

Carlos César Chávez Padilla

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<https://t.co/aT99dNpEoa> | Google Scholar

Education

University of Chicago, Harris School of Public Policy Master of Arts in Public Policy <i>Honors: Merit Scholarship</i>	Chicago, IL 2024–2025
Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (UNMSM) Bachelor of Arts in Economics, <i>graduated with honors</i> (GPA: 3.9/4.0) <i>Award: Best Undergraduate Thesis</i>	Lima, Peru 2013–2017
Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería Diplomas in Applied Econometrics and Finance	Lima, Peru 2018

Research Interests

Primary: Development Economics, Early Childhood Development
Secondary: Political Economy, Labor Economics

Research Experience

Research Professional, Center for Economics of Human Development 2024–present
University of Chicago Chicago, IL

- Work with Prof. James J. Heckman on early childhood skill formation and economic preferences
- First author on research examining how cognitive skills and personality traits relate to economic preferences in Chinese children using structural modeling with CRRA and Expo-Power utility specifications
- Paper under review at *Journal of Labor Economics*

Research Assistant, Harris School of Public Policy 2024–present
University of Chicago Chicago, IL

- Work with Prof. Christopher Blattman on gang recruitment vulnerability in Colombia
- Work with Prof. Martin Castillo-Quintana on game-theoretic models of extortion

Research Professional (Pre-Doctoral Fellow) 2023–2024
Georgetown University, McDonough School of Business Washington, DC

- Worked with Prof. Amory Gethin on political economy of social movements
- Developed machine learning classification system using DeBERTa transformers to analyze congressional bill responses to George Floyd protests and Women’s March

Research Analyst, Monetary and Capital Markets Department 2021–2023
International Monetary Fund Washington, DC

- Co-authored IMF Working Paper on ethnic gaps and economic growth in Peru (with G. Salinas and Z. Yuri)
- Conducted research on political instability and macroeconomic outcomes across 180+ countries
- Supported country missions to Sweden, South Africa, and Caribbean nations

Research Assistant, Monetary and Capital Markets Department 2020–2021
International Monetary Fund Washington, DC

Research Consultant, Pension Fund Department
Inter-American Development Bank
Research Assistant, Centro de Investigación
Universidad del Pacífico

2019–2020
Lima, Peru
2018–2019
Lima, Peru

Working Papers

Under Review

Relating Cognitive Skills and Personality Traits to Economic Preferences: A Study of Chinese Children (with S. Feng, J.J. Heckman, Z. Yang) *First author*

- Under review, *Journal of Labor Economics*
- Uses structural modeling with sophisticated error structures to separate preferences from deliberation quality; shows cognitive ability affects decision precision more than underlying risk preferences

Work in Progress

Automation Is Not a Sufficient Statistic: Robots, AI, and Inequality

- Extends the Acemoglu-Restrepo task framework to two automation frontiers (physical and cognitive); proves that pooling robot and AI exposure destroys 98% of explained variance in skill premium changes (R^2 drops from 0.249 to 0.004 across 447 U.S. commuting zones)
- Derives a closed-form automation mix threshold ω^* that determines the sign of inequality change; identifies three mechanisms—reinstatement, within-sector sorting, and spatial equilibrium—behind the sign reversal

Electoral Pressure and Political Lying: A Theory of Political Lying

- Dynamic game model where politicians trade off electoral gains against long-term credibility costs; proves lying increases with impatience and electoral pressure, with a predicted interaction between the two
- Using PolitiFact data on U.S. House members (2007–2025), final-term members lie 5.6–8.0 percentage points more than early-term members; interaction effect concentrated entirely among politicians who knew their horizon was limited

The Macroeconomic Consequences of Political Instability

- Panel analysis of 180+ countries (1960–2022) examining effects on GDP growth and human capital using local projections

The Shining Path of Violence: Long-term Effects on Human Capital in Peru

- Studies persistent conflict effects using geographic variation and shift-share IV strategy

Trade Liberalization and Nutrition: Evidence from Peru

- Analyzes trade policy effects on household nutrition using ENAHO data (2004–2023)

Congressional Responses to Social Movements: Machine Learning Evidence (with A. Gethin)

- Applies transformer models to analyze legislative responses to George Floyd protests and Women's March

Publications

Chávez, C. (2024). “Minimum Wage and Ethnic-Gaps: Who are the Winners?” *Journal of Economics, Race, and Policy*, 7(2), 93-121.

Chávez, C. (2024). “Estimating the Effects of Financial Liberalisation on Governability and Social Stability.” *Foreign Trade Review*, 59(4), 588-614.

Chávez, C. (2024). “Latin American Firm Cooperation Payoff Evidence.” *The International Trade Journal*, 1-30.

Chávez, C. (2023). “The effects of mining presence on inequality, labor income, and poverty: evidence from Peru.” *Mineral Economics*, 36(4), 615-642.

Chávez, C. (2023). “Domestic Violence, Labor Market, and Minimum Wage: Theory and Evidence.” *Review of Economics*, 74(3), 195-233.

Chávez, C., Salinas, G., & Yuri, Z. (2022). “Closing Peru’s Ethnic Gaps Amidst Sustained Economic Growth.” *IMF Working Paper* 2022/180.

Complete publication list available at Google Scholar (94 citations)

Honors & Awards

Merit Scholarship, University of Chicago 2024

GSAS Future Leader Fellowship, Tufts University 2023

Best Undergraduate Thesis Award, UNMSM 2017

Conference Presentations

IEA World Congress, Medellín, Colombia 2023

LACEA-LAMES Annual Meeting, PUCP, Lima 2022

Bolivian Conference on Development Economics, La Paz 2022

Annual Conference of Peruvian Economists, Lima 2021, 2022

Teaching Experience

Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería Lima, Peru

• Instructor: Econometric Theory, Econometrics I 2020–2022

Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos Lima, Peru

• Teaching Assistant: Microeconomics, Macroeconomics 2015–2018

Technical Skills

Programming: Stata (advanced), R (advanced), Python (proficient), Matlab (proficient)

Software: LaTeX, ArcGIS, MySQL

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent)

Methods: Structural estimation, panel data econometrics, causal inference, instrumental variables, machine learning, natural language processing

Professional Affiliations

American Economic Association, Royal Economic Society, Econometric Society

References

James J. Heckman

Henry Schultz Distinguished Service Professor of Economics

Department of Economics and Harris School, University of Chicago

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Amory Gethin

Economist, Development Research Group

World Bank

agethin@worldbank.org

Christopher Blattman

Ramalee E. Pearson Professor of Global Conflict Studies

Harris School of Public Policy, University of Chicago

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Additional references available upon request