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Placement Coordinators

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Fields

Political Economy, Development Economics, Economic History

Education

Ph.D., Economics, CEMFI (expected) 2024
Committee: Monica Martinez-Bravo (Chair), Tom Zohar, Dmitry Arkhangelsky
Visiting Student, University of British Columbia, January - April 2023
Host: Claudio Ferraz
M.Sc., Economics and Finance, CEMFI 2020
B.A., Economics and Japanese, University of Melbourne 2013

References

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Job Market Paper

Coercive Assimilation Policy and Ethnic Identification Across Generations: Evidence from American Indian Boarding Schools

Culture and identity have fundamental economic, social, and political implications. Throughout history, governments, colonial powers, and other state actors have sought to reshape these characteristics through assimilation policies and indoctrination efforts, often targeting ethnic minorities. In this paper, I show that coercive assimilation policy can cause substantial cultural change among ethnic minorities, but that these effects do not necessarily persist into later generations, and may even reverse. I focus on a historical policy in the United States under which authorities removed Native American children to distant boarding schools. I exploit the staggered recruitment patterns of schools and variation in cohort exposure to facilitate causal identification. I show that exposure to boarding schools offered few economic benefits, but did lead to rapid cultural assimilation. Treated cohorts were more likely to speak English, more likely to give their children western names, and more likely to be counted as 'White' in later censuses. However, I find that these effects reversed in the next generation, with the adult children of treated cohorts being more likely to live in a rural area and less likely to intermarry. I argue that stronger ethnic identification, associated with exposure to boarding schools and transmitted across generations, is a plausible channel for these effects. Ultimately, the schools seem to have strengthened the identities they sought to erase.

Work in Progress**Protest Movements and Racial Identity: Evidence from Red Power Activism**

Protest movements have been drivers of economic, social, and political change over the last century. A key goal of protest movements is the mobilisation of non-protestors on the basis of common grievances. While prior work has highlighted ‘fundamental’ characteristics that predict protest participation (e.g., racial identity or cultural traits), we know less about the ability of protests to reshape these characteristics. Focusing on ‘Red Power’ protests by Native American activists in the late-1960s and early-1970s, I show that protest movements *can* reshape the racial identities of non-protestors. I link individuals with Native American ancestry from historical censuses to social security records, allowing me to observe self-reported race in applications for social security cards. I exploit quasi-random variation in exposure to two major Red Power protest events, using both an event study and differences-in-differences design. I find that in both cases, treated individuals were less likely to identify as ‘White’ when applying for a social security card, which is indicative of stronger ethnic identification. My findings have implications for the propagation of (ethnic) protest movements and the measurement of race (e.g., in survey and administrative data) in their aftermath.

Do Property Rights Foster Individualism?

Joint with Carla Srebot, University of British Columbia

Individualism has been shown to have important economic, social and political consequences. This project examines whether individualism can be fostered by government policy, the degree to which it persists across generations, and its long-run implications for local economic development. We study these questions in the context of an ambitious land allotment programme targeting Native Americans in the early-20th century, using a range of historical and contemporary data sources. At the individual-level, we examine the effects of allotment on naming practices, intermarriage, participation in Native American civil rights associations, and location choice among descendants up to 100 years later. In order to document the long-term political and social consequences of allotment at the reservation-level, we construct new datasets on public goods provision, the occurrence of and issues raised in local public meetings, and the content of modern tribal constitutions.

Local Political Violence and Regional Identity in Spain

Terrorist groups often aim to extract concessions (e.g., religious or regional autonomy) from governments. While there is evidence that out-group attacks increase support for hawkish policies, less is known about the effects of terrorism on the attitudes and political preferences of those that are (supposedly) represented. In this project, I examine the effects of local terrorist attacks perpetrated by Basque nationalists on nationalist sentiment within the Basque country, and in other Spanish provinces with strong regional identities (e.g., Catalonia and Galicia). I use a combination of attitudes surveys that intersected terrorist attacks and highly-granular electoral data to study these questions.

Fellowships & Grants

María de Maetzu Fellowship, CEMFI	2018–2023
CIDER Small Grants in Innovative Data, University of British Columbia (9,600 CAD)	2023
María de Maetzu Exploration Grant, CEMFI (750 EUR)	2022

Presentations

2023: Virtual Economic History Seminar, Uppsala University
2022: University of Warwick

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant, CEMFI	2020–2021
Development Economics (Graduate-level)	
Average evaluation: 4.5 / 5	

Research Experience

Research Assistant for Monica Martinez-Bravo, CEMFI	2022–2023
Research Assistant for Mateo Montenegro, CEMFI	2020–2022

Work Experience

Senior Analyst, Reserve Bank of Australia, Sydney, Australia (On leave)	2016–current
Policy Analyst, Commonwealth Treasury, Canberra, Australia	2014–2016

Languages

English (native), French (intermediate), Spanish (intermediate)