

# Josep M. Nadal-Fernandez

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**Status:** U.S. Permanent Resident

Applied economist specializing in labor markets and policy evaluation. Experienced in designing rigorous empirical strategies for causal analyses. Dedicated team worker, skilled in managing multiple research projects and staff, with a strong ability to communicate complex ideas.

## Education

**Ph.D. in Economics** *University of Illinois at Chicago*

2023

- Dissertation title: *Teacher Labor Markets, School Competition, and Educational Outcomes*

**M.S. Economics and Policy Analysis** *DePaul University*

2016

- Fulbright Grant

## Experience

**Postdoctoral Fellow** *Education Policy Innovation Collaborative*  
*Michigan State University*

2023 - current

Participation in an early literacy evaluation funded by a \$5 million IES Grant

### Responsibilities

- Design of customized empirical statistical framework to provide causal estimates of literacy policy effects
- Contributing to the writing and coordination of IES performance agreement update reports
- Technical reports and academic manuscripts using survey data, administrative data, and benchmark assessments
- Overseeing and assigning tasks to research assistants, regularly updating the research director
- Coordinating research products, timelines, setting meeting agendas, leading meetings with multidisciplinary team
- Production of independent academic papers on teacher labor markets
- Establishment of external partnerships and leading own research securing a Russell Sage Foundation Grant as a co-PI to conduct a policy evaluation of TANF work requirements

Reference: Emily Mohr (Managing Director) & Tara Kilbride (Interim Associate Director)

**Researcher** *ESADE Entrepreneurship Institute*  
*Barcelona, Spain*

2020 - 2021

Contribution to employee evaluation project funded by a European Research Council Grant

### Responsibilities

- Creation of Python code to process daily financial analyst data to identify how employers react differently to employees' performance on the basis of gender
- Implementation of machine learning procedures such as regularization techniques to enhance empirical design
- Creation of visually appealing figures for reports and manuscripts related to the project
- Participation in seminars with partners of the institute to understand the determinants of entrepreneurship, including the overhaul of a country education curricula

Reference: Matteo Prato (ESADE Business School Associate Professor)

**Research Assistant** *Economics Department*  
*University of Illinois at Chicago*

2019 -2020

Education policy evaluations including teacher labor markets and returns to school competition in Latin America

**Responsibilities**

- Creation of new method to link large teacher administrative data with student outcomes and survey data
- Implementation of GIS methods to measure school competition
- Estimation of teacher value-added models
- Producing weekly updates with digestible research insights for meetings

**Reference:** Steven Rivkin (Department Head & Professor) & Benjamin Feigenberg (Professor)

**Research Assistant** *Institute for Health Research and Policy*  
*University of Illinois at Chicago*

Summer 2019

Assisted in a project funded by a Bloomberg Grant assessing the impact of a tax on sugary drinks

**Responsibilities**

- Creation of code to systematically process daily barcode data on purchases of soda
- Implementation of dynamic difference-in-differences model to estimate policy effects reported in articles and policy reports

**Reference:** Pierre Leger (Health Policy and Administration Associate Professor)

**Research Assistant** *Economics Department*  
*DePaul University, Chicago*

2014-2015

**Responsibilities**

- Project with Dr. Fitzner on the effects of policy aiming to reduce diabetes prevalence
- Assisting Prof. Tenorio in a randomized control trial design to estimate the drivers of public good provision

**Reference:** Rafael Tenorio (Professor)

**Skills:**

**Software** STATA, Latex, Excel, Teams (proficient); SAS, R, and Python (functional)

**Languages** English (fluent), Spanish and Catalan (native), Portuguese (basic)

**Working papers**

-Becoming permanent: the effects of changes in teacher contract status, evidence from Chile, Job market paper

-It's time to go: the effects of teacher retirement policies

- Chile's full-day school reform and the relationship between the returns to school competition and labor-market rigidities, with B. Feigenberg & S. Rivkin

- Strengthening Work Requirements? Forecasting Impacts of Reforming Cash Assistance, with G. Pepin & K. Schrader

-Estimating the overall effects of statewide early literacy policies, with T. Kilbride & S. Walker

-The effects of the minimum wage on the geographical distribution of social security disability insurance beneficiaries

**Published work**

**Retention and Exemption Decisions Under the Read by Grade Three Law**- with T. Kilbride & S. Walker- EPIC Research Report, 2024

*Peer-reviewed:*

- **The German economy: successes and challenges related to its reforms and the Eurozone**- Cuadernos Económicos de ICE, (92). Journal of the Spanish Ministry of Economy, 2017
- **State-level efforts to Improve Diabetes Control and Access to Care** - with K. Fitzner, E.A.F. Heckinger, and M. Morrone - Journal of Diabetic Complications and Medicine, 2016

**Teaching & Presentations**

- **Courses taught:** Principles of Macroeconomics (2022), Principles of Microeconomics (2021), Public Finance (2019), and the Economics of Sports (2018)
- **Presentations:** Upjohn Institute (24); Southern Economic Association (22,23); Midwest Economic Association (21,22); Illinois Economic Association (19,22); UIC Economics Research Luncheon (21, 22); Regional student conference of APPAM (20); Evidence Based Economics Conference (20); DePaul Economics Department Seminar (20)