

Juan-Andrés Castro

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Education

- 2023– Ph.D. in Economics, Queen Mary University of London
Chairs: Pedro Souza & Jonas Hjort
Expected graduation June 2027
- 2023 MRes in Economics, Queen Mary University of London
- 2018 M.Sc. in Economics, University of Chile
- 2016 B.Sc. in Economics, University of Chile

References

Pedro Souza

Queen Mary University of London
p.souza@qmul.ac.uk

Felipe González

King's College London
felipe.gonzalez@kcl.ac.uk

Jonas Hjort

University College London
j.hjort@ucl.ac.uk

Lucie Gadenne

Queen Mary University of London
l.gadenne@qmul.ac.uk

Research Fields

Development Economics, Organizational Economics, Public Economics
Secondary: Technology Adoption, Firm Dynamics, Digital Infrastructure

Research

Job Market Paper

The Missing Input: Communication in Public Service Delivery. 2026.

A central challenge in public service delivery is not how much the state has, but how well it allocates resources and organizes delivery. This paper studies a reform that reduces communication frictions within the state, and shows it increases service delivery by filling existing capacity—without adding inputs. I exploit the staggered, legally mandated rollout of a digital platform that replaced Chile's paper-based system of official communications to identify causal effects on internal communication and service delivery. In the National Board of Kindergartens, adoption cuts communication processing times by 55–88%, depending on the receiver. Total volume is unchanged, but flows reallocate: provision-oriented communication from operational units rises by 34% year-round and by 76% during the enrollment window, while compliance-oriented flows from finance fall by 37%. The binding constraint was administrative time, not per-document cost; relaxing it reallocates attention toward operational coordination. Public childcare enrollment rises by 4% relative to baseline, absorbing latent demand rather than reallocating enrollments across providers, and concentrated in centers that previously had slack capacity and faced higher coordination frictions. The results show that administrative communication is an organizational input that raises state productivity by reducing underutilization—a channel distinct from personnel, incentives, and monitoring.

Selected Work in Progress

Data Centers. With Jonas Hjort and Ana Cepeda.

Internet Shutdowns and the Heterogeneous Economic Impact of Connectivity. With Jonas Hjort and Emilio Guaman.

Working Papers

Market Power, Ownership Concentration and Income Inequality. With Alejandro Micco, Andrea Repetto, and Patricio Toro. 2026.

Financial Constraints and Firm Adjustments During a Sales Disruption. With Enzo Cerletti. Central Bank of Chile Working Paper No. 995, 2023.

Telling Schools Apart: The Role of Preferences, Constraints, and the Ability to Differentiate Between Schools in Parents' Choices. With Diego Amador and Nicolás Grau. SSRN Working Paper, 2020.

Policy Reports

Economic Groups as a Unit of Analysis for Financial Stability. With Patricio Toro. Box IV.2, Financial Stability Report, Second Half 2019, Central Bank of Chile, 2019.

Predictive Models of Default and Recovery of Corporate Loans. With Enzo Cerletti, J. Fernández, and A. Vásquez. Background note, Financial Stability Report, Second Half 2019, Central Bank of Chile, 2019.

Selected Presentations

2026 EEA–ESEM Annual Congress, Dublin; SIOE Annual Conference, INSEAD, Fontainebleau; Queen Mary PhD Economics Conference; Queen Mary Economics Seminar.

2018–25 International Workshop on Applied Economics of Education (IWAE); LACEA Annual Meeting; Chilean Economic Society (SECHI) Annual Meeting; Queen Mary University of London seminars.

Research Positions

2026 Researcher. Department of Economics, University of Oslo — ERC project ACCESS (PI: Jonas Hjort). Oslo, Norway.

2018–21 Research Analyst. Micro-Finance Research Unit, Central Bank of Chile. Santiago, Chile.

Research Assistantships

2022–24 Jonas Hjort, University College London — led a team of three to four analysts.

2022–23 Pedro C. L. Souza, Queen Mary University of London.

2021 Kirill Borusyak, University College London.

2018–19 William Mullins, UC San Diego.

2015–18 Valentina Paredes, Fabián Duarte, Francisco Pino & Alejandro Micco, University of Chile.

Awards & Honors

2021 ANID Doctoral Scholarship, Government of Chile

2021 PhD Scholarship, Queen Mary University of London

2017 COES Scholarship (project quality), Chile

2016 Best in Business Award & Grunwald Scholarship, University of Chile

2013–15 Circle of Excellence (top 5% of cohort), University of Chile

Teaching

Queen Mary University of London

2023–26 Teaching Assistant. Quantitative Methods using R ($\times 4$); Macroeconomics I ($\times 1$); Health Economics ($\times 1$).

Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez

2016–17 Instructor. Econometrics I ($\times 2$) — designed syllabus, lectures, and assessment.

University of Chile

2013–17 Teaching Assistant. Industrial Organization ($\times 1$); Econometrics I ($\times 1$); Econometrics II ($\times 1$); Applied Econometrics ($\times 1$).

Skills & Languages

Programming: R, Stata/Mata, Python, SQL, MATLAB, QGIS, $\text{\LaTeX}$

Languages: Spanish (native), English (fluent), French (fluent)