

Claudia Canals

e-mail: ccanals@lacaixa.es
Webpage: <http://www.claudiacanals.com>

“La Caixa”
Av. Diagonal 629, torre I
08028 Barcelona

EDUCATION

- 2004 - 2006 **Ph.D. in Economics.** Columbia University, New York, USA
2001 - 2004 **Master of Philosophy in Economics.** Columbia University, New York, USA
2000 - 2001 **Master of Science in Economics.** Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain
1996 - 2000 **B.A. Economics.** Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

July 2006- **Economist.** Research Department “La Caixa”
Present

HONORS

- 2005-2006 Columbia University Fellowship from GSAS
2005 Summer Wueller Fellowship Award. Dept. of Economics, Columbia University
2004 Wueller Prize (best 4th year proposal). Dept. of Economics, Columbia University
2003 - 2005 Central Bank of Spain. Fellowship to pursue Graduate Studies abroad (one of five among all Spanish Graduate students)
2002 - 2003 Ramón Areces Foundation. Fellowship to pursue Graduate Studies abroad (tuition plus stipend)
2001 - 2002 Columbia University Fellowship from GSAS
2000 - 2001 Pompeu Fabra Fellowship

RESEARCH AND TEACHING FIELDS

International Economics, Development Economics, Labor Economics

RESEARCH

Outsourcing and your Collar's Color Working Paper. First Draft: March 2006.

In order to assess the effects of increased outsourcing on the relative demand for skilled and unskilled labor, it is crucial to understand whether outsourcing is a complement or a substitute for each kind of labor. Using the traditionally employed log-log framework, Amiti and Wei (2006) find that outsourcing of goods and labor are complements. Using the same methodology but differentiating between skilled and unskilled labor, one would conclude that outsourcing acts as a complement to unskilled labor but as a substitute for skilled labor. This paper proposes an improved methodology which uses estimated prices for outsourcing instead of other proxies (such as its intensity) and a complete factor cost-share system of equations to find the completely opposite result, that is, outsourcing is a substitute for unskilled labor and a complement for skilled labor. This result is consistent with the findings of the literature on outsourcing and the wage gap.

What Explains the Widening Wage Gap? Outsourcing vs. Technology Working Paper. First Draft: September 2005.

The relative rise of wages for high-skilled workers over the last three decades has been the subject of intense academic and popular scrutiny. This paper develops a new methodology for decomposing wage changes into four sources: outsourcing, biased technological change, total technological change, and international price movements. We find that between 1980 and 1999 outsourcing accounts for 28 percent of the observed wage change, and biased technological change for another 18 percent. Jointly these two forces explain 58 percent of the wage change. The remaining 42 percent can be explained by international price changes. In sum, we find that outsourcing and biased technological change can account for a large share of the observed divergence in the skilled wage premium.

Trade Patterns, Trade Balances, and Idiosyncratic Shocks (joint with X. Gabaix, J. Vilarrubia and D Weinstein) Working Paper. First Draft: April 2005

International Macroeconomics has long sought an explanation for current account fluctuations that matches the data. The approaches have typically focused on better models and new macroeconomic variables. We demonstrate the limitations of this approach by showing that idiosyncratic firm level shocks are important cause of macroeconomic volatility even for large countries. When explaining these fluctuations, standard macroeconomic models generally assume that firms are small and that their microeconomic shocks cancel out. We show that the high degree of concentration of bilateral trade flows means that idiosyncratic shocks can have a significant impact on aggregate economic fluctuations. We theoretically develop a decomposition of the variance of trade flows into its macroeconomic and its microeconomic components. Taking the model to data on bilateral trade flows from 1970 to 1997, we find that the most comprehensive macroeconomic model can only account for at most half of the observed variance in trade account volumes of each country. Thus, this paper highlights the importance of considering disaggregated data when modeling the current account.

Assessing the Short Run Consequences of Bereavement on Medical Expenditures in the Elderly Population (joint with M. Das) Under Revision, Health Services Research - 2004

A long line of research in social psychology, as well as vast anecdotal evidence, has documented the negative health consequences of the death of a spouse. Surprisingly little, however, is known about the medical expenditures of the surviving spouse subsequent to spousal bereavement. This paper empirically documents that bereavement induces a sharp, but possibly temporary, increase in prescription expenditures of the elderly population. The result is robust to socioeconomic, insurance and demographic controls, as well as adjustments to sample composition. To estimate the model, the method used address the censoring of expenditures, presence of individual heterogeneity and a possibly skewed expenditure distribution. We estimate that between 1-3 additional prescriptions are filled in the months following bereavement, corresponding to as much as a 40% increase from pre-bereavement monthly prescription expenditure levels. These results are an important input in the ongoing debate on increasing prescription coverage under Medicare.

Nonclassical Measurement Error in Nonrandomly Selected Data (joint with M. Das and Changxiu Li) Under Revision, Journal of the American Statistical Association - 2004

The analysis of models with measurement error in binary valued covariate has been of considerable interest, as it raises problems quite distinct from measurement error in continuously-distributed covariates. However, in many data where such measurement error arises, there is another important and perhaps overlooked source of bias: the non-random selection of the observed data. Accounting for measurement error in a binary covariate in such instances is in general insufficient to obtain consistent parameter estimates. Compounding this problem is that the true binary covariate appears in both the selection and outcome equations. We consider this problem when a noisy report of the true variable is available, and derive a point identification for all parameters of interest. In contrast to previous work on nonclassical measurement error, our methods require only a single noisy report. We illustrate our methods by analyzing the effects of illicit maternal drug usage on infant birthweight. Here we show the large parameter biases in ignoring either measurement error in drug-usage report, selection of birthweight, or both.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2005	Teaching Assistant for the class Economic Development of Japan at the Dept. of Economics at Columbia University, New York, USA.
2004	Teaching Assistant for the first year Ph.D. course in Econometrics at the Dept. of Economics at Columbia University, New York, USA.
2003	Teaching Assistant for Macroeconomics at the Master's Program in Economic and Policy Management (PEPM) at Columbia University, New York, USA
2000 – 2001	Teaching Assistant for Econometrics at Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain
2001 – 2002	Instructor for Introduction to Microeconomics and Advanced Macroeconomics at the CETEC School, Barcelona, Spain
2003- present	Research Assistant for Professor David E. Weinstein, Dept. of Economics, Columbia University, New York and NBER
2001	Research Assistant for Professor Xavier Sala-i-Martin, Dept. of Economics, Columbia University, New York and NBER.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Programming in MATLAB, Stata, and HTML.
Extensive experience with Microsoft Office, Mathematica and Latex

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Spanish and Catalan: Native Speaker
English: Fluent