

## Paula A. Calvo

**Address:** Department of Economics  
Yale University  
New Haven, CT 06520-8268

**Telephone:** +1-203-809-1252

**E-mail:** [paula.calvo@yale.edu](mailto:paula.calvo@yale.edu)

**Web page:** [www.paulacalvo.net](http://www.paulacalvo.net)

**Citizenship:** Argentinian (J-1 Visa), Italian

**Fields of Concentration:**

Labor Economics  
Family Economics

**Desired Teaching:**

Labor Economics  
Development Economics  
Applied Econometrics

**Comprehensive Examinations Completed:**

2017 (Oral): Labor Economics, Development Economics  
2016 (Written): Microeconomics, Macroeconomics

**Dissertation Title:** *Essays on Family Economics*

**Committee:**

Professor Costas Meghir (Chair)  
Professor Joseph Altonji  
Professor Ilse Lindenlaub  
Professor Cormac O'Dea

**Expected Completion Date:** May 2022

**Degrees:**

Ph.D., Economics, Yale University, 2022 (expected)  
M.Phil., Economics, Yale University, 2018  
M.A., Economics, Yale University, 2017  
M.S., Economics, Universidad de San Andrés, 2014  
Licentiate in Economics (*summa cum laude*), Universidad de Buenos Aires, 2010

**Fellowships, Honors and Awards:**

Institute for Social and Policy Studies Graduate Fellowship, Yale University, 2021  
Cowles Foundation Fellowship, Yale University, 2015-2019  
Yale Graduate Fellowship, Yale University, 2015-2022  
Universidad de Buenos Aires, Award Historical Top 40 GPA Economics Majors, 2013  
Merit-based full scholarship, M.S. in Economics, Universidad de San Andrés, 2011

**Research Grants:**

MITRE, University of Michigan, 2021 (joint with Ilse Lindenlaub and Ana Reynoso)  
Applied Economics and Policy Research Fellowship, Yale University, 2018

**Teaching Experience**

Yale University (undergraduate):

Head Teaching Assistant to Prof. Benjamin Polak, *Game Theory* (Spring 2020)  
Teaching Assistant to Dr. Daniela Morar, *Econometrics and Data Analysis* (Summer 2019)  
Teaching Assistant to Dr. Zack Barnett-Howell, *Economics of Developing Countries* (Spring 2019, Fall 2018)  
Teaching Assistant to Prof. Daniel Keninston, *Economics of Developing Countries* (Spring 2018)  
Teaching Assistant to Prof. Steve Berry, *Introductory Microeconomics* (Fall 2017)  
Residential College Mathematics and Science Tutoring Program, *Introductory and Intermediate Microeconomics, Introductory Macroeconomics* (Fall 2016, Spring 2017)

Universidad de San Andrés (undergraduate):

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Facundo Albornoz, *Political and Economic Structure of Argentina* (Fall 2013, Spring 2014)

Universidad de Buenos Aires (undergraduate):

Lecturer and Teaching Assistant to Prof. Facundo Albornoz, *International Economics* (Spring 2012 to Fall 2013)  
Lecturer and Teaching Assistant to Prof. Martín Grandes, *Growth Economics* (Spring 2011, Fall 2011)  
Teaching Assistant to Prof. Julio Fabris, *Mathematics for Economists* (Fall 2008)

**Mentoring Experience:**

Co-Director, Herb Scarf Summer Research Opportunities in Economics, 2017-2019  
Graduate Advisor, Yale Undergraduate Women in Economics, 2018-2019  
Conference organizer, Young Economics Symposium, Yale University, 2017

**Research and Work Experience:**

Consultant, The World Bank Group, 2014-2015  
Consultant, The World Bank Independent Evaluation Group, 2014  
Consultant, UNCTAD, 2013  
Research Assistant to Prof. Facundo Albornoz, Universidad de San Andrés, 2012-2014  
Research Assistant to Prof. Daniel Heymann, Universidad de San Andrés and IIEP, 2012  
Client Financial Management, Accenture Argentina, 2010-2011

**Publications:**

“Immigrant Children's School Performance and Immigration Costs: Evidence from Spain” (2018), with F. Albornoz, A. Cabrales and E. Hauk, *Economic Letters*, 170: 27-30

“Welfare Impact of Wheat Export Restrictions in Argentina: Non-parametric Analysis on Urban Households”, in Trade Policies, Household Welfare and Poverty Alleviation. Case Studies from the Virtual Institute Academic Network (Ed. Pavcnik, Nina.), Geneva: UNCTAD (2014)

**Working Papers:**

“The Effects of Institutional Gaps between Marriage and Cohabitation”, (November 2021), *Job Market Paper*

“Marriage Market and Labor Market Sorting”, with I. Lindenlaub and A. Reynoso (July 2021), Revise and Resubmit, *Review of Economic Studies*

“Intra-Household Decision-Making: New Evidence from the Innovation Sample of the German Socioeconomic Panel”, with I. Lindenlaub and L. Uniat (June 2021)

**Work in Progress:**

“Parental Mental Health and Children Outcomes”, with M. Bernatzky and Z. Zhu

“Children's Formal Schooling and Maternal Labor Supply: Evidence from a Regression Discontinuity Design in Peru”

**Policy Papers:**

“A Decade of Declining Earning Inequality in the Russian Federation” (2015), with L.F. Lopez Calva and J. Posadas, World Bank Policy Research, WP 7392

“Kyrgyz Republic. Social Sectors at a Glance” (2015), with J. Azevedo, M. Nguyen and J. Posadas, Social Protection and Labor, Discussion Paper 1505

**Seminar and Conference Presentations:**

2021: Society of Economics of the Household, Western Economic Association International, IZA/SOLE Transatlantic Meeting of Labor Economists, Universidad de las Américas (Ecuador), WELAC (LACEA) Workshop on Gender Inequality

**Languages:**

Spanish (native), English (fluent), Portuguese (intermediate)

## References:

Prof. Costas Meghir  
Yale University  
Department of Economics  
New Haven, CT 06520  
PO Box 208268  
Phone: +1 (203)-432-3558  
[c.meghir@yale.edu](mailto:c.meghir@yale.edu)

Prof. Joseph Altonji  
Yale University  
Department of Economics  
New Haven, CT 06520  
PO Box 208268  
Phone: +1 (203)-432-6285  
[joseph.altonji@yale.edu](mailto:joseph.altonji@yale.edu)

Prof. Ilse Lindenlaub  
Yale University  
Department of Economics  
New Haven, CT 06520  
PO Box 208268  
Phone: +1(203)-432-3587  
[ilse.lindenlaub@yale.edu](mailto:ilse.lindenlaub@yale.edu)

Prof. Cormac O’Dea  
Yale University  
Department of Economics  
New Haven, CT 06520  
PO Box 208268  
Phone: +1 (203) 432-3560  
[cormac.odea@yale.edu](mailto:cormac.odea@yale.edu)

## Dissertation Abstract

### **The Effects of Institutional Gaps between Marriage and Cohabitation [Job Market Paper]**

In this paper I examine how institutional differences between marriage and cohabitation—in dimensions such as child custody or property division laws—affect household formation and the welfare of couples and their children. As cohabitation has been rising in the U.S. in recent decades, mainly among the less educated, changing these policies may have important implications for inequality and child human capital.

Using rich household data from the National Longitudinal Survey of Youth (NLSY-97) and the Fragile Families and Child Wellbeing Study, I show that cohabiting couples, relative to married couples, have higher separation rates, higher female labor supply, and worse cognitive outcomes among their children.

I then develop an equilibrium model of household formation to analyze what drives the choice between marriage and cohabitation, and how this choice affects intra-household inequality and child welfare. In the model, after choosing their partners and relationship type in the marriage market, agents solve a life-cycle problem and make decisions regarding female labor supply, savings, and couple’s separation. These choices endogenously determine the allocation of private consumption between the partners, and the human capital development of their children. The model incorporates key institutional differences between marriage and cohabitation, including child custody laws, property division laws, and child support enforcement.

I estimate the model using the NLSY-97, which follows a cohort born in the U.S. in the early 80s over their life-cycle. My results indicate that cohabiting women receive a lower share of household consumption resources than married women, conditional on both partners’ education. Consistent

with the data, the model shows that children born to low-educated cohabiting women accumulate less human capital than those born to married women. This is explained by lower maternal time investments in children and higher separation rates of cohabiting couples.

Finally, I simulate a reduction in the institutional differences between marriage and cohabitation. In a first counterfactual, I equalize child custody laws after divorce and separation, increasing the incidence of joint parental custody after cohabitation. I find that this policy change improves the welfare of low-educated cohabiting women and their children. The equilibrium effects are critical for this result: While the welfare of cohabiting women decreases under the baseline marriage market equilibrium (as it lowers their access to children upon separation), in the new equilibrium these women are compensated with a higher share of the household's private consumption. This policy change also contributes to closing the gap in human capital accumulation between children born to low-educated cohabiting and married women. Other counterfactual policies, such as equal division of assets at separation from cohabitation, have negligible welfare effects.

**Marriage Market and Labor Market Sorting [Revise and Resubmit, *Review of Economic Studies*], with Ilse Lindenlaub and Ana Reynoso.**

We develop a new equilibrium model in which households' labor supply choices form the link between sorting in the marriage market and sorting in the labor market. We first show that, in theory, the properties of the home production function—namely, whether partners' hours are complements or substitutes in producing a public good—shape equilibrium labor supply as well as marriage and labor market sorting. We then estimate our model using German data to assess the nature of home production. We find that spouses' home production hours are complements, and this complementarity has increased over time from 1990 to 2016. By increasing partners' incentives to spend similar hours in home production, this trend strengthens positive marriage sorting and reduces the gender gap in worked hours and in labor market sorting. This puts significant downward pressure on the gender wage gap and within-household income inequality, but fuels between-household inequality.

**Intra-Household Decision-Making: New Evidence from the Innovation Sample of the German Socioeconomic Panel, with Ilse Lindenlaub and Lindsey Uniat.**

Using data from a new survey that we designed for the Innovation Sample of the German Socioeconomic Panel (GSOEP), we document the relationship between marital sorting and intra-household decision-making, with a focus on consumption allocations and employment changes due to having children. Our first finding is that most households in our sample (72%) split private consumption equally between partners. However, a household is more likely to allocate more private consumption to the female partner when she is at least as educated as the male partner. Second, our data shows a substantial gender discrepancy in career disruption due to childbearing: more than 50% of women experience a career disruption around the time of childbirth, compared to only 5% of men. However, women are significantly less likely to experience a disruption when they are more educated than their male partners. Our data shows that women with a higher labor

market attachment after having children are also more likely to benefit from a higher share of household resources later on. This suggests that marriage market sorting and the intra-household decision-making process are interlinked in important ways.

**Parental Mental Health and Children Outcomes**, *with Marianne Bernatzky and Zhengren Zhu.*

We explore the role that parental mental health has on their children's human capital development. Using data from the NLSY-79, linking mothers to their children, we document that 1) there is a positive relation between poor maternal mental health and child mental health problems, 2) poor maternal mental health is negatively associated with child cognitive outcomes and 3) inputs such as emotional support and material investments are negatively associated with problems in maternal mental health. With this empirical evidence as motivation, we develop a model of child human capital development in which maternal mental health enters as an additional input in the production function of a child's human capital. By looking at the impact of child human capital on long-term outcomes, we aim to understand how mental health contributes to the intergenerational transmission of poverty and inequality.