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Education

Duke University

Joint Degree: Ph.D in Economics and Ph.D in Public Policy 2026 (Expected)
Dissertation Committee: Peter Arcidiacono (Co-Chair), Kate Bundorf (Co-Chair),
Michael Pollmann, Sebastian James

M.S. in Computer Science

2026 (Expected)

Fundacao Getulio Vargas (FGV-EPGE)

M.A. Economics

2018

UFMG-Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais

B.A. Economics

2015

Research Field

Primary: Public Economics

Secondary: Development Economics, Labor Economics, Machine Learning Methods

Working Papers

Who Should the Taxman Visit? Evidence from Door-to-Door Tax Enforcement in Indonesia

Job Market Paper - Latest Version 

(with Muhammad Khudadad Chattha)

Abstract: The article examines a 2021 natural experiment in Indonesia. Tax officials selectively visited properties to discuss tax obligations, due to COVID restrictions visits ended before reaching all properties creating a natural experiment. The study has two parts: the first part uses a machine learning based - Clustered Causal Forest - to assess the impact of the visits on tax compliance. We find that that visits improved compliance, with effects persisting into the next period. Moreover, visits were especially effective for lower-value properties, while owners' characteristics did not affect outcomes. The second part, uses a policy-learning approach to determine optimal visit targets based on different government goals, such as maximizing compliance rate, maximizing tax revenue, or visiting the households most likely to be non-compliant properties. Each policy goal leads to a distinct targeting strategies, highlighting the potential regressive effects of tax algorithm based tax enforcement.

Key Words: *Taxation in Developing Countries; Causal Forest; Heterogeneous Treatment Effects*

Low-Cost Reminders and Property Tax Compliance: Evidence from a Field Experiment

(with Muhammad Khudadad Chattha, Naranggi Pramudya Soko and Prabaning Tyas)

Latest Version 

Abstract: This study examines the impact of low-cost digital nudges sent via WhatsApp on property tax compliance in Gorontalo, Indonesia. In a randomized controlled trial involving 801 delinquent taxpayers, individuals received either (i) a soft-tone message emphasizing civic duty, (ii) a hard-tone message, or (iii) no message (control). Four key findings emerge. First, despite referencing overdue taxes, the positive message substantially boosted current-year compliance by 9.9 percentage points. Second, the soft-tone message completely eliminated the compliance gap between high- and low-compliance individuals. Third, message framing mattered: the soft-tone message consistently outperformed the penalty message in the long-term. While the hard-tone message led to short-term increases in compliance, the effect dissipated in the long-term due to intertemporal substitution. Finally, the intervention has potential for scalability, we calculate that the marginal cost per additional tax bill paid is USD 0.126. These findings underscore the potential for such behaviorally informed messaging to improve tax collection in low-capacity settings.

Key Words: *Taxation in Developing Countries; Field Experiment; Microeconomic Policy*

Work in Progress

The Mechanics of Deforestation Electoral Cycles in Brazil
(with Marcelo Goncalves)
Draft available upon request

Optimal Stop in Auditing: Estimating a Dynamic Tax Auditing Strategy
Slides available upon request

Retirement Security and Reproductive Choices: Causal Evidence from Brazilian Pension Reforms
Slides available upon request

Published Policy Notes

Bank, World. *COVID 19 in Brazil : Impacts and Policy Responses*. World Bank, 2020. URL: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/34223>.

Ortega Nieto, Daniel et al. *Ethics and Corruption in the Federal Public Service : Civil Servants' Perspectives (English)*. 2021-12-09 2021. URL: <https://policycommons.net/artifacts/2004395/ethics-and-corruption-in-the-federal-public-service/>.

Policy and Research Experience:

The World Bank Group, Washington, D.C.
Public Sector Specialist

Sep 2019 – Jul 2024

Conducted fiscal diagnostics and policy research across multiple countries, including wage-bill simulations, PFM assessments, and taxation studies using field experiments and machine learning methods; contributed to flagship reports and ministerial policy discussions.

Harvard Business School, Rio de Janeiro
Graduate Research Assistant

Nov 2018 – Sep 2019

Research Assistant to Professors Laura Alfaro, Naercio Menezes, and Andrea Luchesi.

FGV-IBRE, Rio de Janeiro
Researcher

Jul 2019 – Jun 2021

Caste Away – AIESEC, New Delhi
Policy Analyst

Jul 2013 – Oct 2013

Government of Minas Gerais, Delivery Unit, Belo Horizonte
Policy Analyst

Nov 2012 – Jun 2013

Teaching Experience

Duke University

Durham, NC

- *PUBPOL304/ECON338: Economics of the Public Sector (Undergrad)*
- *PUBPOL303: Microeconomic Policy Tools (Undergrad)*
- *PUBPOL811: Microeconomics: Policy Applications (Graduate)*
- *PUBPOL812: Statistics and Data Analysis for Policy Makers (Graduate)*

Jul 2012 – Jun 2013

FGV-RJ

Rio de Janeiro

- *Econometrics I: (Undergrad)*

Fev 2017 – Jun 2017

UFMG

Belo Horizonte

- *Microeconomics I (Undergrad)*

Fev 2014 – Dez 2015

Skills

Programming Languages: Excel-VBA, STATA, MATLAB, R, L^AT_EX, Python (PyTorch, TensorFlow Pytorch Lightning), SQL

Languages: Portuguese (Native); English(Fluent); German(Fluent, but basic writing level)

References

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