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National Bureau of Economic Research | NBER

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NBER ENTREPENEURSHIP RESEARCH BOOT CAMP 2023

Dear Organizing Committee,

My name is Javier Boncompte, and I am a third-year PhD candidate in Economics at University College London (UCL), where I specialize in Industrial Organization and Applied Econometrics. I am also affiliated with the Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice (CEMMAP) at the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS). I am writing to share with you my interest in applying for the NBER Research Boot Camp 2023. I am honored to have Professor Lars Nesheim, my supervisor, as my recommendation letter writer.

I have taken several graduate courses during my PhD program, which has provided me with a strong foundation in microeconomic theory and econometric methods.

- Microeconomics (1 year)
- Macroeconomics (1 year)
- Econometrics (1 year)
- Real Analysis / Probability Theory (1 year)
- International Economics for Research Students (at LSE)
- Bounded Rationality
- Frontiers of Mechanism Design

As a former tech entrepreneur, I bring a unique combination of rigorous academic training and first-hand experience with the challenges of bringing innovative products to market. As a researcher, my work highlights the importance of firms' unobserved decision and how to properly account for them. I am confident that this unique background makes me a valuable asset to the Boot Camp and the community it seeks to cultivate.

Sincerely,



Javier Boncompte

Dear Organizing Committee,

I am honored to submit my application to the NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp 2023. My name is Javier Boncompte, and I am a third-year PhD candidate in Economics at University College London (UCL), where I specialize in Industrial Organization and Applied Econometrics. I am also affiliated with the Centre for Microdata Methods and Practice (CEMMAP) at the Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS).

My research interests center around the interplay between firm dynamics and innovation. Specifically in exploring how innovation, research, and development influence firm decision-making. My ultimate goal is to shed light on the influence of regulation and policy on these decisions to address global challenges like health and climate change.

Throughout my PhD, I have established a research agenda that explores various aspects of the dynamics of Firms and Innovation. One of my projects examines the welfare and health effects of product reformulation in the food industry, following changes in the regulation of sugary and fatty products. I propose a two-stage model of product reformulation and use interactive fixed effects to endogenize the effects of otherwise unobservable dimensions, such as taste. My initial findings suggest that considering these endogenous unobserved dimensions results in larger price elasticities with significant implications for consumer welfare. This project highlights the importance of unobserved firms' decisions on their product offering definition and the policy outcomes. In addition, I am also pursuing several other research projects, including exploring the use of unstructured textual data to measure and characterize firms' R&D initiatives, examining the impact of financial intermediaries on urban development and housing supply, and investigating the drivers of firm-level export growth using customs data.

The NBER Entrepreneurship Research Boot Camp presents a unique opportunity for me to gain valuable insights and develop new skills in this field of research. I am especially eager to network with other young scholars and learn about the various domains where innovation has made a significant impact. This will not only enrich my research but also give me a broader understanding of the field. I am confident that my background as an industrial engineer, along with my experience in the industry and entrepreneurship, and my strong skills in decision theory, econometrics, and statistical computation, make me a valuable contributor to the boot camp.

I see this opportunity as a means to connect with like-minded early-career researchers, learn about different areas of innovation, and discover new frontiers and open questions to focus on. The knowledge and insights gained through the Boot Camp will have a lasting impact on my future research and professional growth. Furthermore, I am committed to contributing to the growth and development of others and look forward to collaborating with a talented and diverse group of researchers.

Thank you for considering my application and for providing this extraordinary opportunity to be part of the vibrant intellectual community you are generating with this and other initiatives around the economics of innovation.

Sincerely,
Javier Boncompte

JAVIER BONCOMPTE

PhD(c) Economics, University College London

javier.boncompte.19@ucl.ac.uk ◇ jiboncom.github.io ◇ LinkedIn

EDUCATION

PhD Economics, University College London — 2020 - *
Msc Economics, University College London *(Distinction)* — 2019 - 2020
Msc Industrial Engineering, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC) *(Distinction)* — 2013 - 2014
Bachelor of Industrial Engineering, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile (PUC) — 2008 - 2014

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Research scholar — 2021 - *
Institute of Fiscal Studies — *London, UK*

Post graduate teaching assistant — 2021 - *
University College London — *London, UK*

Adjunct professor — 2015 - 2019
School of Engineering, Pontifical Catholic University — *Santiago, Chile*

INDUSTRY POSITIONS

Data Science Lead — 2018 - 2019
Tottus - *Major Multi-National Supermarket in South America.* — *Lima, Peru; Santiago, Chile*

Founder & CEO — 2017 - 2018
Ganemos.cl - *First online business intelligence platform for political campaigns in Chile.* — *Santiago, Chile*

Advisor to the Vice Minister — 2015 - 2018
Ministry of Transportation, Government of Chile. — *Santiago, Chile*

WORKING PAPERS

Product reformulation with endogenous unobservable characteristics in the food industry

How Firms Grow? The role of productivity and matchability for export success

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Becas Chile PhD Scholarship — 2015 - 2019
Government of Chile — *Chile*

Chevening Scholarship — 2019
British Foreign and Commonwealth Office — *United Kingdom*

Departmental grant for reviewing the Economics curriculum — 2018
School of Engineering, Pontifical Catholic University — *Santiago, Chile*

Ranked in the top tier in the Biannual Professor Assessment — 2017
School of Engineering, Pontifical Catholic University — *Santiago, Chile*

SKILLS

Statistical software	Python, Stata, Matlab, R, Jupyter
Machine learning libraries	Transformers (HF), TensorFlow, PyTorch
Mathematical programming	SymPy, SciPy, Biogeme, AMPL, GLPK
General programming	Javascript, HTML5, PHP, Java
Business Intelligence	Tableau, PowerBi, Voila

From: Lars Nesheim <l.nesheim@ucl.ac.uk>
Subject: Entrepreneurship boot camp: recommendation letter: Javier Boncompte
To: maranjian@nber.org

I am writing to provide a recommendation letter for Javier Boncompte Guarda (UCL).
Javier is an outstanding PHD student working at the frontier of machine learning and the economics of innovation. He is also keenly interested in how businesses can combine economic models, statistics, machine learning tools and rich datasets to produce new ideas, new products, and new business models. In addition to his core research on the economics of innovation (which is relevant both for the innovation bootcamp and the entrepreneurshipÂ bootcamp), he is pursuing several ideas investigating how economics and machine learning tools can be combined to better solve business problems:
1) he is discussing with a real estate development industry group in Chile how to developÂ new tools to analyse and forecast highly local housing market conditions.
2) his MSC dissertation investigated how analysis of twitter data can be used to forecast high frequency stock market data
3) he is using data science and AI tools to extract information from firms' accounts to be used in his econometric analysis of innovation.

One of the rationales for his work on fast moving consumer goods data is to improve understanding of how businesses develop new products. Specifically, he is working with large scale datasets and combiningÂ interactiveÂ fixed effects models (factor models for high dimensional data) with structural modelling of firms' decision problems (firms' innovation generating new (unobserved product quality) is the choice variable). I believeÂ this will be ground breakingÂ work. He is extending Moon, Shum and Weidner by showing how imposing structure on firms' choices can enable a structural interpretation of the factors and loadings. Â

I believe Javier is a perfect match for the Entrepreneurship Boot Camp (as well as the Innovation Bootcamp). He has a few years experience working in the retail sector as a data scientist. He has the skills, the creativity, and the experience to greatly contribute to and benefit from participation in the bootcamp.

Please let me know if you require further information.

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Professor Lars Nesheim
Co-Director
Centre for Microdata Methods and PracticeÂ
(CEMMAP)
UCL and IFS

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