

---

# CHRISTOPHER A. NEILSON

*Yale University  
Department of Economics  
Jackson School of Global Affairs*

*[christopher.neilson@yale.edu](mailto:christopher.neilson@yale.edu) · [website](#) · [github](#)*

---

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Professor of Economics and Global Affairs, Yale University, since 2022  
Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research, since 2015

## PAST APPOINTMENTS

Professor of Economics, Princeton University, 2022  
Assistant Professor of Economics, Princeton University, 2015 - 2022  
Visiting Researcher, Microsoft Research, New England, 2017 - 2018  
Visiting Scholar at Stern School of Business, New York University. 2014-2015

## EDUCATION

Ph.D, Economics, Yale University, 2014  
Msc. and B.A., Economics, Universidad de Chile, 2005, 2006

## PUBLISHED RESEARCH PAPERS

Report Cards: Parental Preferences, Information and School Choice in Haiti  
*Education Economics Review* (October 2024)  
with M. Borger, G. Elacqua, I. Jacas, A. Westh Olsen

Aftermarket Frictions and the Cost of Off Platform Options In Centralized Assignment Mechanisms  
*Journal of Political Economy* (July 2024).  
with A. Kapor and M. Karnani

Smart Matching Platforms and Heterogeneous Beliefs in Centralized School Choice  
*Quarterly Journal of Economics* (March 2022)  
with F. Arteaga, A. Kapor and S. Zimmerman

Centralized School Choice with Unequal Outside Options  
*Journal of Public Economics* (June 2022)  
with M. Akbarpour, A. Kapor, W. van Dijk, S. Zimmerman

Small Firms and the Pandemic: Evidence From Latin America  
*Journal of Development Economics* March 2022  
with M.E. Guerrero, J.E. Humphries, N. Shimberg, G. Ulyssea

O Brother, Where Start Thou? Sibling Spillovers on College and Major Choice in Four Countries  
*The Quarterly Journal of Economics* (August 2021)  
with A.Altmejd, A.Barrios-Fernandez, M.Drlje, J.Goodman, M.Hurwitz, D.Kovac, C.Mulhern, J.Smith

Information Frictions and Access to the Paycheck Protection Program  
*Journal of Public Economics* 190, October 2020, with J. E. Humphries and G. Ulyssea

---

Heterogeneous Beliefs and School Choice Mechanisms

*American Economic Review* , 110(5), May 2020 with A. Kapor and S. Zimmerman

Health at Birth, Parental Investments, and Academic Outcomes

*Journal of Labor Economics* 36(2), April 2018, with P. Bharadwaj and J. Eberhard

Gray Matters: Fetal Pollution Exposure and Human Capital Formation

*Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists*, 4(2), 2017, with P. Bharadwaj, M. Gibson, J. G. Zivin

The Gender Gap in Mathematics: Evidence from middle/low income countries

*Economic Development and Cultural Change*, 65(1), October 2016, with G. Giorgi, D. Hansen and P. Bharadwaj

(Un)informed College and Major Choice: Evidence from Linked Survey and Administrative Data

*Economics of Education Review* vol. 51, April 2016, with J. Hastings, A. Ramirez and S. Zimmerman

Connecting Student Loans to Labor Market Outcomes: Policy Lessons from Chile

*American Economic Review* Papers and Proceedings, May 2015, with H. Beyer, J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

The Effect of School Construction on Test Scores, School Enrollment, and Home Prices

*Journal of Public Economics*, vol. 120, December 2014, with S. Zimmerman

Early Life Health Interventions and Academic Achievement

*American Economic Review*, 103(5), August 2013, with P. Bharadwaj and K. Loken

## WORKING PAPERS

Elite Universities and the Intergenerational Transmission of Human and Social Capital

Conditionally accepted at *American Economic Review* (2025)

with A. Barrios and S. Zimmerman

Targeted Vouchers, Competition Among Schools, and the Academic Achievement of Poor Students

Conditionally accepted at *Econometrica* (2025)

PhD Thesis, Yale University (October 2013)

Search and Biased Beliefs in Education Markets

R&R at *Econometrica* (2025)

with A. Kapor, C. Allende, N. Ochoa, P. Agte

Parents' Earnings and the Returns to Universal Pre-Kindergarten

R&R at *Econometrica* (2025)

with J. E. Humphries, X. Ye, S. Zimmerman

College Application Mistakes and the Design of Information Policies at Scale

R&R at the *Journal of Political Economy*

with A. Fabre, T. Larroucau, I. Rios

Approximating The Equilibrium Effects of Informed School Choice

R&R at *The Review of Economic Studies*; Princeton WP No. 628 (July 2019)

with C. Allende and F. Gallego

Teacher Compensation and Structural Inequality: Evidence from Centralized Teacher School Choice in Peru

R&R at the *Journal of Political Economy*; Princeton WP No. 648 (March 2021)

---

with M. Bobba, T. Ederer, G. Leon-Ciliotta, M. Nieddu

Equilibrium Effects of Asymmetric Information on Consumer Credit Markets  
R&R at the *Journal of Finance*; NBER WP No. 25097 (September 2018)  
with A. Liberman and S. Zimmerman

Firm Sorting, College Major, and the Gender Earnings Gap  
Princeton WP No. 649 (May 2021)  
with F. Huneeus, C. Miller, S. Zimmerman

The Equilibrium Effects of Public Provision in Education Markets: Evidence from a Public School Expansion  
Princeton WP No. 645 (November 2020)  
with M. Dinerstein and S. Otero

The Potential of Smart Matching Platforms in Teacher Assignment: The Case of Ecuador  
IDB Working Paper Series (Number IDB-WP-01395)  
with Gregory Elacqua, Leidy Gómez, Thomas Krussig, Luana Marotta, Carolina Mendez

Screening and Recruiting Talent At Teacher Colleges Using Pre-College Academic Achievement  
Princeton WP No. 636 (December 2019)  
with F. Calle and S. Gallegos

The Effects of Earnings Disclosure on College Enrollment Decisions  
NBER WP No. 21300 (June 2015, updated July 2017)  
with J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

Are Some Degrees Worth More than Others? Evidence from College Admission Cutoffs in Chile  
NBER WP No. 19241 (July 2013)  
with J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

The Effect of School Choice on Intrinsic Motivation and Academic Outcomes  
NBER WP No. 18324 (August 2012)  
with J. Hastings and S. Zimmerman

#### **PUBLISHED RESEARCH PRIOR THE PHD**

Poverty Dynamics in Chile 1996 – 2001 (*undergraduate thesis*)  
*Journal of Latin American Studies* vol. 40, May 2008, with D. Contreras, R. Cooper and J. Herman

Pro-poor growth in Chile  
*El Trimestre Económico* vol. 75, October 2008, pp. 931-944 with D. Contreras and R. Cooper

Another Passthrough Bites the Dust? Inflation and Oil Prices  
*ECONOMIA, Journal of LACEA* vol. 7, Spring, 2007, with J. De Gregorio and O. Landerretche

Chile's Fiscal Rule as Social Insurance in: *Fiscal Policy and Macroeconomic Performance*, (2013)  
edited by L. F. Céspedes and J. Galí; coauthored with E. Engel and R. Valdes

Worker Flows and Labor Dynamics in Chile: A Retrospective Story in: *Job Hopping: Issues and Coping Strategies*, (2009)  
edited by K Sangeetha; coauthored with J. Ruiz-Tagle

---

Financial Diversification, Sudden Stops and Sudden Starts in: *Current Account and External Finance*, (2007)  
edited by K. Cowan, S. Edwards, and R. Valdes; coauthored with J. De Gregorio, K. Cowan, A. Micco

## ADVISING

### Current PhD Students

Fernando Ochoa  
Nicolas Rojas Souyet

### Program

6th year, New York University Economics Ph.D.  
7th year, Columbia University Teacher's College Ph.D.

### Students Advised

2025 Patrick Agte  
2024 Karl Schulze  
2023 Carolina Concha-Arriagada  
2020 Claudia Allende

### Initial Placement

Assistant Professor, Stockholm School of Economics  
Postdoctoral Associate, Yale University  
Assistant Professor, Columbia Teachers College  
Assistant Professor, Stanford University GSB Economics

### Students Supported

2024 Felipe Arteaga  
2024 Alvaro Carril  
2022 Antonia Paredes, Yale University  
2022 Fernanda (Pumi) Ramirez-Espinoza  
2021 Tomas Larroucau, UPenn  
2019 Federico Huneeus, Princeton University  
2019 Andres Barrios-Fernandez, LSE  
2017 John Klopfer, Princeton University

### Initial Placement

Data Scientist, Amazon  
Data Scientist, Revelio Labs  
UC Berkeley Haas, Postdoctoral Fellow  
Assistant Professor, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile  
Arizona State University, Department of Economics  
Yale University, Postdoctoral Fellow  
Senior Researcher, VATT Helsinki, Finland  
Assistant Professor, United States Naval Academy

## REFEREEING

*American Economic Review, Econometrica, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Journal of Political Economy, Review of Economics and Statistics, American Economic Journal: Applied Economics, American Economic Journal: Policy, Journal of Public Economics, Journal of Labor Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Economic Theory, Economic Journal, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Money, Credit and Banking, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis, The International Economic Review, Journal of Human Resources, Labour Economics, Oxford Economics Papers and the Education Economics Review, World Bank Economic Review.*

---

## PUBLIC POLICY ACTIVITIES

*Founder and CEO of TetherEd 2022*

Topics: EdTech startup that builds software to digitalize access to education and implement AI enabled platforms for  
Currently working with the governments in Latin America, cities in the US and Europe.

*Founder of ConsiliumBots 2018*

Topics: EdTech NGO focused on helping researchers with with governments design, test and evaluate AI bots to help  
get access to education, housing, health and other important social services.

*Consultant to the Ministry of Education, Government of Peru. 2021-2022*

Topics : Supporting the design of policy helping more students get free access to higher education in Peru.

*Consultant for the World Bank, 2020*

Topics: Assist with the design and implementation of education vouchers in response to COVID19.

*Founder Researcher of DataLAB Republica Dominicana 2019*

Topics: Incubating the data science capabilities inside the government of the Dominican Republic.

*Founding Researcher of MineduLAB within the Ministry of Education, Government of Peru*

founding Principal Investigator 2014, Board member 2015

*Advisor to New Haven Public Schools Office of Choice and Enrollment. 2018-2022*

Topics : The design and implementation of centralized school choice mechanism.

*Advisor to the Ministry of Education, Government of Chile. 2015*

Topics : The design and implementation of the national coordinated application and assignment platform.

*Associate Partner of IDEICE, Research Unit of the Ministry of Education of the Dominican Republic 2014-2017*

Topics: The study of education issues and the scale up of policies proven to improve outcomes.

*Consultant for MINEDU of the Ministry of Education, Government of Peru, 2016*

Topics: The design and implementation of informational platforms for college choice in Peru.

*Consultant for the World Bank, 2014-2015*

Topics: The design and implementation of free tuition policy in higher education in Chile.

*Consultant for the IDB 2016, 2018*

Topics: The design of platforms to disclose earnings by field and type of study in Peru.

---

## GRANTS

*Biased Beliefs and Search in Education Markets* 2019-2023

Donor: **National Science Foundation (NSF)** via Princeton University - Grant Amount: USD 558,589.00

*Beliefs, Understanding, and Strategic Behavior in School Choice Mechanisms* 2015-2018

Donor: **National Science Foundation (NSF)** via NBER - Grant Amount: USD 457,853.00

*Incubation of Human Capital Technology Organization* 2018-2020

Donor: **Wellspring Philanthropic Fund** - Grant amount USD 500,000

*Learning the Value of Education in the Dominican Republic* 2014-2019

Donor: **DIV-USAID** via JPAL - Grant amount: USD 1,258,979 + 240,000 expansion

*Getting children to stay in school and out of work: The role of Informative and Persuasive Marketing* 2015-2020

Donor: **United States Department of Labor (DoL)** via IPA- Grant amount: USD 977,690.00

Donor: **Post Primary Initiative JPAL Global** via IPA - Grant amount: USD 256,464

*Leveraging Administrative Data and Machine Learning Techniques to Improve Education Policy in Developing Countries* 2018

Donor: **Microsoft Research** via JPAL - Grant Amount: USD 40,000 on Azure Computing Resources

*Evaluating online platform to reduce information asymmetries w/in students and parents* 2017-2019

Donor: **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IDB)** and MINEDU

via IPA - Grant amount: USD 202,000

*Education Mismatch and Information about Relative Performance* 2018

Donor: **Post Primary Initiative JPAL Global** - Grant amount: USD 50,000

*Building a better future with informed investment in higher education:*

*Evaluating the impact of personalized provision of information on earnings and financial aid in the Dominican Republic* 2019

Donor: **Skills for Youth Program, J-PAL LAC** - Grant amount: USD 49,479

*Financial Aid and College Access in the Dominican Republic* 2018-2020

Donor: **Post Primary Education Initiative, J-PAL** - Grant amount: USD 256,893

*Reducing free-riding in public goods: An experimental approach to*

*improving payment compliance for trash collection in the Dominican Republic* 2017-2018

Donor: **Governance Initiative, J-PAL** - Grant amount: USD 48,990

*Making Centralized School Choice Work in Practice: Evaluating Informational Interventions in Equilibrium* 2020

Donor: **Overdeck Princeton Education Fund** - Grant amount: USD 95,000

*How the Design of School Choice Systems Affects Welfare and Student Outcomes* 2019

Donor: **Overdeck Princeton Education Fund** - Grant amount: USD 85,000

---

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

*Premio Trayectoria 90 años FEN*, Universidad de Chile, 2024  
Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellow in Economics, 2021-2022  
*Círculo de Honor*, Facultad de Economía y Negocios, Universidad de Chile, 2021  
Excellence in Refereeing Award, American Economic Review, 2017  
Best Graduate Student Advisor - Princeton University, 2016  
Review of Economic Studies Tour, 2014  
Northeast Rugby Championship and 3rd place at Nationals, All Black New Haven Rugby, 2014  
*Joven Egresado Destacado*, Facultad de Economía y Negocios, Universidad de Chile, 2014  
George Trimis Prize for Distinguished Dissertation in Economics, Yale University, 2014  
Anderson Fellowship, Cowles Foundation, 2012  
City of New Haven, Board of Aldermen Official Citation, 2011  
Distinction - Industrial Organization field examination, Yale University, 2010  
*100 Jóvenes Líderes* El Mercurio, Santiago Chile 2007  
Highest Ranked Economics MA student at graduation, Dept. of Economics, University of Chile 2006  
Highest Ranked Economics BA student at graduation, Dept. of Economics, University of Chile 2005  
Alumni Association prize at graduation, University of Chile 2005  
International Labor Organization (ILO) Undergraduate Thesis Fellowship, 2003

## LANGUAGES

Native speaker of English and Spanish (mother tongue).