

GASTON ILLANES

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Economics
Northwestern University
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS	Assistant Professor of Economics	Northwestern University	July 2017-
	Faculty Research Fellow	National Bureau of Economic Research	May 2019-
	Visiting Scholar	Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago	July 2022-
	Visiting Scholar	Becker Friedman Institute	June 2020- June 2021
	College Fellow	Northwestern University	July 2016- July 2017
EDUCATION	Ph.D., Economics	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	2016
	M.A. Economics	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile	2009
	B.A. Business and Economics	Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile	2009
FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS	Templeton World Charity Foundation Grant #33951 – Frictions and Contract Design in Mortgage Refinancing		
	National Science Foundation Grant #2116934 – A Large-Scale Analysis of Mergers and Merger Simulations		
	Alfred P. Sloan Foundation Grant G-2019-12501 – Frictions in Mortgage Refinancing: Evidence from Chile		
	Washington Center for Equitable Growth Grant – A Large-Scale Analysis of Mergers and Merger Simulations		
	Public Utility Research Center Prize for Best Paper in Regulatory Economics, 17 th Annual IIOC, April 2019 – Deregulation Through Direct Democracy: Lessons from Liquor Markets		
	National Science Foundation Grant #1824463 – Fiduciary Duty, Financial Regulation, and the Market for Retirement Products		

Steven H. Sandell Grant from the Boston College Center for Retirement Research and the Social Security Administration, 2017

Graduate Fellowship, Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation, 2014 and 2015

George P. and Obie B. Shultz Dissertation Grant, 2012 and 2015

Award for Best Graduate of M.A. in Economics, 2009. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Raúl Yver O. Award to the Best Graduate in Business and Economics, Concentration Economics, 2009. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

PUBLICATIONS

“A User’s Guide for Inference in Models Defined by Moment Inequalities” (with Ivan Canay and Amilcar Velez-Salamanca). *Journal of Econometrics*, 2023.

“Fiduciary Duty and the Market for Financial Products” (with Vivek Bhattacharya and Manisha Padi) – *Econometrica*, 2025

WORKING PAPERS

“Switching Costs in Pension Plan Choice”

“Market Structure and Competition: Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Liquor Licensure” (with Sarah Moshary)

“Retirement Policy and Annuity Market Equilibria: Evidence from Chile” (with Manisha Padi) – Revision requested at *Econometrica*

“Deregulation Through Direct Democracy: Lessons from Liquor Markets” (with Sarah Moshary)

“The Design of Defined Contribution Plans” (with Vivek Bhattacharya) – Revision requested at *Econometrica*

“Have Mergers Raised Prices? Evidence from U.S. Retail” (with Vivek Bhattacharya and David Stillerman) – Revision requested at *American Economic Review*

“Frictions in Mortgage Refinancing: Evidence from Chile” (with Vivek Bhattacharya, Jose Ignacio Cuesta, Ana Maria Montoya, Raimundo Undurraga and Gabriela Covarrubias)

PRESENTATIONS 2026: AEA/ASSA Meetings*, Duke University

**(INCLUDES
SCHEDULED)**

2025: DePaul University, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Princeton University, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, World Congress of the Econometric Society

2024: National University of Singapore, Singapore Management University, University of Michigan, Yale, Washington University in Saint Louis

2023: AEA/ASSA Meetings*, American Real Estate and Urban Economics Association, Comisión para el Mercado Financiero (Chile), Cornerstone Research, Leuven Summer Event, Nemmers Prize Conference in Economics, University of California – Berkeley, MIT, NYU

2022: Barcelona BSE Summer Forum (Economy-Wide Market Power), BFI IO+ Conference, CFPB Research Conference, Cornell University, Cowles Conference on Models and Measurement*, CSIO-TSE Conference, IIOC, Northwestern Conference on Antitrust Economics and Competition Policy*, SITE (Financial Regulation), Stanford GSB, University of Maryland, University of Wisconsin – Madison

2021: Carnegie Mellon University, Booth Household Finance Conference, Microsoft Research, University of Chicago

2020: AEA/ASSA Meetings*, Duke Econ – UNC – Fuqua, Johns Hopkins, ITAM, NBER Summer Institute (HF, IO)*

2019: 4th Rome Junior Conference on Applied Microeconomics, AEA/ASSA Meetings, Banff Empirical Microeconomics Conference, Barcelona BSE Summer Forum*, Berkeley Haas, NBER Winter Meetings (IO/INS), Pennsylvania State University, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Rice University, SEC Conference on Financial Regulation*, Summer Institute on Competitive Strategy*, SITE (Financial Regulation), UCLA Anderson, Universidad Diego Portales, University of Chicago, University of Washington

2018: 11th Workshop on Industrial Organization & Economic Theory – Chile, AEA/ASSA Meetings, Banco Central de Chile, CEPR/JIE Conference on Applied Industrial Organization*, Columbia University, Comisión para el Mercado Financiero (Chile), CSIO-IDEI Conference, FGV – Rio de Janeiro, FTC Microeconomics Conference, Fiscalía Nacional Económica (Chile), Harvard University, IIOC, Ministerio del Trabajo (Chile), Northwestern University Clinical and Translational Sciences Institute, Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Superintendencia de Pensiones (Chile), Universidad de Chile – Centro de Economía Aplicada, Universidad de los Andes (Chile), University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy, Universidad Carlos III, Workshop on Structural Industrial Organization – Bogotá

PRESENTATIONS (INCLUDES SCHEDULED)	<p>2017: Chicago IO Fest, CSIO-IDEI Conference, Department of Justice, IIOC, NBER Summer Institute - Industrial Organization, Northwestern University, Computational Research Day, Ohio State University, Princeton University, Stanford University, University of Chicago, University of Maryland, University of Pennsylvania, University of Wisconsin - Madison, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, WEAI – Santiago, Yale</p> <p>2016: Boston College, Chicago IO Fest, London School of Economics, Northwestern University, New York University - Economics, New York University - Stern School of Business, University of California - Berkeley, University of Minnesota, University of Texas - Austin</p> <p>2015: Centro de Economía Aplicada - Universidad de Chile, Universidad de Santiago de Chile</p> <p>* Denotes co-author presentation</p>
REFeree ACTIVITY	<p>American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, American Economic Journal: Microeconomics, American Economic Review, Econometrica, Fondecyt, International Economic Review, International Journal of Industrial Organization, Israeli Science Foundation, Journal of Econometrics, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Industrial Economics, Journal of Political Economy, Journal of Public Economic Theory, Journal of Pension Economics and Finance, Journal of Risk and Insurance, Marketing Science, National Science Foundation, RAND Journal of Economics, Review of Economic Studies, Review of Financial Studies, Review of Industrial Organization, Quarterly Journal of Economics</p>

- ADVISING**
- 2025 – Felipe Berrutti (Analysis Group), Ana Evdokimova (Yale Post-Doc), Jose Diego Salas (Cornerstone Research), Jin Yang (Cornerstone Research), Brandon Zborowski (Cornerstone Research), Hans Zhu (NAIC Post-Doc)
- 2024 – Esperanza Johnson (Cornerstone Research), Anran Li (Cornell), Gastón Lopez (Compass Lexecon), Francisco Pareschi (Bates White), Roma Poberejsky (Cornerstone Research), Jingyuan Wang (Michigan), and Tomas Wilner (Compass Lexecon)
- 2023 – Eilidh Geddes (University of Georgia) and Paul Kim (Michigan State University)
- 2022 – Samuel Goldberg (Stanford GSB), Tai Lam (UCLA Anderson), Matteo Magnaricotte (University of Chicago Crime Lab and Education Lab), David Stillerman (American University) and Benjamin Vatter (MIT Sloan)
- 2021 – Dmitry Sedov (Uber)
- 2020 – Matthew Leisten (Federal Trade Commission) and Victoria Marone (University of Texas - Austin)
- 2019 – Matias Escudero (Compass Lexecon) and Nicholas Vreugdenhil (Arizona State University)
- 2018 – David Benson (Federal Reserve Bank Board of Governors) and Mariano Irace (Cornerstone Research)
- 2017 – Germán Bet (University of Florida)
- SERVICE**
- 2025 – Co-Organizer, SITE Session on Market Failures and Public Policy
- 2024 – Co-Organizer, SITE Session on Market Failures and Public Policy. Co-Organizer, PUC Chile Alumni Conference
- 2023 – Co-Organizer, SITE Session on IO of Healthcare and Consumer Finance Markets. Program Committee, LACEA/LAMES. Co-Organizer, PUC Chile Alumni Conference
- 2022 – Co-Organizer, SITE Session on IO of Healthcare and Consumer Finance Markets. Co-Organizer, PUC Chile Alumni Conference
- 2021 – Co-Organizer, NBER Summer Institute Industrial Organization Workshop. Selection Committee, Public Utility Research Center Prize, IIOC. Co-Organizer, PUC Chile Alumni Conference
- 2020 – Co-Organizer, PUC Chile Alumni Conference
- 2019 – Co-Organizer, PUC Chile Alumni Conference
- 2017 – Co-Organizer, Chicago IO Fest