

The gender gap in college major choice in Chile

Por: [Bordon, P](#) (Bordon, Paola)^[1,2]; [Canals, C](#) (Canals, Catalina)^[3]; [Mizala, A](#) (Mizala, Alejandra)^[3,4]

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Abstract

This paper studies gender differences in college applications in Chile. We use the revealed preferences of students for college major choice by taking advantage of Chile's Centralized Admission System, and estimate a nested logit model to predict the first preference of applicants. We find that males apply to selective programs even when they are marginal candidates, while equally qualified female candidates tend to apply less often to these programs. Using counterfactual exercises, we conclude that to successfully address the gender gap, along with promoting females' participation in STEM careers, we must increase males' willingness to consider non-STEM fields. Closing the gender gap does not imply a loss in terms of talent distribution by area of knowledge.

Palabras clave

Palabras clave de autor: [Gender gap](#); [Gender preferences](#); [College major choice](#); [Nested logit](#)

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Información del autor

Dirección para petición de copias:

Universidad de Chile Univ Chile, Inst Educ, CIAE, Santiago, Chile.

Universidad de Chile Univ Chile, Dept Ind Engn, Santiago, Chile.

Dirección correspondiente: Mizala, A (autor correspondiente)

+ Univ Chile, Inst Educ, CIAE, Santiago, Chile.

Dirección correspondiente: Mizala, A (autor correspondiente)

+ Univ Chile, Dept Ind Engn, Santiago, Chile.

Direcciones:

+ [1] Univ Alberto Hurtado, COES, Santiago, Chile

+ [2] Univ Alberto Hurtado, DESOC, Santiago, Chile

+ [3] Univ Chile, Inst Educ, CIAE, Santiago, Chile

+ [4] Univ Chile, Dept Ind Engn, Santiago, Chile

Direcciones de correo

electrónico:pbordon@uahurtado.cl; catalina.canals@ciae.uchile.cl; amizala@uchile.cl

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