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Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary Fields: Development Economics and Public Economics

Secondary Fields: Labor Economics and Health Economics

Teaching Experience:

Spring, 2005	American Economic Policy, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Martin Feldstein and Professor Jeffrey Liebman
Fall, 2003	Econometrics, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor James Stock
Spring, 2003	Macroeconomics and Politics, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Robert Barro
Fall, 2002	Econometrics, Harvard University, teaching fellow for Professor Michael Murray
Fall, 2001	Macroeconomics II, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, teaching fellow for Professor Jordi Galí
Spring, 2000	Economic Theory IV, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, teaching fellow for Professor Xavier Sala-i-Martin

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2004	World Economic Forum, Economic Advisor to the Global Competitiveness Team
Summer 2001	Research Assistant for Professor Michael Kremer
1998 – 1999	Translation and correction of second edition of the book “Lecture Notes on Economic Growth” by Professor Xavier Sala-i-Martin from English to Spanish

Professional Activities

Referee for *Journal of Political Economy* and *European Economic Review*

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2005 – 2006	NBER National Security Fellowship
2005 – 2006	Real Colegio Complutense Fellowship
2005 – 2006	Institute for Humane Studies Fellow
2005	NBER National Security Fellow, Summer Fellowship
2000 – 2002	Harvard University, Summer Fellowship
2000 – 2002	“la Caixa” Fellowship

Research Papers:

“Going into Labor: Earnings vs. Infant Survival in Rural Africa,” 2005
(Job Market Paper)

In Sub-Saharan Africa, variation in weather and nutrition causes children born in certain months to be up to three percentage points more likely to die. This seasonal variation is large relative to the annual average of eleven percent infant mortality. Parents do not always time births for low-mortality months. Agricultural cycles may help explain why: in some areas, low-mortality months coincide with high demand for women’s labor. Thus, parents are faced with a stark trade-off between their newborn’s health and family income. I show that families who live in areas with a larger trade-off tend to choose birth months that are worse for infant survival. Families who face less of a trade-off – those less dependent on female wages or subject to less seasonal labor demand – choose lower mortality months. Access to family planning exacerbates these effects by helping families target a specific birth-month more accurately. The results suggest that policies that smooth seasonality in labor demand and consumption could substantially improve infant survival.

“Estimating Social Effects in Elderly Living Arrangements, 1910,” 2004

ABSTRACT: A long-standing question is whether individuals’ choices are influenced by the cultural or social choices of their peers. Estimating such social effects can be difficult because people self-select into peer groups. I use the pension program for Union Army veterans to investigate whether elderly individuals’ choices about whether to live independently or with their descendants are affected by the choices of their peers. Costa (1997) finds that, in 1910, Union Army veterans received benefits that were unanticipated in generosity and consequently decided to live more independently. I use variation among non-veterans in their proximity to Union Army pensioners to show that elderly people are more likely to live independently if their peers live independently. Importantly, the non-veterans received no boost in their income or wealth, so the effects I identify operate through purely cultural or social channels.

“The Economic Tragedy of the XXth Century: Growth in Africa,” NBER Working Paper 9865, July 2003, *African Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum* (with Xavier Sala-i-Martin)

ABSTRACT: Economic growth in Africa has been dismal in the twentieth century. We document the evolution of per capita GDP for the continent as a whole and for countries located south of the Saharan desert. We demonstrate that income inequality grew on a variety of measures, and we estimate poverty rates and headcounts. We analyze some of the central robust determinants of economic growth reported by Sala-i-Martin, Doppelhofer and Miller (2003) and project the annual growth rates Africa would have enjoyed if these key determinants had taken OECD rather than African values. Expensive investment goods, low levels of education, poor health, adverse geography, closed economies, excessive public expenditure, and numerous military conflicts appear to be the key explanations of the economic tragedy.

“Economic Growth and Investment in the Arab World”, September 2002, *Arab Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum* (with Xavier Sala-i-Martin)

ABSTRACT: This paper analyses economic growth in the Arab world over the last forty years. The Arab world has managed to reduce poverty despite relatively disappointing growth. We relate economic growth and poverty in both oil-producing and non-producing Arab countries to investment. Contrary to widespread belief, we do not find evidence that a low *quantity* of investment is the main cause of low growth. Falling investment rates followed rather than preceded countries’ reduction in their growth rates. We conclude that the low *quality* of investment projects is the key barrier to growth. The excessive reliance on public investment, the low quality of financial institutions, the bad business environment (due to political and social instability and to excessive public intervention and overregulation) and the low quality of human capital generated investment decisions that were systematically poor and, thus, unproductive of economic growth.

Research Papers in Progress

“Migration, Positive Shocks in the Supply of Warriors, and the Onset of Civil Wars”

“The Long-term Consequences of Transitory Income Shocks”

“Is Rainfall a Good Instrument in the Presence of Malaria? A Comment on Miguel et al. (2004)”