

Natalia Ordaz Reynoso

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Publications

“You Know What I Know: Interviewer Knowledge Effects in Subjective Expectation Elicitation”,
with Jason Kerwin. (*Accepted, Demography*)

Job Market Paper

“Paid Maternity Leave and Women’s Human Capital: Evidence from California”

Working Papers

“Appointments versus Hard Commitments: Overcoming Self-Control Problems in Preventive
Health”(with Laura Derksen, Jason Kerwin, and Olivier Sterck)

“Health Knowledge and Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions During the COVID-19 Pandemic
in Africa”(with Anne Fitzpatrick, Sabrin Beg, Laura Derksen, Anne Karig, Jason Kerwin,
Adrienne Lucas and Munir Squires)

“Soup Kitchens and Food Security: The Case of Mexico’s Crusade Against Hunger”

Work in Progress

How Housing and Education Interventions Shape Justice System Involvement: Evidence from
Minnesota (with Christopher Uggen and Caitlyn Curry)

Indigenous Language Textbooks and Learning in Mexico

The Evolution of the Share of Female Headed Households Across the World and its Determi-
nants (with Khoa Vu and Anna Bolgrien)

What difference do the schools make? A mixed-methods study in Peru, (With Santiago Cueto,
Gabriela Guerrero, Juan Leon & Paul Glewwe)

Education

2015-2021: PhD Program in Applied Economics (University of Minnesota)

2013-2015: Masters in Economic Theory (ITAM)

2008-2013: Bachelor's Degree in Economics (ITAM)

Awards

- Outstanding Research Award (2019), Minnesota Population Center, for the paper *You Know What I Know: Interviewer Knowledge Effects in Subjective Expectation Elicitation*
- Center for Global Health and Social Responsibility Faculty Mentor Awards program (with Jason Kerwin)
- Consejo Nacional de Ciencia y Tecnologia (Mexico) PhD Fellowship: 2015 - 2019.
- Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy (CIFAP) Research Grant. \$ 15,000 for the project *Appointments versus Hard Commitments: Overcoming Self-Control Problems in Preventive Health*, (With Jason Kerwin).
- Center for International Food and Agricultural Policy (CIFAP) Research Grant. \$ 25,000 for the project *Determinants of Learning, and Learning Gaps, of Secondary Students in Peru*, (With Paul Glewwe).

Teaching Experience

- Fall 2020 and Fall 2019: Led recitation/computer lab for Managerial Economics, Applied Economics Department University of Minnesota
- Spring 2020: Led recitation/computer lab for Management Science Workshop, Applied Economics Department University of Minnesota
- Summer 2019: Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota
PhD Math Review Instructor.
- Fall 2016: Led recitation for Principles of Applied Microeconomics, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota
- 2016: Instructor for the summer undergraduate course: Economic Development, Department of Economics, ITAM

Conferences and Seminar Presentations

NEUDC 2020 North East Universities Development Consortium (Accepted) , Dartmouth

2020 Trade and Development Seminar, University of Minnesota, MN, USA

PAA 2020 Population Association of America, Virtual

PAA 2018 Population Association of America, Denver, CO, USA.

2018 Trade and Development Seminar, University of Minnesota, MN, USA

Other Relevant Work Experience

- Spring 2020 Associate, Akua Capital
- 2017- Present University of Minnesota
Research Assistant for the Grand Challenges: Justice and Equity multidisciplinary team lead by Prof. Christopher Uggen, Prof. Paul Glewwe.
- 2014 La Gaceta de Economia, ITAM
Editor
- 2013-2014 Centro de Investigacion Economica (CIE) ITAM
Research Assistant for Dr. Cesar Martinelli
- 2013 International Relations Department, ITAM
Regional Report on Human Development 2013, UNDP

Languages

- Spanish: First Language
- English: Proficient, 114 IbT Toefel
- Portuguese: Intermediate
- French: Basic

Abstracts

“Paid Maternity Leave and Women’s Human Capital: Evidence from California”
(Job Market Paper)

Does mandatory paid maternity leave affect women’s human capital investment decisions? I test whether the implementation of the California Paid Family Leave Act increased young women’s human capital investment, specifically college enrollment. Using a synthetic control approach, I estimate that the policy increased the probability that women enroll in college by about 2 percentage points. I present a simple human capital model of women’s schooling choices that rationalizes these results as the effect of an expected decrease in the effects of motherhood on labor supply. Finally, I present evidence from survey data and Internet searches that provides support to the hypothesized mechanism.

“You Know What I Know: Interviewer Knowledge Effects in Subjective Expectation Elicitation”
(with Jason Kerwin) (Accepted, Demography)

Directly eliciting subjective beliefs is increasingly popular in social science research, but doing so via face-to-face surveys has an important downside: the interviewer’s knowledge of the topic may spill over into the respondent’s recorded beliefs. Using a randomized experiment that used interviewers to implement an information treatment, we show that reported beliefs are significantly shifted by interviewer knowledge. Trained interviewers primed respondents to use the exact numbers used in the training, nudging them away from higher answers; recorded responses decrease by about 0.3 standard deviations of the initial belief distribution. Furthermore, respondents with stronger priors are less affected by interviewer knowledge. We suggest corrections from the perspectives of interviewer recruitment, survey design, and experiment setup.

“Appointments versus Hard Commitments: Overcoming Self-Control Problems in Preventive Health”
(with Laura Derksen, Jason Kerwin, and Olivier Sterck)

Appointments for preventive healthcare are ubiquitous in developed countries, possibly because they address self-control problems, but they are rare in poor countries. We randomly offer HIV testing appointments and financial commitment devices to high-risk men in Malawi. Both interventions increase HIV testing. Appointments are more effective, more than doubling testing rates. Despite high demand for the commitment device, most do not follow through and thus lose their investment. For these men, who are partially-sophisticated about their self-control problems, appointments appear particularly effective. We explore salience, forgetfulness, and social pressure as potential mechanisms. Appointments are a very cost-effective tool for increasing preventive healthcare.

“Soup Kitchens and Food Security: The Case of Mexico’s Crusade Against Hunger”

Governments across the world subsidize soup kitchen programs, but there is little evidence on their effectiveness. I study a soup kitchen program funded by the Mexican government to examine whether it has caused an improvement in food security. I find no mean municipal effects for six different measures of food security. Testing for potential weaknesses of the program, I find no evidence of political sabotage by local authorities, nor evidence of poor targeting at the municipality level. I analyze a sub sample of the most food insecure and identify some positive effects within that group. My results suggest that the effect of the program on food security is concentrated in the lower end of the food security distribution, but challenge the assumption that subsidizing prepared food will mechanically improve mean food security significantly, and stresses the importance of having micro data to evaluate the effects of programs like this one.