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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Partner at KSNET, *since November 2015 (full-time since February 2019)*

Lecturer at University of Konstanz (Germany), *since April 2019.*

Research Affiliate, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics (CEP-LSE), UK, *since February 2019.*

Research Affiliate, Barcelona Institute of Economics (IEB), Barcelona, *since April 2016.*

OTHER RELEVANT POSITIONS AND AWARDS

Research Economist, Centre for Economic Performance, London School of Economics (CEP-LSE), UK, *January 2015 – February 2019.*

Lecturer at Imperial College London, *January 2018 and January 2019.*

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow, Universitat de Barcelona & Institut d'Economia de Barcelona (IEB), *November 2010 – April 2016*

Member of the “Smart Cities UB Chair”, *since 2016*

Visiting Research Student at Spatial Economics Research Centre, London School of Economics (SERC-LSE), UK. *October 2013 – April 2014*

Occasional Research Assistant to Dr. Elisabet Viladecans, *September 2010 – January 2014*

EDUCATION

PhD in Economics, Universitat de Barcelona, *September 2012 – April 2016*

Dissertation: “*Essays on Urban Economics*”

Advisors: Jordi Jofre-Monseny and Elisabet Viladecans-Marsal

Examiners: Hans Koster, Diego Puga and Olmo Silva

MSc in Economics, Universitat de Barcelona, *September 2010 – September 2012*

Dissertation: *“Sequential city growth in the US: Does age matter?”*

Advisors: Rafael González-Val and Elisabet Viladecans-Marsal

BA in Economics, Universitat de Barcelona, *September 2006 – September 2010*

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Best PhD Thesis in Economics at University of Barcelona – 2016 Prize

APIF Research grant (Universitat de Barcelona), *November 2010 – November 2014*

Second prize at the III International “Carlos Román” Prize in public policy evaluation, *2020*.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Urban Economics, Economic Geography, Public Policy Evaluation, Applied Microeconomics

PUBLICATIONS

“The ‘Bedroom Tax’” *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, 82, 103418, 2020. (with Steve Gibbons and Olmo Silva)

Abstract: Housing subsidies for low-income households are a central pillar of many welfare systems, but an expensive one. This paper investigates the consequences of an unusual policy aimed at reducing the burden of these subsidies by rationing tenants’ use of space. Specifically, we study a policy introduced by the UK Government in 2013, which substantially cut housing benefits for tenants deemed to have a ‘spare’ bedroom – based on specific criteria related to household composition. Our study is the first to evaluate the impacts of the policy on its target group considering a range of outcomes. To do so, we use a difference-in-difference methodology that compares the observed behaviour of the treated households relative to a control group determined from the details of the policy rules. We find that – as expected – the treated group experienced losses to housing benefit and overall income. Although the policy was not successful in encouraging residential moves, it did incentivise people who moved to downsize – suggesting some success in terms of one of the policy goals, namely reducing ‘underoccupancy’ in the long run. We find no statistically significant effects on households’ food consumption, savings or employment outcomes, despite the associated income reductions. Finally, we find some evidence of a reduction in self-reported satisfaction though this effect is not precisely estimated.

“Big plant closures and local employment” *Journal of Economic Geography*, vol.18 (1), 163-186. 2018. (with Jordi Jofre-Monseny and Elisabet Viladecans-Marsal)

Abstract: This paper estimates the impact of large plant closures on the local employment in the affected industry. Specifically, we examine the closure of 45 large manufacturing plants in Spain, which relocated abroad between 2001 and 2006. We run differences-in-differences specifications in which locations that experience a closure are matched to locations with similar pre-treatment employment levels and trends. The results show that when a plant closes, for each job directly lost in the plant closure, only between 0.6 and 0.7 jobs are actually lost in the local affected industry. These effects are driven by employment expansions in local incumbent firms and, to a lesser extent, by the creation of new firms in the local industry.

“Sequential city growth in the US: Does age matter?” *Regional Science and Urban Economics*, vol.44, 29-37. 2014. (with Rafael González-Val and Elisabet Viladecans-Marsal).

Abstract: We provide empirical evidence of the dynamics of city size distribution for the whole of the twentieth century in U.S. cities and metropolitan areas. We focus our analysis on the new cities that were created during this period. The main contribution of the paper is the parametric and nonparametric analysis of the population growth experienced by these new-born cities. Our results enable us to confirm that when cities appear, they grow very rapidly and, as the decades pass, their growth slows or even falls into decline. Moreover, the nonparametric analysis shows that most of the growth differential is driven by the cities' first decade of existence. This evidence is consistent with the theoretical framework regarding mean reversion (convergence) in the steady state and with the theories of sequential city growth.

DISCUSSION AND SUBMITTED PAPERS

"Retail shocks and city structure" CEP Discussion Paper 1636 - *submitted*

Abstract: This paper evaluates the consequences of opening out-of-town big-boxes on the commercial structure of cities. I use a discontinuity in a commercial regulation in Spain that restricts the entry of big-box stores in municipalities of less than 10,000 inhabitants for the period 2003 to 2011. I then use this discontinuity as an instrument for the big-box opening. The results show that three years after the big-box opening, around 15% of the grocery stores in the municipality have disappeared. However, some of the empty commercial premises are taken by other new small retailers in other sectors. As a result, the total number of retail stores in the municipality remains unchanged. These results show that a retail shock in the suburbs does not necessarily empty the city center but can also change only the composition of its commercial activity.

“Exploring the Relationship Between Mobile Money Regulation and Usage” GSMAi Working Paper 2020 (con Kalvin Bahia y Pere Taberner)

Abstract: This paper provides new evidence on the relationship between mobile money regulation and usage. It combines data from the Mobile Money Regulatory Index, a comprehensive assessment of mobile money regulations, and the Global Findex Database 2017. The analysis covers almost 50,000 individuals across 46 countries and finds compelling evidence that an enabling regulatory framework is strongly associated with higher mobile money usage. There are a number of components within a regulatory framework that are linked to the use of mobile money, including: allowing non-banks to provide mobile money; permitting international money transfers; a comprehensive consumer protection framework; giving mobile money providers flexibility to appoint individual agents; not imposing strict limits, taxes or price controls on mobile money transactions; allowing non-banks to have direct access to retail payment settlement infrastructure, and; allowing providers to earn and utilise interest on mobile money trust accounts. The results also suggest that an enabling regulatory framework has a stronger association with mobile money usage amongst women compared to men, and amongst the poorest segments of a country's population.

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Multipliers from a major public sector relocation: the BBC’s move to Manchester” (with Max Nathan, Henry Overman and Capucine Riom).

Abstract: This paper considers the impact of public sector relocation on local economies, using a very large recent relocation as a case study: the impacts of the BBC’s partial move from London to Salford, Greater Manchester in 2011. We use plant-level data from 1997-2017, and identify effects using synthetic controls. We show that each BBC job creates one additional job in the creative sector, and that the relocation had an impact on local sectoral and firm composition. However, we find no significant effect on total local employment either at local or city-region level.

“The Impact of E-commerce in Rural Areas: Evidence from Consumption Patterns in Spain” (with Max Nathan and Rosa Sanchis-Guarner)

Abstract: The arrival of the new information and communication technologies (ICT) and its subsequent growth over the past decade have changed the way the Spanish population performs their day-to-day activities such as shopping of certain types of goods and services. However, despite the importance of such changes, no study has focused on evaluating rigorously how these new technologies affect rural areas and how this effect is somehow different from that on urban areas. This paper is the first attempt to quantify the effect of e-commerce on rural consumers’ expenditure in Spain. More precisely, we explore the hypothesis that e-commerce can cause changes in market access, which is more important in rural areas than in urban areas due to their smaller local market. In this paper, we exploit detailed data on households’ expenditures by category from the Spanish Household Budget Survey for the period 2006-2015. We use a difference-in-difference type strategy that compares treated and untreated goods in urban and rural areas within regions and years. Our results show that the demand of potentially-bought-online goods was between a 7 and 8 percentage points larger in rural areas than in urban areas during the period of analysis, suggesting that e-commerce has a greater impact in areas with smaller local markets. In addition, we show that the more rural the region, the greater the difference in demands between their rural and urban areas.

“City Micro-Structure and Production” (with Steve Gibbons, Nicolás González-Pampillón and Henry Overman)

Abstract: This paper focuses on identifying the drivers of the internal organisation of cities, and how differences in internal spatial structures affect the cities' performance. Using administrative data and micro-data on establishments and workers, we aim to investigate the patterns of distribution and evolution of economic activities, and the effects of diversity in these patterns on local economic activity.

"Jobs lost, votes lost? Labour demand shocks and electoral accountability" (with Elena Costas-Pérez and Antoni-Ítalo Moragas)

Abstract: The aim of this paper is to analyse the effects of plant closures on electoral outcomes. We provide a political economy argument for (inefficient) subsidies targeted to individual firms. In particular, given that plant openings and closings are linked to the political business cycle (Bertrand

et al., 2006), politically connected companies may tend to destroy fewer jobs in election years. In order to assess this mechanism, we make use of the Spanish institutional context, where local governments should approve plant closures and collective layoffs. Even partial closures may have short-term effects into the local economy, so political parties may have electoral incentives to avoid them. Specifically, we build up a model of the political economy of taxation and we run differences-in-differences specifications in which locations that experience a plant closure before the elections are matched to locations where the closure happened after the elections.

OTHER PAPERS

"El comerç electrònic i les zones rurals: evidència basada en els patrons de consum espanyols" Nota d'Economia Núm. 105: La revolució digital a Catalunya, 2019 (with Rosa Sanchis-Guarner).

"Scholarships and study grants at the university level" La Cuestión Universitaria, Num. 10, 2019 (with Elena Costas-Pérez and Paula Salinas)

"Reflexions sobre la implantació d'una renda mínima garantida a la ciutat de Barcelona" *Barcelona Societat*, 23, 98-112, 2019 (with Paula Salinas and Maite Vilalta)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Since 2019 Introduction to Urban Economics (undergraduate level), *University of Konstanz*. (Course design and lecturer).
- 2018-2019 Introduction to Econometrics (graduate level), *Imperial College London*. (Course design, lecturer and computer lab instructor).
- 2013-2015 Principles of taxation (undergraduate level), *University of Barcelona*. (Lecturer).
- 2012-2013 Regional and Local Finance (undergraduate level), *University of Barcelona*. (Lecturer).
- 2011-2013 Public Finance (undergraduate level), *University of Barcelona*. (Class teacher).
- 2011-2012 Public Economics (undergraduate level), *University of Barcelona*. (Class teacher).
- 2010-2011 Spanish Economy (undergraduate level), *University of Barcelona*. (Lecturer).

FUNDED RESEARCH PROJECTS

City challenges: urban mobility, employment, segregation and inequalities (Retos de las ciudades: empleo, movilidad, segregación y desigualdad) a) ECO2016-75941R) awarded by Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad. Lead researcher: Elisabet Viladecans, from 2016.

CONFERENCES AND INVITED SEMINARS

RWI - Leibniz-Institut für Wirtschaftsforschung, Research Seminar, Essen, July 17, 2020.

National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIESR) Seminar series, London, April 26, 2018.

"Public Policies, Cities and Regions" workshop, GATE Lyon, *December* 14-15, 2017. Labour Economics Workshop Seminar, Centre for Economic Performance, London, December 5, 2017. 7th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, Copenhagen, May 26-27, 2017. Royal Economic Society Annual Conference, Bristol, April 10-12, 2017.

Tinbergen Institute's Spatial Economics Seminar, Amsterdam, *September 29, 2016*. CEP Annual Conference 2016", Hertfordshire (UK), May 16-17, 2016.

40th Spanish Economic Association Symposium", Universitat de Girona (Spain), December 10-12, 2015. North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International Conference, Portland (US), November 11-14, 2015. 1st Michaelmas Term PhD/Work-in-Progress seminar, London School of Economics and Political Science (UK), October 7, 2015. 5th European Meeting of the Urban Economics Association, Lisboa, August 25-29, 2015.

9th Meeting of the Urban Economics Association at the 61st Annual North American Meetings of the Regional Science Association International, Washington, D.C., November 12-15, 2014. INFER Workshop in Urban and Regional Economics, Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Reus (Spain), September 4-5, 2014. 6th Annual SERC Conference, London School of Economics and Political Science (UK), May 15-16, 2014.

IEB PhD Workshop, Universitat de Barcelona (Spain), December 17, 2013. 4th Michaelmas Term PhD/Work-in-Progress seminar, London School of Economics and Political Science (UK), October 30, 2013. 53rd ERSA Congress, Urban Economics Association, Palermo (Italy), August 27-31, 2013. 5th Annual SERC Conference, London School of Economics and Political Science (UK), May 14-15, 2013.

XXXVII Spanish Economic Association Symposium", Universidad de Vigo (Spain), December 13-15, 2012. XV Encuentro de Economía Aplicada, Universidad de La Coruña (Spain), June 7-8, 2012. IEB PhD Workshop, Universitat de Barcelona (Spain), May 25, 2012.

REFEREE ACTIVITY

Regional Science and Urban Economics (2), Hacienda Pública Española/Review of Public Economics (1), Social Research Call of "la Caixa" Foundation in 2020 (1)

POLICY REPORTS

"Unemployment and job creation" report prepared for the Degroof Foundation (joint with ESADE), 2020-2021.

"Evaluation of the labour intermediation policy at the Catalan Public Office of Employment" report prepared for the public Employment Office of Catalonia, 2020-2021.

“Labour market analysis and policy proposals to react to the covid-19 crisis” report prepared for the Diputació de Barcelona, 2020.

“Inequities in continuous education of adults” report prepared for Oxfam Intermón, 2020.

“Evaluation of the Strategy of Support to the Families and the Childhood and Adolescents Plan of the Autonomous Community of Madrid” report prepared for the Autonomous Community of Madrid, 2020.

“The competences patronage” report prepared for the Culture Spanish Ministry, 2020.

“Youth and COVID-19: Impact on Jobs, education, rights and mental well-being”, report prepared for the International Labour Organization, 2020.

“The impact of covid-19 in the most vulnerable children” report prepared for UNICEF, 2020.

“Childhood in reconstruction” report prepared for Save the Children, 2020.

“Economic and fiscal impacts of cultural patronage” report prepared for the Catalunya Cultura Foundation and the CoNcA, 2020.

“The time to rescue people” report prepared for Oxfam Intermón, 2020.

“Families at risk” report prepared for Save the Children, 2020.

“Policies for extra-curricular activities of children” report prepared for the Bofill Foundation, 2019.

“Evaluation of the Comunica and Curiosity Educational Programs” report prepared for “la Caixa” Foundation, 2019.

“The impact of mobile technology on sustainable development” report prepared for GSMA, 2019.

“Impact evaluation of the innovation district at the Valencia Marine” report prepared for the Consortium of the Valencia Marine, 2018-2019.

“The social capital of the health professionals” report prepared for Mutual Médica (joint with GESOP), 2018-2019.

“Evaluation of the Local Industry Occupation Program”, report prepared for the Diputació de Barcelona, 2018.

“The impact of mobile money on monetary and financial stability in Sub-Saharan Africa”, report prepared for GSMA, 2018.

“The gender gap in mobile technology use”, report prepared for GSMA, 2018.

“The cost of raising a child” report prepared for Save the Children, 2018.

“The impact of mobile technology on economic growth”, report prepared for GSMA, 2018.

“Monoparentality in Catalonia” report prepared for the Department of Work, Social Affairs and Families at the Generalitat de Catalunya, 2018.

“The future where we want to grow up” report prepared for Save the Children, 2018.

“Income needs in municipalities of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area”, report prepared for the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, 2018.

“The impact of spectrum prices in consumer prices”, report prepared for GSMA, 2018.

“Scholarships so nobody falls behind”, report prepared for Save the Children, 2017.

“Collection of evidence for the elaboration of a draft bill for elderly people” (in Catalan), report prepared for the Department of Work, Social Affairs and Families (Generalitat de Catalunya) by KSNET. July 2017. The report generates and collects statistics about elderly people - older than 65 and 80 years - in Catalonia.

“Poverty and health expenditure in Spanish households” (in Spanish), report prepared for Save the Children by KSNET. December 2016.

“Quantification of fiscal and social protection reforms” (in Spanish), report prepared for Save the Children by KSNET. June 2016.

“Calculation of the 2015 Living Wage for the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona” (in Catalan), report prepared for the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona Authority by KSNET and D’Aleph, December 2015. Calculations Updated for 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2109. Media coverage at El Periodico, la Vanguardia and El Pais.

MEDIA

Blog posts

The ‘Bedroom Tax’: How did families react? Did the policy achieve its objectives?, (written by co-author Steve Gibbons) May 2018.

Are big-box stores emptying the city centre?, *urbaneconomics.nl*, January 2017.

¿Están las grandes superficies vaciando el centro de las ciudades?, InfoIEB, 26, December 2016.

Las grandes superficies y el comercio minorista: ¿se vacía el centro de las ciudades?, Nada es Gratis, June 2016.

The mothballing of SSI: Is all lost for Teesside?, SERC blog (LSE), October 2015.

Media coverage of research

Big plant closures and local employment: [Newspapers](#) (January 2016)

- *Expansión, Viaempresa, Economía Digital, La Vanguardia, Inversión & Finanzas*

Retail shocks and city structure: [Newspapers](#) (May 2016) - *La*

Vanguardia, ABC, elPeriódico, lainformacion.com, diarioabierto, El Dia, La Voz Libre, Inversión & Finanzas, elEconomista, La Vanguardia (in paper), *telecinco.es, El*

Nacional, granconsumo.tv, aldia.cat, Bolsamanía, elMón, infoRetail, La Rioja, Radio (May 2016) – Cadena Cope, Radio Martorell, *Television* (June 2016) - ETB - *Sin ir más lejos*, *Interview* about the expansion of a well-known big-box store (January 2017) - *El Periódico*

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Scientific and Organization Committees

SERC and Economic Geography work-in-progress seminars (LSE), *September 2015-June 2018*

10th Annual SERC Conference, *May 31- June 1, 2018*, LSE (UK)

9th Annual SERC Conference, *May 18-19, 2017*, LSE (UK)

8th Annual SERC Conference, *May 26-27, 2016*, LSE (UK)

7th Annual SERC Conference, *May 14-15, 2015*, LSE (UK)

IEB PhD Seminars (*September to January 2014*)

III Workshop on Urban Economics, *June 9-10, 2014*, Institut d'Economia de Barcelona (Spain)

II Workshop on Urban Economics, *June 4-6, 2012*, Institut d'Economia de Barcelona (Spain)

Languages: Spanish (*native*), Catalan (*native*), English (*proficiency*), French (*beginner*), German (*beginner*)

Computer skills: Advanced knowledge of MS Office, Stata, LaTeX and ArcGIS.

January 2021