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DANIELA SOLÁ

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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor of Economics
Universidad Carlos III de Madrid

2023 (starting in September)

Education

PhD in Economics
CEMFI

2019 – 2023 (expected July)

Visiting PhD Student
Princeton University. Host: Thomas Fujiwara

Sep - Oct 2022

MPhil in Economics and Finance
CEMFI

2017 – 2019

MA in Economics
Universidad de Montevideo

2013 – 2015

BA in Economics
Universidad de Montevideo

2009 – 2013

Research Interests

Political Economy

Economic Development

References

Monica Martinez-Bravo
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Manuel Arellano
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Paula Bustos
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Diego Puga
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Working Papers

Brother votes for brother: The effects of Pentecostal political influence in Brazil (Job Market Paper).

Pentecostal Evangelicals play a growing role in Latin American politics, promoting conservative candidates. This paper finds a large causal effect of Pentecostal growth on increasing support for Evangelical and far-right candidates in Brazil.

To establish causality, I exploit the staggered translation of the Bible into different indigenous languages by SIL, a 20th-century US Evangelical organization. To further strengthen identification, I predict the timing of SIL translations using linguistic distance to foreign languages with prior Bible translations. As a first stage result, I find that exposure to SIL activities increased the share of Pentecostal affiliations. Leveraging this variation, I find that a 1 p.p. increase in the share of Pentecostals increased Evangelical and far-right candidates' vote share by 18% and 16%, respectively. These effects are larger in municipalities with less educated, poorer, and more rural populations. Furthermore, results suggest that 20% of the votes obtained by Bolsonaro in 2018 can be attributed to Pentecostals. Finally, I find SIL activities generate spillover effects in municipalities where no indigenous language is spoken, allowing me to extend the analysis to the rest of Brazil. These results suggest that the Pentecostal church is an important driving force in the rise of the far-right in the recent history of Brazil.

Does crime increase support for far-right populist movements? The case of the favelas in Rio de Janeiro.

In 2018 the homicide rate was reaching its historical record in Brazil and Bolsonaro ran for elections with an aggressive anti-crime platform. In this paper, I exploit a quasi-experimental variation generated by introducing police units in favelas near the Olympic facilities of Rio de Janeiro. For each census tract in Rio de Janeiro, I show there is variation in the homicide rate according to proximity to a favela and whether or not there are police units installed. In addition, I show that the introduction of police units also had an effect on the votes obtained by Bolsonaro in 2018. Results suggest that an increase of one homicide per 100,000 inhabitants corresponds to a 2.8 p.p. increase in the share of votes won by Bolsonaro in the municipality of Rio de Janeiro.

The Catholic Church and its effects on Redistributive Conflict in Brazil (with Martinez-Bravo and Tuñon).

The Catholic Church is one of the oldest and most influential institutions in human history. While a long tradition in social sciences has examined the social and political effects of different denominations, we know little about whether doctrinal changes within the Catholic Church have influenced these outcomes. In this paper, we build on the framework developed by Tuñon (2017) and examine the consequences of the shift from progressive to conservative doctrine triggered by the appointment of John Paul II in 1978. This change had dramatic implications in Latin America, where progressive priests and bishops actively promoted redistributive agendas. We focus on the case of Brazil, where the progressive Church had been highly involved in the landless movement: a redistributive conflict in which poor and landless peasants invaded large landholdings to force land redistribution. We collect historical data on the identity, appointment, and turnover of all priests and bishops in Brazil from 1965 to 1997. We combine these data with a highly detailed dataset on the number of land invasions at the municipality-year level. Using the staggered replacement of progressive bishops for more traditional ones after 1978, we find that the removal of progressive religious leaders halted the land invasion movement. These results suggest that changes in the leadership of the Church can have important consequences for the emergence or suppression of social conflict.

Conference and Seminar Presentations

2023

RIDGE Political Economy workshop (scheduled); Northwestern Kellogg Political Economy Rookiefest (scheduled); University of California Merced; Bank of Spain; Universidad Carlos III de Madrid; University of Manchester; Universidad Alberto Hurtado; CERDI - University Clermont-Auvergne.

2022

European Winter Meeting of the Econometric Society; NEUDC - Yale University; ASREC Europe Conference; Universidad de Montevideo; Political Economy Research Seminar - Princeton University; CAGE Summer School - Warwick University.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant | CEMFI

Graduate course in Empirical Methods for Public Policy Evaluation.
Prof. Monica Martinez-Bravo.

Summer 2021

Graduate course in Labor Economics.
Prof. Jan Stuhler.

Fall 2020, 2021

Previous Employment

Research Assistant | CEMFI 2019 - 2023
Prof. Monica Martinez-Bravo


Economic analyst | CPA Ferrere Uruguay 2014 - 2017
Economic consultant

Grants

Spanish Ministry of Economy, Industry and Competitiveness FPI Grant
Maria de Maeztu Ph.D. Scholarship
CEMFI Scholarship

Other Skills

 IT Skills: Stata QGIS LaTeX

 Languages: Spanish (native) English (fluent)