

## Inés Berniell

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**Fields** Labor Economics, Applied Microeconomics and Development Economics

**Education** Ph.D. in Economics, CEMFI, Spain 2011 – 2015  
MPhil. in Economics and Finance, CEMFI, Spain 2008 – 2010  
BA in Economics, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina (with honors) 2002 – 2007

**Professional/ research experience** Max Weber Fellow, European University Institute, Italy September 2015 – present  
Research Assistant, CEMFI, Madrid  
RA to Professor Monica Martinez-Bravo 2013 – 2015  
RA to Professor Josep Pijoan-Mas 2012  
Consultant, The World Bank, Washington, DC July 2010 – September 2011  
World Development Report 2012, DEC July – September 2009  
Development Research Group (DECRG)  
Researcher, IERAL (think tank), Argentina April 2005 – June 2008

**Teaching** Instructor, Labor Economics, European University Institute spring 2017  
Ph.D. level course (scheduled)  
Received Max Weber Programme Teaching Certificate 2016  
Teaching Exchange at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona  
Teaching Assistant, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina 2006 – 2008  
Introduction to Economics, Economics I and Mathematics II.  
Lecturer, Universidad Empresarial Siglo XXI, Argentina 2007 – 2008  
Economics I and Microeconomics

**Research papers** **Pay Cycles: Individual and Aggregate Effects of Paycheck Frequency**  
(*Job Market Paper*)

This paper shows that the frequency at which workers are paid affects the within-month patterns of both household expenditure and aggregate economic activity. To identify causal effects, I exploit two novel sources of exogenous variation in pay frequency in the US. First, using an as-good-as-random variation in the pay frequency of retired couples, I show that those who are paid more frequently have smoother expenditure paths. Second, I take advantage of cross-state variation in labor laws to compare patterns of economic activity in states in which the frequency with which wages are paid differs. I document that low pay frequencies lead to within-month business cycles when many workers are paid on the same dates, which in turn generates costly congestion in sectors with capacity constraints. These findings have important policy implications for contexts where firms and workers do not internalize such congestion externalities as this situation leads to market equilibria with suboptimally low pay frequencies and few paydays.

**Poor Little Children: The Socioeconomic Gap in Parental Responses to School Unreadiness** (with Ricardo Estrada)

We use detailed data on parental investments to study how parents react to a widely used school policy that put some children at learning disadvantage. A strict school-entry cut-off law in Spain generates a large exogenous variation in the age at which children start school. We first document that younger children perform significantly worse at school than their older peers in line with findings in other countries. We use data from the universe of newborns in Spain to document that for the children born in winter this effect is not due to seasonality in birth patterns. Then, we show that this age of school entry effect is significantly larger among children from disadvantaged families. We analyze data on parental investments and find that college educated parents increase their time investments and choose schools with better inputs when their children are the youngest in their classroom, while non-college educated parents do not.

**The Impact of a Permanent Income Shock on the Situation of Women in the Household: the Case of a Pension Reform in Argentina** (with D. de la Mata and M. Machado)

Income transfers from social programs are often not gender neutral and should, according to the vast literature on intra-household decision making and allocation, affect the distribution of bargaining power within the household. This result, however, was by and large established under the assumption of marriage stability. If this assumption does not hold, then the positive response of bargaining power to income found in the empirical research may be the artefact of sample selection. One may postulate, however, that when restricted to certain groups in the population, such as seniors, the assumption may hold since their probability of divorce is close to zero. In this paper we prove that the assumption is wrong, even when applied to seniors. We use a non-contributory pension reform in Argentina, that resulted in an unexpected and substantial increase in permanent income for around 1.8 million women, to study its effects on outcomes related to both marital stability and women's bargaining power within the household. We find that the reform increased the probability of divorce/separation among senior highly educated women but had no impact on the low-educated. Instead, the latter gained considerable bargaining power within the household by decreasing the probability of being the only one in charge of household chores in tandem with an increase in their husbands participation in these chores.

**The Effects of Working Hours on Health** (with Jan Bietenbeck)

Does working time causally affect workers' health? We study this question in the context of a French reform which reduced the standard workweek from 39 to 35 hours, at constant earnings. Our empirical analysis exploits variation in the adoption of this shorter workweek across employers, which is mainly driven by institutional features of the reform and thus exogenous to workers' health. Difference-in-differences and lagged dependent variable regressions reveal a negative effect of working hours on self-reported health and positive effects on smoking and body mass index, though the latter is imprecisely estimated. Results are robust to accounting for endogenous job mobility and differ by workers' occupations.

**Research papers  
in progress**

First Impressions are Lasting Impressions: Campaign Advertising and Voting

Promising Minds: What Do They Do and Where Do They Go?

The Production Function of College Education: Evidence from a Natural Experiment  
(with Manuel Bagues and Antonio Cabrales)

**Policy papers**

Time Use and Skills Development in Latin American Households (with Lian Allub). Prepared for the Inter-American Development Bank Research Network 2015

Overview of Time Use Data Used for the Analysis of Gender Differences in Time Use Patterns (with C. Sánchez-Páramo). Background paper for the World Development Report 2012

<b>Grants and awards</b>	Principal Investigator, IDB Research Network Call for Proposals, Project: Private Spending on Skills Development in Latin America	2015
	CEMFI PhD Scholarship	2011-2015
	Fundación Carolina Scholarship, CEMFI Master in Economics and Finance School of Economics Prize, Facultad de Ciencias Económicas, Argentina	2008-2010 2007
<b>Short courses taken</b>	Causal Inference and Program Evaluation (A. Abadie), CEMFI Summer School	2012
	Health Economics (R. Feldman), UC3M Summer School	2012
	The Economics of Happiness and Health (A. Oswald), IZA Summer School	2012
	Econometric Advances in Discrete Data Models (Winkelmann), IZA Summer School	2012
<b>Conference presentations</b>	European Society for Population Economics (ESPE), Berlin	2016
	10th Max Weber Fellows June Conference, EUI, Florence	
	RES Symposium of Junior Researchers, Brighton	
	European Economic Association 2015 (EEA), Mannheim	2015
	WinE Retreat at the European Economic Association Conference, Mannheim	
	Society of Labor Economists 2014 (SOLE), Washington DC	2014
	XXXVIII Spanish Economic Association (SAEe), Palma de Mallorca	
	VI Workshop on Gender Economics COSME-FEDEA, Madrid	2013
	XXXVIII Spanish Economic Association (SAEe), Santander	
	FDPE Labour Economics Workshop, Helsinki	2012
European Association of Labour Economists (EALE), Bonn		
15th IZA European Summer School in Labor Economics, Buch		
<b>Seminar presentations</b>	Einaudi Institute for Economics and Finance (EIEF); University of Konstanz; HEC Montral; University of Manchester; Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona; Bank of Spain; University of Alicante; University of Southern Denmark	2017
	European University Institute (Inequality and Efficiency in Education and Labour Markets Group & Microeconometrics Working Group)	2016
	Lund University; Universidad de los Andes; Pontificia Universidad Javeriana; Universidad del Pacífico	2015
	Aalto University Department of Economics	2013
<b>Refereeing</b>	SERIEs (Journal of the Spanish Economic Association)	
<b>University service</b>	Coordinator of the Inequality and Efficiency in Education and Labour Markets Thematic Research Group (EUI)	2015-2016
	Co-organizer of the Quantitative Methods Working Group (EUI)	2015-2016
<b>Languages</b>	Spanish (native) and English (fluent)	
<b>Computing skills</b>	STATA, SPSS, GAUSS, MATLAB, and L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X	
<b>Citizenship</b>	Argentine and Spanish	

## References

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