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Publicaciones en revistas arbitradas del dECON/2011

Accinelli, Elvio y Carrera, E.: "The evolutionary game of poverty traps". The Manchester School, Special Issue on Poverty Traps. Forthcoming.

Aguilar, Renato y Tansini, Ruben: "Joint Analysis of Preschool Attendance and School Performance in the Short and Long-Run". International Journal of Educational Development. Forthcoming.

Balsa, Ana; Rossi, Maximo y Triunfo, Patricia: "Horizontal inequity in access to health care in four south american cities". Revista Economía del Rosario. Universidad del Rosario, Colombia. Vol. 14. Nº 1. Enero-junio 2011. pag. 69-92.

Correa, Fernando: "La dinámica del empleo en la frontera norte de Uruguay". Revista Estudios Fronterizos, Vol 12, núm 23, enero-junio 2011. <http://www.uabc.mx/iis/ref/REFvol12num23/EFVOL12NUM23-4.pdf>

Ferre, Zuleika; Gerstenblüth, Mariana; Rossi, Máximo y Triunfo, Patricia: "The impact of teenage childbearing on educational outcomes". Journal of Developing Areas. Project MUSE managed by the Johns Hopkins University Press. Forthcoming.

Ferre, Zuleika; Gerstenblüth, Mariana; Rossi, Máximo y Triunfo, Patricia: "Sexual Initiation Decisions Among Adolescent Women: The Uruguayan Case". Sexuality Research and Social Policy. Springer. Forthcoming.

Ferre, Zuleika; Gerstenblüth, Mariana y Rossi, Máximo: "Satisfacción con la vida, fe religiosa y asistencia al templo en Uruguay". Revista de Investigación Social. UNAM. México. Aceptado para publicar.

Ferre, Zuleika: "Capital social y redes: una aproximación al apoyo inter-hogares". Cuadernos de Economía, Universidad Nacional de Colombia. Aceptado para publicar.

Forteza, A. and G. Ourens: "Redistribution, Insurance and Incentives to Work in Latin American Pension Programs. Journal of Pension Economics and Finance. Forthcoming.

Gerstenblüth, Mariana y Rossi, Maximo: "¿Son más felices las personas saludables? La evidencia de Chile y Uruguay". Development in Practice. Forthcoming.

Sala de Lectura

Organ Allocation Policy and the Decision to Donate

by Judd B. Kessler and Alvin E. Roth

Organ donations from deceased donors provide the majority of transplanted organs in the United States, and one deceased donor can save numerous lives by providing multiple organs. Nevertheless, most Americans are not registered organ donors despite the relative ease of becoming one. We study in the laboratory an experimental game modeled on the decision to register as an organ donor, and investigate how changes in the management of organ waiting lists might impact donations. We find that an organ allocation policy giving priority on waiting lists to those who previously registered as donors has a significant positive impact on registration.

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/W17324>

Beauty Is the Promise of Happiness

by Daniel S. Hamermesh and Jason Abrevaya

We measure the impact of individuals' looks on life satisfaction/happiness. Using five data sets, from the U.S., Canada, the U.K., and Germany, we construct beauty measures in different ways that allow placing lower bounds on the effects of beauty. Beauty raises happiness: A one standard-deviation change in beauty generates about 0.10 standard deviations of additional satisfaction/happiness among men, 0.12 among women. Accounting for a wide variety of covariates, particularly effects in the labor and marriage markets, including those that might be affected by differences in beauty, the impact among men is more than halved, among women slightly less than halved.

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/W17327>

The Elite Illusion: Achievement Effects at Boston and New York Exam Schools

ATILA ABDULKADIROGLU, JOSHUA ANGRIST and PARAG PATHAK

Talented students compete fiercely for seats at Boston and New York exam schools. These schools are characterized by high levels of peer achievement and a demanding curriculum tailored to each district's highest achievers. While exam school students clearly do very well in school, the question of whether an exam school education adds value relative to a regular public education remains open. We estimate the causal effect of exam school attendance using a regression-discontinuity design, reporting both parametric and non-parametric estimates. We also develop a procedure that addresses the potential for confounding in regression-discontinuity designs with multiple, closely-spaced admissions cutoffs.

The outcomes studied here include scores on state standardized achievement tests, PSAT and SAT participation and scores, and AP scores. Our estimates show little effect of exam school offers on most students' achievement in most grades. We use two-stage least squares to convert reduced form estimates of the effects of exam school offers into estimates of peer and tracking effects, arguing that these appear to be unimportant in this context. On the other hand, a Boston exam school education seems to have a modest effect on high school English scores for minority applicants. A small group of 9th grade applicants also appears to do better on SAT Reasoning. These localized gains notwithstanding, the intense competition for exam school seats does not appear to be justified by improved learning for a broad set of students.

[NBER Working Paper No. w17264](#)

Foundations of Evolutionary Economics, Chapter Six: Institutions

By CARSTEN HERRMANN-PILLATH

This is an entirely new draft of the sixth chapter of my book 'Foundations of Evolutionary Economics' which is going to be published by Edward Elgar in due course. With permission of the publisher, the draft chapters are posted on the web to facilitate academic discussion for further improvement. Previous versions have been removed from the SSRN site.

The chapter presents a theory of institutions that focuses on their cognitive foundations and the enforcement mechanisms. Institutions are manifestations of performative actions by actors in networks of interactions, which are caused by conjunctions of population level sign systems and neurophysiologically anchored dispositions. I analyze the cognitive dynamics of the emergence of institutions. At the same time, enforcement of institutions results from evolving configurations of power in networks, showing different features, depending on the size of groups and on the impact of institutional competition. I present a stylized history of institutions that highlights the specialization dilemma between enforcers and producers, which creates strong incentives for predation on part of the former. The chapter ends with outlining a conceptual framework for a time-dependent taxonomy of institutions.

Sala Multimedia

O'Donohoe on Potato Chips and Salty Snacks

Brendan O'Donohoe of Frito-Lay talks with EconTalk host [Russ Roberts](#) about how potato chips and other salty snacks get made, distributed, and marketed. The interview follows an hour-long tour of a local supermarket where O'Donohoe showed Roberts some of the ways that chips and snacks get displayed and marketed in a modern supermarket. The conversation is a window into a world that few of us experience or are even aware of--how modern producers and retailers make sure the shelves are stocked and their products get noticed.

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Readings and Links related to this podcast

About this week's guest:

- Brendan O'Donohoe works for [Frito-Lay](#)

About ideas and people mentioned in this podcast:

Books:

- [Risk, Uncertainty, and Profit](#), by Frank H. Knight. On Econlib.

Articles:

- ["I, Pencil: My Family Tree as told to Leonard E. Read"](#) by Leonard E. Read. On Econlib.
- ["Bosses Don't Wear Bunny Slippers: If Markets Are So Great, Why Are There Firms?"](#). Econlib, January 7, 2008.
- ["I'll Stick With These: Some Sharp Observations on the Division of Labor"](#). Econlib, April 2, 2007.
- [Entrepreneurship](#), by Russell S. Sobel. *Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*.
- [Adam Smith](#). Biography. *Concise Encyclopedia of Economics*.

Web Pages:

- [FritoLay.com](#)
- [Frito-Lay](#) at Pepsico.com.
- [Safeway.com](#).

Podcasts, Video, and Blogs:

- [I Love Lucy--The Candy Wrapping Job](#).
- [Walter Williams on Life, Liberty, and Economics](#). EconTalk podcast.
- [The Economics of Obesity](#). EconTalk podcast.
- [Roberts on Smith, Ricardo, and Trade](#). Economies of scale. EconTalk podcast.
- [de Botton on the Pleasures and Sorrows of Work](#). Pencil plant in Missouri. EconTalk podcast.
- [Dan Klein on Coordination and Cooperation](#). Pizza for the Super Bowl. EconTalk podcast.

Problemas del desarrollo

A Political Theory of Populism

by Daron Acemoglu, Georgy Egorov, Konstantin

When voters fear that politicians may have a right-wing bias or that they may be influenced or corrupted by the rich elite, signals of true left-wing conviction are valuable. As a consequence, even a moderate politician seeking reelection chooses "populist" policies - i.e., policies to the left of the median voter - as a way of signaling that he is not from the right. Truly right-wing politicians respond by choosing more moderate, or even left-of-center policies. This populist bias of policy is greater when the value of remaining in office is higher for the politician; when there is greater polarization between the policy preferences of the median voter and right-wing politicians; when politicians are indeed more likely to have a hidden right-wing agenda; when there is an intermediate amount of noise in the information that voters receive; when politicians are more forward-looking; and when there is greater uncertainty about the type of the incumbent. We show that similar results apply when some politicians can be corrupted or influenced through other non-electoral means by the rich elite. We also show that 'soft term limits' may exacerbate, rather than reduce, the populist bias of policies.

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/W17306>

Explaining Charter School Effectiveness

by Joshua D. Angrist, Parag A. Pathak, Christopher R. Walters

Estimates using admissions lotteries suggest that urban charter schools boost student achievement, while charter schools in other settings do not. We explore student-level and school-level explanations for these differences using a large sample of Massachusetts charter schools. Our results show that urban charter schools boost achievement well beyond ambient non-charter levels (that is, the average achievement level for urban non-charter students), and beyond non-urban achievement in math. Student demographics explain some of these gains since urban charters are most effective for non-whites and low-baseline achievers. At the same time, non-urban charter schools are uniformly ineffective. Our estimates also reveal important school-level heterogeneity in the urban charter sample. A non-lottery analysis suggests that urban schools with binding, well-documented admissions lotteries generate larger score gains than under-subscribed urban charter schools with poor lottery records. We link the magnitude of charter impacts to distinctive pedagogical features of urban charters such as the length of the school day and school philosophy. The relative effectiveness of urban lottery-sample charters is accounted for by over-subscribed urban schools' embrace of the No Excuses approach to education.

<http://papers.nber.org/papers/W17332>

The Real Solution Is Growth

By Daron Acemoglu

http://blogs.hbr.org/cs/2011/08/the_real_solution_is_growth.html#.TkOpzsVoiMw.facebook

Political Economy of the Mining Sector in Ghana

JOSEPH AYEE, TINA SOREIDE, G. P. SHUKLA and TUAN MINH LE

With a focus on the institutional set-up and the political environment as central to understanding and rectifying the poor impact of mining on Ghana's economic development, this paper highlights the vulnerabilities in mining sector governance along the industry value chain. The authors explain why it has been difficult to implement policies that would have improved social welfare. They find that incentive problems in institutions directly or peripherally involved in mining governance are a major factor, as are an excessively centralized policy-making process, a powerful executive president, strong party loyalty, a system of political patronage, lack of transparency, and weak institutional capacity at the political and regulatory levels. The paper argues that the net impact of mining on economic development is likely to be enhanced with appropriate reforms in governance. Most importantly, there should be a greater awareness of incentive problems at the political level and their possible implications for sector performance and the economy at large. The set of checks and balances, as stipulated by the Constitution, have to be reinforced. Furthermore, capacity building at different levels and institutions is needed and should be combined with efforts to enhance incentives for institutional performance.

[World Bank Policy Research Working Paper No. 5730](#)

Aula Virtual

Happiness, Time-Use and Public Policy

By Ronnie Schöb

http://mediathek.cesifo-group.de/player/macros/v_f_750_de_512_288/s_ifo/x_s-764870657/ifo/index.html

China

China's Emergence in the World Economy and Business Cycles in Latin America

Ambrogio Cesa-Bianchi, Hashem Pesaran, Alessandro Rebucci, TengTeng Xu

The international business cycle is very important for Latin America's economic performance as the recent global crisis vividly illustrated. This paper investigates how changes in trade linkages between China, Latin America, and the rest of the world have altered the transmission mechanism of international business cycles to Latin America. Evidence based on a Global Vector Autoregressive (GVAR) model for 5 large Latin American economies and all major advanced and emerging economies of the world shows that the long-term impact of a China GDP shock on the typical Latin American economy has increased by three times since mid-1990s. At the same time, the long-term impact of a US GDP shock has halved, while the transmission of shocks to Latin America and the rest of emerging Asia (excluding China and India) GDP has not undergone any significant change. Contrary to common wisdom, we find that these changes owe more to the changed impact of China on Latin America's traditional and ! largest trading partners than to increased direct bilateral trade linkages boosted by the decade long commodity price boom. These findings help to explain why Latin America did so well during the global crisis, but point to the risks associated with a deceleration in China's economic growth in the future for both Latin America and the rest of the world economy. The evidence reported also suggests that the emergence of China as an important source of world growth might be the driver of the so called "decoupling" of emerging markets business cycle from that of advanced economies reported in the existing literature.

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp5889.pdf>

Evolution of the Industrial Wage Structure in China Since 1980

O Hyun Kwon, Belton M. Fleisher, Quheng Deng

Industry mean wages in China have exhibited sharply increased dispersion since the early 1990s. The upward trend in differences of average wages among major industry groups parallels increases in wage and income inequality not only between rural and urban sectors but within the urban economy as well. Research on the trend has focused on (1) how market forces have led to a better match between worker pay and worker skills; on (2a) how the growing share of employment in the private sector has "caused" growing wage inequality; and (2b) how residual government control in a few industrial sectors has contributed to wage inequality due monopoly rent sharing. We show that the industrial wage dispersion in China has evolved to match long-recognized international patterns of industrial wage dispersion and that an increasing proportion of industrial wage dispersion can be explained as returns to observed worker characteristics.

<http://ftp.iza.org/dp5880.pdf>

Café Montevideo

Supply, Demand and Marriage

By Robert H. Frank

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/08/07/business/economy/marriage-and-the-law-of-supply-and-demand.html?ref=economy>

Shang-Jin Wei & Xiaobo Zhang, 2011. "**Sex Ratios, Entrepreneurship, and Economic Growth in the People's Republic of China**," NBER Working Papers 16800, National Bureau of Economic Research.

The Economist's Guide to Parenting

By Stephen J. Dubner

<http://www.freakonomics.com/2011/06/16/freakonomics-radio-hour-long-episode-2-%E2%80%9Cthe-economists-guide-to-parenting%E2%80%9D/>

Don't Shoot the Messenger

<http://lisa92859.wordpress.com/2011/08/01/dont-shoot-the-messenger/>

Noticias

Blogs interesantes:

<https://nepltv.wordpress.com/>

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