



## **Asociación de Economía de la Salud del Uruguay**

**Boletín Nº 2 Abril 2011**

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### **Sala de Lectura**

#### **Early-Life Environment, Eight and BMI Young Adult Males in Italy**

Emilia Arcaleni y Franco Peracchi

Enlace: [http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\\_id=1769609](http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1769609)

This paper studies the relationship between the two main dimensions of early-life environment, namely disease burden (measured by infant mortality) and economic conditions (measured by income or consumption per capita), and height and body-mass index (BMI) of recent cohorts of young adult males in Italy. By combining high-quality micro-level data on height and weight with regional- and province-level information, we are able to link individual height and BMI at age 18 to regional and provincial averages of environmental variables in the year of birth.

Our results are consistent with the hypothesis that, in rich low-mortality setting, the scarring effects of childhood disease dominate selection. We also show that both income and disease matter, and their relative importance differs depending on the outcome considered and the available background information. In particular, we find that income matters more than disease

for height, while the opposite is true for BMI. Finally, using detailed province-level information, we show that income per capita is a proxy for a variety of environmental indicators that are highly correlated with economic conditions.

### **Inequality at Birth: Some Causes and Consequences**

Janet Currie

Enlace: <http://www.nber.org/papers/w16798.pdf>

Recent research shows that health at birth is affected by many factors, including maternal education, behaviors, and participation in social programs. In turn, endowments at birth are predictive of adult outcomes, and of the outcomes of future generations. Exposure to environmental pollution is one potential determinant of health at birth that has received increasing attention. A large literature outside of economics advocates for Environmental Justice, and argues that poor and minority families are disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards. I provide new evidence on this question, showing that children born to less educated and minority mothers are more likely to be exposed to pollution in utero and that white, college educated mothers are particularly responsive to changes in environmental amenities. I estimate that differences in exposure to toxic releases may explain 6% of the gap in incidence of low birth weight between infants of white college educated mothers and infants of black high school dropout mothers.

### **A New Vision for Health Systems in the 21st Century: Investing in People**

Julio Frenk

Enlace:

<http://siteresources.worldbank.org/HEALTHNUTRITIONANDPOPULATION/Resources/281627-1114107818507/1011070-1299526333144/030711JFrenkLancetReportWB.pdf>

The first decade of the 21st Century ended with a much improved understanding about the health threats facing developing countries as well as innovative and affordable technologies to address them. Despite the financial crisis and economic downturn, global health expenditure has continued to grow rapidly during the past decade both in terms of domestic and donor funding. The binding constraint to further advances is no longer money or knowledge. It is the lack of people. Hon Julio Frenk will present their vision on these issues and discuss recommendations by the "Global Independent Commission" that he recently chaired in commemoration of the centenary of the Flexner Report.

## **Work Absenteeism Due to a Chronic Disease**

Guy Lacroix, Marie-Ève Brouard:

Enlace: <http://ftp.iza.org/dp5560.pdf>

Research on health-related work absenteeism focuses primarily on moral hazard issues but seldom discriminates between the types of illnesses that prompt workers to stay home or seek care. This paper focuses on chronic migraine, a common and acute illness that can prove to be relatively debilitating. Our analysis is based upon the absenteeism of workers employed in a large Fortune-100 manufacturing firm in the United States. We model their daily transitions between work and absence spells between January 1996 up until December 1998. Only absences due to migraine and depression, its main comorbidity, are taken into account. Our results show that there is considerable correlation between the different states we consider. In addition, workers who are covered by the Blue Preferred Provided Organization tend to have shorter employment spells but also shorter migraine spells.

## **Prenatal Sex Selection and Girls' Well-Being: Evidence from India**

Luojia Hu, Analia Schlosser:

Enlace: <http://ftp.iza.org/dp5562.pdf>

In this paper, we study the impact of prenatal sex selection on the well-being of girls by analyzing changes in children's nutritional status and mortality during the years since the diffusion of prenatal sex determination technologies in India. We further examine various channels through which prenatal sex selection might affect girls' outcomes. Using repeated cross-sections from a rich survey dataset, we show that high sex ratios at birth reflect the practice of sex selective abortion. We then exploit the large regional and time variations in the incidence of prenatal sex selection to analyze whether changes in girls' outcomes relative to boys within states and over time are associated with changes in sex ratios at birth. We find that an increase in the practice of prenatal sex selection appears to be associated with a reduction in the incidence of malnutrition among girls. The negative association is stronger for girls born in rural households and at higher birth parities! . An examination of the various mechanisms linking between prenatal sex selection and children outcomes suggests that prenatal sex selection does not lead to a selection of girls into better endowed families, but there is some evidence of a larger reduction in family size for girls relative to boys. We also find an increase in

girls' breastfeeding duration suggesting an improvement in parental care and treatment. On the other hand, prenatal sex selection does not appear to be associated with a reduction in excess female child mortality, or a reduction in son preference.

## **The Quality of Death: Ranking end-of-life care across the world**

[http://graphics.eiu.com/upload/QOD\\_main\\_final\\_edition\\_Jul12\\_toprint.pdf](http://graphics.eiu.com/upload/QOD_main_final_edition_Jul12_toprint.pdf)

## **Causes and consequences of early life health**

Anne Case Christina Paxson

Enlace:

[http://www.princeton.edu/rpds/papers/Case\\_and\\_Paxson\\_Early\\_Life\\_Health\\_w15637.pdf](http://www.princeton.edu/rpds/papers/Case_and_Paxson_Early_Life_Health_w15637.pdf)

We examine the consequences of childhood health for economic and health outcomes in adulthood, using height as a marker of health in childhood. After reviewing previous evidence, we present a conceptual framework that highlights data limitations and methodological problems associated with the study of this topic. We present estimates of the associations between height and a range of outcomes, including schooling, employment, earnings, health and cognitive ability, using data collected from early to late adulthood on cohort members in five longitudinal data sets. We find height is uniformly associated with better economic, health and cognitive outcomes – a result only partially explained by the higher average educational attainment of taller individuals. We then turn to the NLSY79 Children and Young Adult Survey to better understand what specific aspects of early childhood are captured by height. We find, even among maternal siblings, taller siblings score better on cognitive tests and progress through school more quickly. Part of the differences found between siblings arises from differences in their birth weights and lengths attributable to mother's behaviors while pregnant. Taken together, these results support the hypothesis that childhood health influences health and economic status throughout the life course.

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## **Sala Multimedia**

### **¿Qué pueden aprender las organizaciones sin fines de lucro de Coca-Cola?**

Melinda French Gates:

Enlace: [http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/spa/melinda\\_french\\_gates\\_what\\_nonprofits\\_can\\_learn\\_from\\_coca\\_cola.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/spa/melinda_french_gates_what_nonprofits_can_learn_from_coca_cola.html)

### **Our mistaken expectations**

Daniel Gilbert

Enlace: [http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/dan\\_gilbert\\_researches\\_happiness.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/dan_gilbert_researches_happiness.html)

### **Why are we happy?**

Daniel Gilbert

Enlace: [http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/dan\\_gilbert\\_asks\\_why\\_are\\_we\\_happy.html](http://www.ted.com/talks/lang/eng/dan_gilbert_asks_why_are_we_happy.html)

### **Our beliefs about what will make happy are often wrong**

Daniel Gilbert

Enlace: [http://www.ted.com/speakers/dan\\_gilbert.html](http://www.ted.com/speakers/dan_gilbert.html)

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## **Café Montevideo**

### **Los genios creativos, bajo la lupa de los economistas**

Por Sebastián Campanarlo

<http://edant.clarin.com/diario/2010/01/18/elpais/p-02122219.htm>

### **Economía y ficción literaria: la doble vida de los “econovelistas”**

[http://www.ieco.clarin.com/economia/Economia-ficcion-literaria-doble-econovelistas\\_0\\_126900004.html](http://www.ieco.clarin.com/economia/Economia-ficcion-literaria-doble-econovelistas_0_126900004.html)

### **Investing in Our Young People**

by Flavio Cunha, James J. Heckman

[.http://papers.nber.org/papers/W16201](http://papers.nber.org/papers/W16201)

This paper reviews the recent literature on the production of skills of young persons. The literature features the multiplicity of skills that explain success in a variety of life outcomes. Noncognitive skills play a fundamental role in successful lives. The dynamics of skill formation reveal the interplay of cognitive and noncognitive skills, and the presence of critical and sensitive periods in the life-cycle. We discuss the optimal timing of investment over the life-cycle

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## **Noticias**

### **LLAMADO A CONTRIBUCIONES**

**Red sobre Desigualdad y Pobreza de América Latina y el Caribe**

**Network of Inequality and Poverty (NIP)**

**Capítulo de Uruguay**

**Reunión Anual 23 y 24 de Junio de 2011**

La Red de Desigualdad y Pobreza (Network on Inequality and Poverty-NIP) es una iniciativa conjunta de LACEA, BID, Banco Mundial y PNUD que tiene el objetivo de profundizar el conocimiento sobre las causas y consecuencias de la pobreza, la desigualdad y la exclusión social, y sobre las políticas, instituciones y estructuras sociales que afectan su evolución (<http://www.nip-lac.org/>).

La Red está organizada en capítulos nacionales. Los coordinadores del capítulo uruguayo son Marisa Bucheli y Máximo Rossi del Departamento de Economía de la Facultad de Ciencias Sociales de la UdelAR (dECON).

El dECON anuncia la realización de la reunión anual del capítulo uruguayo de la Red durante los días 23 y 24 de junio de 2011. En esta reunión se busca presentar y discutir investigaciones sobre equidad, pobreza, exclusión social y políticas asociadas a estas temáticas.

Se invita a enviar contribuciones relacionadas con este campo.

La fecha límite para el envío de resúmenes es el 25 de abril de 2011 y para el envío del documento completo es el 20 de mayo de 2011. El comité organizador informará a los autores la decisión sobre la aceptación de las ponencias el 31 de mayo de 2011.

Los trabajos deberán ser enviados a [nip@decon.edu.uy](mailto:nip@decon.edu.uy)

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