

GUSTAVO GONZÁLEZ

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Santiago, Chile

Personal Information:

Date of birth: April 18, 1988
Sex: Male
Citizenship: Chilean

Employment

Central Bank of Chile, Big Data Analysis Department, June 2021-present

Education

Ph.D., The University of Chicago, Economics, 2015-2021
Thesis Title: “*Commodity Price Shocks, Factor Utilization, and Productivity Dynamics*”
Committee: Mikhail Golosov (Chair), Joseph Vavra, Rodrigo Adao

M.A. in Economics, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC-Chile), 2010-2012

B.A. in Business and Economics, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC-Chile), 2006-2010

Teaching and Research Fields:

Primary fields: Macroeconomics, International Economics

Secondary fields: Development

Teaching Experience:

Fall, 2022	Economic Development in Latin America, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Institute of Economics, Lecturer in the Master in Applied Economics program
Fall, 2021	Applied Regression Analysis, Chicago Booth School of Business, Teaching Assistant for Professor Max Farrell
Spring, 2020	Industrial Organization, Univ. of Chicago, Dept. of Economics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Michael Dinerstein
Spring, 2020	Elements of Economic Analysis III, Univ. of Chicago, Dept. of Economics, Teaching Assistant for Lecturer Josh Morris-Levenson
Winter, 2020	Macroeconomics, Chicago Booth School of Business, Teaching Assistant for Professor Joseph Vavra
Fall, 2019	Applied Regression Analysis, Chicago Booth School of Business, Teaching Assistant for Professor Max Farrell

Spring, 2019	Elements of Economic Analysis III: Honors, Univ. of Chicago, Dept. of Economics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Kotaro Yoshida
Winter, 2019	International Economics, Univ. of Chicago, Dept. of Economics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Felix Tintelnot
Winter, 2019	Macroeconomics, Chicago Booth School of Business, Teaching Assistant for Professor Joseph Vavra
Fall, 2018	International Financial Policy, Chicago Booth School of Business, Teaching Assistant for Professor Brent Neiman
Spring, 2018	Applied Macroeconomics: Heterogeneity and Macro, Univ. of Chicago, Dept. of Economics, Teaching Assistant for Professors Joseph Vavra and Rohan Kekre
Winter, 2018	Elements of Economic Analysis III: Honors, Univ. of Chicago, Dept. of Economics, College Lecturer
Fall, 2017	Inequality: A Perspective from Macroeconomics, Univ. of Chicago, Dept. of Economics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Greg Kaplan
Spring, 2017	Elements of Economic Analysis III, Univ. of Chicago, Dept. of Economics, Teaching Assistant for Professor Melissa Tartari
Winter, 2017	Macroeconomics, Chicago Booth School of Business, Teaching Assistant for Professor Joseph Vavra

Research Experience and Other Employment:

2017	Chicago Booth School of Business, Research Assistant for Professor Veronica Guerrieri
2017	University of Chicago, Department of Economics, Research Assistant for Professor Robert Lucas
2012-2014	Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Research Assistant for Professor Klaus Schmidt-Hebbel
2010-2011	Central Bank of Chile, Research Assistant for Professor Sebastian Claro
2010-2011	Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Research Assistant for Professors Matias Tapia and Veronica Mies
2009	Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Research Assistant for Professor Francisco Gallego

Honors, Scholarships, and Fellowships:

2019	Prize to Best Lecturer of the Undergraduate Macro Sequence, University of Chicago
2016	Sherwin Rosen Fellowship

Conference and Seminar Presentations:

2021	Annual Meeting of the Chilean Society of Economics (SECHI), virtual
2021	36 th Annual Meeting of the European Economic Association, virtual
2014	19 th Annual Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), Sao Paulo, Brazil
2014	Annual Meeting of the Chilean Society of Economics (SECHI), Viña del Mar, Chile

2013 Annual Meeting of the Chilean Society of Economics (SECHI), Santiago, Chile
2013 18th Annual Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean Economic Association (LACEA), Mexico City, Mexico

Language and Computer Skills:

Languages:

English (Fluent), Spanish (Native)

Computer

Skills: Matlab, Stata, R

Research Papers:

“Commodity Price Shocks, Factor Utilization, and Productivity Dynamics”

I investigate the importance of commodity price shocks on aggregate productivity dynamics. I focus on variable utilization of primary factors as driving mechanism. I exploit variation in product tradability and cost exposure to the copper industry to characterize the responses of manufacturing Chilean firms to copper price shocks. I find that, when copper prices increase, establishments selling non-tradables display higher productivity growth than those selling tradables. At the same time, plants more cost-exposed to the copper industry display lower growth. I develop a multi-sector small open economy model featuring frictions to factor management and variable factor utilization. I quantitatively find that variable utilization can generate a strong positive association between copper price shocks and measured aggregate productivity, as it is observed in Chilean data.

“Entrepreneurship and the Efficiency Effects of Migration”

This paper constructs and calibrates a parsimonious two-country dynamic general equilibrium model of entrepreneurship and migration. Countries differ in their TFP levels and in their degree of financial frictions. The model is calibrated to replicate the economic and migratory situation of the United States and the rest of the world. I evaluate the impact of changing migration barriers on GDP per capita, average firms’ productivity, business ownership rates, and consumption on both regions. I find that migration barriers have a non-monotone impact on the average productivity of the host country, depending this on the quality and the mass of people that move in and that are displaced by the entrants. A migration policy that favors the entry of foreign people with a higher entrepreneurial pulse would reduce profits of native entrepreneurs but would make the economy more efficient and would raise the welfare of workers of the host economy.

“Social Connections and Earnings Inequality”

Inequality has been a topic of lively debate during the last decade. This paper contributes to this literature by positing the channel of social connections and evaluating its quantitative importance. To do that, I have built a heterogeneous agent life-cycle model whose main features are a labor market with search and initial investments in education. Educational expenditures fulfill the double purpose of enhancing the human capital stock of the individual and his arrival rate of job offers when unemployed. The main result of the paper is that social connections play a very small role in generating a worse earnings inequality. Educational expenditures are performed mostly to raise the human capital stock, as the relative marginal return in terms of job offers is low. Subsidies to educational expenditures that are focused on the lowest skill types of the population are a more effective policy to decrease earnings inequality than universal free public education, although shutting down the social connections channel is the most effective one.

Work in progress:

“Exports Volatility and Optimal Exchange Rate Regime” (with Piotr Żoch)

We show that commodity producing developing countries are less likely to have floating exchange rate regimes than non-commodity producing developing countries at moderate to high levels of foreign debt indebtedness. However, at low levels of indebtedness the opposite situation happens. Motivated by these facts, we develop an open-economy model featuring nominal rigidities, a banking sector subject to balance sheet currency mismatches, and financial frictions. This economy is subject to exogenous price shocks to its tradable goods. We solve for the problem of a social planner that chooses an optimal exchange rate arrangement by trading-off a better nominal accommodation of shocks and a higher amplification of shocks coming from balance sheet effects. We find that the exports volatility threshold for adopting a flexible exchange rate regime is increasing in the share of foreign currency-denominated liabilities of the banking sector.