

Carmen Quezada

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Citizenship:

Chilean

Research Interests:

Economics of Education, Labor Economics, Development Economics

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Economics, University of Toronto 2025 (Expected)
Committee: Elizabeth Dhuey (supervisor), Carolina Arteaga,
Laura Derksen

M.A in Economics, Universidad de Chile 2012

B.Sc in Economics, Universidad de Chile 2010

RESEARCH

**Assessing the Family-Wide Impact of Delayed Primary School Enrollment:
The Effects of an Additional Year Without Childcare** (Job Market Paper)

Nutritious School Meals and Educational Outcomes with Roberto Gillmore

Life Cycle Effects of the School Starting Age Policy

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Institute for Gender and the Economy Research Grants (\$2,750) 2024
BEAR Ph.D. Research Award, University of Toronto (\$5,000) 2022
University of Toronto Doctoral Fellowship (\$25,000 × 6) 2018 - 2024
Fellowship for Graduate Studies, Universidad de Chile 2010 - 2011

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Lecturer 2013 - 2017

Microeconomics II
at Universidad de Chile, Chile (5 semesters) 2013 - 2017

Introduction to Microeconomics
at Universidad de Talca, Chile (1 semester) 2014

Teaching Assistant 2018 - present

- RSM 482: Game Theory for Business Strategy
- RSM 1215: Decision Making with Models and Data
- RSM 480: Business in the Global Economy
- MGEN 40: Economics of Organization and Management
- MGEN 02H3: Price Theory: A Mathematical Approach

Research Assistant 2023

The Media Project: Translation of Scientific Findings

Jingqi Yu, Dilip Soman, and Catherine Yeung

This project examined how accurately media articles conveyed behavioral insights and essential contextual factors for successful interventions. For this project, I coded 45 research papers and approximately 600 media articles.

Professional Experience 2013 - 2018

Young Economist at the Chilean Pensions Supervisor Office

Nov 2014 - Jul 2018

Young Economist at the Budget Office of the Ministry of Finance

Mar 2013 - Nov 2014

Professional internship at the Embassy of Chile in the UK

Dec 2009 - Mar 2010

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

The North East Universities Development Consortium Conference (Boston) 2024

LANGUAGES

English (fluent), Spanish (Native)

Programming: Stata, R, Python

REFERENCES

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Abstracts

Assessing the Family-Wide Impact of Delayed Primary School Enrollment: The Effects of an Additional Year Without Childcare

(Job Market Paper)

This paper examines the impact of delayed school entry on families, particularly focusing on how an additional year of childcare responsibilities affects both mothers and their children's siblings. Using a natural experiment created by school entry cutoffs in Chile, I find that mothers reduce their labor market participation by approximately 2% when caregiving is extended. This reduction persists until the child turns 20, and there is a corresponding decrease in monthly income, although this is partially offset by a small increase in government transfers. The negative effects also extend to younger siblings, who experience lower GPAs, standardized test scores, and post-secondary enrollment rates. In contrast, older siblings and fathers are not significantly affected. These results suggest that time constraints on mothers, driven by limited access to formal preschool care, may contribute to the observed negative outcomes.

Nutritious School Meals and Educational Outcomes

with Roberto Gillmore

This paper estimates the impact of school meal quality on student outcomes. We take advantage of a staggered implementation of a national program that improved the nutritional content of meals in public schools in Chile starting in 2015. Using a Difference-in-Difference approach and national student-level data over six years, we estimate a credible Intention-to-Treat impact of healthier meals on Math and Reading test scores. We find an average increase of 0.036 standard deviations in combined scores. The students from the poorest and rural households present the largest effects. We explore possible mechanisms including attendance. We show indirect evidence that supports the main hypothesized mechanism, the improvement of food nutrients. In particular, we find evidence that the students from low-income households that are more often exposed to these nutritious meals are the ones who get the largest increase in their test scores. Finally, we calculate that it would cost 87 USD per year to raise a student's test score by 0.1 standard deviations by providing healthier meals.

Life Cycle Effects of the School Starting Age Policy

The school starting age (SSA) policy, which determines when a child can begin formal education, has been widely studied worldwide. However, in developing countries, tracking individuals from primary school enrollment to nearly age 30 to examine long-term outcomes in education, fertility, and early labor markets presents unique challenges. Using comprehensive administrative data from Chile, I find well-documented positive effects throughout the school years while also uncovering novel, less-studied effects. A later SSA reduces teenage parenthood by 9%, with a stronger effect on males, lowering their likelihood of teenage fatherhood by 12%. The link between school-starting age and teenage fatherhood has never been explored before, making this finding significant given the profound, lasting effects teenage parenthood can have on young parents and their children. Additionally, students who start school at a later age experience poorer labor market outcomes between ages 18 and 26, likely due to ongoing secondary education enrollment. While one might expect these effects to be offset by higher income in later years, this perspective overlooks a critical factor: the impact of early contributions to the pension system. Since pensions in Chile depend entirely on individual contributions—with earlier contributions yielding the highest returns—and given the trend toward increasing life expectancy, this trade-off must be considered when generalizing the positive effects of a later SSA.