

Camila Contreras Martínez

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EDUCATION

Università Bocconi 2026 — Present
PhD Economics

Universidad de Chile 2024 — 2025
Master of Science in Applied Economics

Universidad de Chile 2019 — 2025
Bachelor of Science: Industrial Engineering

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Economy, Conflict, Institutions, and Polarization.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, Universidad de Chile, Department of Economics 2025

- Master/Undergraduate: Data Science and Causal Inference.

Teaching Assistant, Universidad de Chile, Department of Economics 2022-2025

- Master: Political Economy ($\times 2$), Econometrics.
- Undergraduate: Principles of Economics, Principles of Macroeconomics.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Alejandro Corvalán, Universidad de Chile 2022–2025
Empirical research in political economy, focusing on apportionment, conflict, and electoral institutions using various causal inference methods.

Martín Castillo-Quintana, University of Chicago 2024–2025
Research on the political economy of organized crime in Haiti and Ecuador; empirical work employing RDD and TWFE models.

Juan Escobar, Universidad de Chile 2025
Developed simulations and conducted equilibrium analyses in school matching models.

PUBLICATION

- *All That Legislates Is Not Gold: Representation and Redistribution in Chile* (with Alejandro Corvalan). *European Journal of Political Economy* (2026)

A large body of literature documents a positive relationship between legislative representation and redistribution, particularly in the United States. Standard legislative bargaining models further reinforce this association. Yet both theory and empirical findings rely on two critical assumptions: that legislatures possess sufficient budgetary authority and that legislators face strong electoral incentives. This paper shows that, in a context where those conditions do not hold, the link between representation and redistribution disappears. We study the effect of representation on intergovernmental transfers in Chile, a unitary country with a Congress with limited budgetary power, elected in multi-member districts. We exploit two quasi-natural experiments - the authoritarian origins of the electoral system and its recent reform - to provide causal identification. Across both sources of exogenous variation in representation, we find no significant effects on redistribution. Our findings highlight the mediating role of institutions in shaping the consequences of legislative malapportionment.

WORKING PAPERS

- *Echoes of Intervention: Conflict in the Interim of the Multinational Security Support Mission in Haiti* (with Martin Castillo-Quintana, Mathias Lusquiños, and Adeé Weller)

How do international, armed, humanitarian interventions shape gang violence in fragile security environments? Focusing on the U.N. Multinational Security Support (MSS) Mission in Haiti (2023–present), we exploit a daily panel of commune-level data on gang violence, using data from ACLED and Haitian press reports, to trace the impact of five exogenous information

shocks on the mission’s likelihood and timing. We find that as the intervention appeared more imminent, gangs reduced inter-gang clashes and forged tactical alliances, redirected violence toward the state, and escalated remote attacks on infrastructure. By integrating high-frequency measures of gang violence across multiple actor types, this study contributes to research on the consequences of external security governance, showing that the pre-deployment phase of intervention is a politically charged period in which armed criminal actors adapt in ways that can entrench insecurity before the first foreign boots touch the ground.

- ***Gang Violence and Mobility Suppression in Haiti*** (with Martin Castillo-Quintana, Mathias Lusquiños, and Adele Weller)

How does criminal violence reshape how civilians move about their communities? While criminal violence is widely cited as a driver of internal and international displacement, we know much less about how gangs shape mobility *within* their territories. In this paper, we argue that control over civilian mobility is a central pillar of criminal governance. When gangs control access to neighborhoods, roads, and transport corridors, this not only enables them to govern, but also signal relative strength and capacity to rival gangs and state forces. As territorial order deteriorates, visible control over these boundaries becomes more salient, and thus civilian movement into and out of gang-controlled areas may signal weakness or vulnerability. To re-enforce their control, gangs use violence to immobilize civilians and retain the political and economic capital that comes with them within their territorial boundaries. We examine this argument in Haiti, where gangs operate as de facto authorities across much of Port-au-Prince and surrounding areas. Using daily commune-level data on gang violence and anonymized mobility estimates derived by Flowminder from Digicel call detail records, we trace how violent events shape intra- and inter-commune movement. We find that gang violence produces immediate and significant declines in mobility, with each additional violent event depresses localized movements in the following days. The effects are shape both within- and across-commune travel and are especially large following attacks on infrastructure. Thus, gang violence can serve as a strategic mechanism of territorial immobilization and reshapes how civilians navigate criminally governed space.

HONORS, AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

ANID National Scholarship	Chile
Awarded for academic excellence to support Master’s studies.	2024–2025

Women’s Scholarship	Universidad de Chile
Tuition scholarship awarded to top-performing female students entering the Master’s program.	2024-2025

Andrés Bello Scholarship	Universidad de Chile
Awarded for obtaining the highest national score in the university mathematics admission exam.	2019-2023

Outstanding Student Recognition	Universidad de Chile
Ranked within the top 10% of the Bachelor’s program in Engineering.	2020-2023

Academic Excellence in Core Master’s Courses	Universidad de Chile
Achieved the highest grade in Microeconomics and second-highest grades in Macroeconomics and Econometrics.	

OTHER ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Non-Degree Visiting Student, The University of Chicago	Fall 2025
Sponsor: Prof. Eduardo Montero. Faculty Mentor: Prof. Martín Castillo-Quintana. Participating in workshops and auditing graduate courses in economics and political science.	

Chilean Economic Society Annual Meeting (SECHI)	2024–2025
Presented research in the Political Economy session and academic poster based on the work “All That Legislates Is Not Gold: Representation and Redistribution in Chile”.	

Graduate Symposium, Universidad de Chile	2024
Presented academic poster on Master’s research.	

SKILLS

- **Programming:** Fluent in Stata, R and Python; experience in SQL and MATLAB
- **Software:** LaTeX, Git/GitHub and R Shiny