

# CARLOS ESPARZA, SJ

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## APPOINTMENT

Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, Saint Louis University, 2021—

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Economics, University of Texas at Austin, May 2021  
M.S., Economics, University of Texas at Austin, 2018  
M.Div., Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University, 2015  
M.A., Statistics, Columbia University, 2009  
M.A., Philosophy, Fordham University, 2008  
A.B., Computer Science, Harvard University, *Cum Laude*, 2002

## REFERENCES

Leigh Linden  
Department of Economics  
University of Texas at Austin  
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Richard Murphy  
Department of Economics  
University of Texas at Austin  
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Manuela Angelucci  
Department of Economics  
University of Texas at Austin  
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## TEACHING AND RESEARCH FIELDS

**Fields:** Labor Economics, Public Economics, Applied Microeconomics

**Sub-Fields:** Education, Religion

## SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS

2020 Department of Economics Graduate Summer Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin  
2019 – 2020 J-PAL North America Travel Grant, Exploration for RCT

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2018 – 2020 Economics Supervisor for Supplemental Instruction, University of Texas at Austin  
2016 – 2018 Comparative Economic Systems, University of Texas at Austin, Teaching Assistant for Professor Brian Trinqu

- 2013 – 2014 Seminar on Data and Economics, Saint Ignatius Institute, University of San Francisco, Adjunct Faculty
- 2009 – 2012 Calculus, Precalculus, Algebra, Geometry, Strake Jesuit College Preparatory, Houston, TX, Math Faculty

### OTHER EMPLOYMENT

- 2015 – 2016 Parochial Vicar, St. Ignatius of Loyola Parish, Denver, CO
- 2015 – 2016 Pastoral Advisor, Escuela de Guadalupe, Denver, CO
- 2002 – 2004 Computer Scientist, Department of Defense, Fort Meade, MD

### PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

#### **Conferences:**

- November, 2021 Southern Economic Association (SEA), Houston, Texas, Panel Session: “How do Abuse Allegations Affect the Religious Participation of Catholics?”
- October, 2021 Missouri Valley Economic Association (MVEA), Virtual, Panel Session: “The Impact of Wind Turbines on Academic Outcomes”
- October, 2020 MVEA, Virtual, Panel Session: *Job Market Paper*
- June, 2019 Catholic Research Economists Discussion Organization (CREDO), Jerusalem, Israel, Economics and Catholic Social Thought, A Primer, participant.

#### **Other**

#### **Presentations:**

- 2020-2021 Saint Louis University, University of Notre Dame, Xavier University

### WORKING PAPER

“How do Abuse Allegations Affect the Religious Participation of Catholics?” (*Job Market Paper*)

I explore the effects of people's attachment to religion on religious participation and longer term health outcomes by studying the sexual abuse scandal within the Catholic Church. Reporting by major media outlets in 2002 revealed a staggering amount of sexual abuse by clerics and its ongoing cover-up in the United States by the Church's hierarchy. This news shook many of the faithful's trust in the religious institution and led to a crisis of faith. The intensity of the scandal, as measured by the number of allegations against clerics, differed across the dioceses in the country. Exploiting this variation with a difference-in-differences strategy, I find that dioceses with a high number of allegations experienced diminishment in religious attachment across several different measures. Parents are less likely to have their children receive sacraments and attend parochial schools. Parish membership declines by more than 7.1 percent, and student enrollment falls by 13.2 percent. Additionally, this crisis had effects that extend beyond religious attachment. I present evidence that the clerical abuse scandal leads to worsening mortality rates related to deaths of despair. In particular, at the county level there is an increase in the incidence of high mortality rates of respectively 1.2 and 1.8 percentage points for accidental overdoses and suicides for middle aged men.

### WORK IN PROGRESS

“The Impact of Noise Pollution on Education Outcomes” with Andrew Lee

This project studies the causal impact of noise pollution on educational outcomes of students attending public institutions in the state of Texas. We study this through two separate settings: (1) construction and demolition projects, a common source of significant noise and air pollution in urban environments, and (2) wind turbines, a source of low-frequency noise pollution. Using geolocation information, we identify which schools lie near these sources of noise pollution. Under a difference-in-differences framework, we compare schools that are in the vicinity of construction and demolition projects or wind turbines with similar schools that are not, and we use detailed Texas administrative data to estimate the magnitude of the impact of noise pollution on student achievement, health, and behavior.

## “Feeding Food-Insecure Children”

Through a randomized control trial (RCT), the project plans to assess an after-school meal program run by a nonprofit. Food insecurity is widespread in the United States, and this problem plagues both adults and children. For children, food insecurity has been correlated with higher absences from school and poorer academic performance. Hunger Busters, a nonprofit based in Dallas, Texas, provides a third meal to disadvantaged students after the school day at public schools. This additional meal could provide the necessary nutrition for students to succeed at school. In particular, I analyze the effect of this intervention on student test scores, the rate of student absences, the incidence of student disciplinary action, and other outcomes.