

SCOTT WEINER

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Placement Chairs: Donald Davis, drd28@columbia.edu; Martín Uribe, mu2166@columbia.edu
Placement Assistant: Amy Devine, (212) 854-6881, aed2152@columbia.edu

Education

Columbia University

Ph.D., Economics	(expected) 2020
M.Phil, Economics	2016
M.A., Economics	2015

Brown University, Providence, RI

B.A. Economics, International Relations; <i>magna cum laude</i>	2011
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Fields of Specialization

Primary: Development Economics

Secondary: Labor Economics, Public Economics

Research in Progress

“Mobilizing Forces: Military Conscription as a Driver of Mobility in Argentina”

(*Job Market Paper*) [Draft coming soon]

Abstract: A vast literature documents the presence of unexploited potential gains from migration within a country, in both developing and developed economies. One possible explanation of what prevents people from migrating is that a lack of experience living outside one’s hometown earlier in life could make it more difficult to migrate later on. In this paper, I use the natural experiment of military conscription in Argentina, which randomly assigned not only military service, but also the location of service, to study the effect of this temporary displacement on long-run migration rates. I then use a rich source of administrative earnings and employment data to investigate the labor-market implications of this displacement. I find that assignment to military service outside of one’s province of origin increased the likelihood of living outside the province of origin by 2.5 percent, and increased workers’ positions in the earnings distribution by approximately 0.2 percentile points on average.

“Preference Shocks and Seasonal Hunger”

Research Description: Predictable yearly lean seasons are a common phenomenon in many of the poorest parts of the world where subsistence agriculture is the predominant source of income and relies on a once-yearly harvest. It is difficult to understand this phenomenon in the context of a time-consistent, consumption-smoothing household: why would the same pattern of running out of food shortly before the harvest repeat itself year after year? This project looks at a preference shock induced by the fast of Ramadan: when this fast falls just after the harvest, when food is relatively abundant, does it encourage a higher saving rate at that time? And does this, in turn, allow for a less severe hungry season later in the year? I use detailed consumption data from Malawi to investigate these questions.

Honors, Awards, and Fellowships

Student Research Grant, Center for Development Economics and Policy, Columbia U.	2018
Summer Research Travel Grant, Institute for Latin American Studies, Columbia U.	2018
Dissertation Fellowship, Columbia University	2018
Trudy and Paul Woodruff Fellowship, Dept. of Econ., Columbia U.	2014–2015, 2016–2017
Ralph Erdman Holben Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia U.	2015–2016
Dean’s Fellowship, Department of Economics, Columbia University	2013–2019
Phi Beta Kappa, Brown University	2011

Research Experience

Research Assistant (full time) to Kaivan Munshi, Yale University	2019–2020
Research Assistant (part time) to Supreet Kaur, Columbia University	2015–2016
Research Assistant (part time) to Kaivan Munshi	2013–2015
Post-Bacc. Field Research Coordinator for Kaivan Munshi, Brown University	2011–2013
Research Assistant (part time) to David Weil	2010–2011

Teaching Assistantships

Principles of Economics, Sunil Gulati	Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Spring 2019
Intro. to Econometrics (Undergrad.), Gregory Cox	Fall 2017
Historical Foundations of Modern Economics, André Burgstaller	Spring 2016, Spring 2017
Economic Development (Undergrad.), Anna Caterina Musatti	Fall 2016
Principles of Economics, Goran Lazarevski	Summer 2016
Intermediate Microeconomics, Susan Elmes	Fall 2015

Conferences

APPAM DC Regional Student Conference	2018
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Professional Service

Association of Graduate Economics Students (AGES), Dept. of Economics, Columbia U:
President 2015–2016
Representative 2014–2015, 2016–2017

Software

Highly proficient: Stata, Matlab, Lyx
General working knowledge: ArcGIS, LaTeX, R, Maple, SQL, C#

Personal

Citizenship: United States
Languages: English (native), Spanish (advanced), Japanese (basic)

References

Eric Verhoogen (co-sponsor)
Professor of Economics and
International and Public Affairs
Columbia University
eric.verhoogen@columbia.edu

Suresh Naidu (co-sponsor)
Associate Professor of International and
Public Affairs and Economics
Columbia University
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Rodrigo Soares
Lemann Professor of Brazilian Public
Policy and International and Public
Affairs
Columbia University
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