

CRISTIAN POP-ELECHES

Contact Information:

Columbia University
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Employment and Affiliations:

Associate Professor (without tenure), SIPA and Economics, Columbia University, 2010-present.
Assistant Professor, SIPA and Economics, Columbia University, 2003-2010
Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), 2007-present.
Affiliate, Bureau for Research and Economic Analysis of Development (BREAD), 2008-present.
Faculty Fellow, Institute for Social and Economic Research (ISERP), 2003 –present.

Education:

Ph.D., Economics, Harvard University, 2003
M.A., Economics, Harvard University, 2000
B.A., Economics, Harvard University, 1998

Research Fields:

Primary field: Development Economics
Research interests: Health and Education

Published or Forthcoming Papers:

- “Behavioral responses of patients in AIDS treatment programs: sexual behavior in Kenya,” joint with Markus Goldstein, Josh Graff Zivin, James Habyarimana and Harsha Thirumurthy, (forthcoming at the *Forum for Health Economics & Policy*)
- “Targeted Government Spending and Political Preferences,” joint with Grigore Pop-Eleches (forthcoming at the *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*)
- “Home Computer Use and the Development of Human Capital”, joint with Ofer Malamud, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 126(2), 2011
Research featured in *Slate*, the *New York Times*, *NBER Digest* and multiple media outlets in Romania
- “School Tracking and Access to Higher Education Among Disadvantaged Groups,” joint with Ofer Malamud, *Journal of Public Economics*, 95(11-12), 2011

- “Mobile phone technologies improve adherence to antiretroviral treatment in resource-limited settings: a randomized controlled trial of text message reminders,” Pop-Eleches C, Thirumurthy H, Habyarmina J, Graff Zivin J, Goldstein M, DeWalque D, MacKeen L, Haberer J, Sidle J, Ngare D, Bangsberg D, *AIDS*, 25(6), 2011
- “The Impact of HIV/AIDS and ARV Treatment on Worker Absenteeism: Implications for African Firms,” joint with Bekezela Mbakile and James Habyarimana, *Journal of Human Resources* 45(5), 2010
- “Vocational Training versus General Education: Evidence from an Economy in Transition,” joint with Ofer Malamud, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 92(1), 2010
- “The Supply of Birth Control Methods, Education and Fertility: Evidence from Romania” *Journal of Human Resources* 45(4), 2010
Research featured in *Freakonomics*
- “Electronic Filing, Tax Preparers, and Participation in the Earned Income Tax Credit,” joint with Wojciech Kopczuk, *Journal of Public Economics* 91(7-8), 2007
- “The Impact of an Abortion Ban on Socio-Economic Outcomes of Children: Evidence from Romania”. *Journal of Political Economy* 114(4), 2006
Research featured in *Freakonomics* and *The Economist*
- “Judicial Checks and Balances,” joint with Rafael La Porta, Florencio López-de-Silanes, and Andrei Shleifer, *Journal of Political Economy* 112(2), 2004

Completed Papers:

- “Going to a Better School: Effects and Behavioral Responses,” joint with Miguel Urquiola (revise and resubmit at the *American Economic Review*)
- “The Impact of Health Worker Absence on Health Outcomes: Evidence from Western Kenya,” joint with Markus Goldstein, Josh Graff Zivin, Harsha Thirumurthy and James Habyarimana (revise and resubmit at the *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics*)
- “Abortion and Child Cognitive Outcomes”, (revise and resubmit at the *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*)

Work in Progress:

Education:

- “The Relative Importance of Parental Effort and School Quality in the Determination of Students’ Outcomes,” joint with Miguel Urquiola (NSF-supported project)
- “Education, Marriage and Fertility “ joint with Andreea Balan and Ofer Malamud

- “How do Teachers Respond to Changes in Student Quality: Evidence from Cohort Variation”, joint with Ofer Malamud and Miguel Urquiola
- “Home Computer Use and Educational Outcomes in Chile”, joint with Jaime Bellolio and Ofer Malamud

Health:

- “Transport Support to Improve ARV Treatment Outcomes”, joint with David Bangsberg, Nneka Emenyonu, James Habyarimana and Harsha Thirumurthy
- “Adherence to ARV Treatment”, joint with James Habyarimana and Harsha Thirumurthy
- “The Effects of Home Based HIV Counseling and Testing”, joint with Markus Goldstein, Corinne Low and Harsha Thirumurthy
- “The Impact of Nutrition and Health Interventions on Children’s Health and Socio-Economic Outcomes: A Cohort Study in Malawi”, joint with Hyuncheol Kim
- “Complementarities and Externalities of HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategies in Malawi: HIV/AIDS Education, Male Circumcision, and Cash Transfers”, joint with Hyuncheol Kim and Booyuel Kim

Honors, Scholarships, and Citations:

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| 2010 | Research on the impact of computers featured in the New York Times, Freakonomics Blog, NBER Digest and Romanian TV (TVR, ProTV) |
| 2008 | Research on the impact of computers featured in Slate, the New York Times and Gandul |
| 2007-2008 | NBER Post-Doctoral Fellowship in Aging and Health, Cambridge, MA |
| 2006 | AGES Best Graduate Advisor Award (Runner-up Prize) – Department of Economics, Columbia University |
| 2005 | Abortion research featured in The Economist (December 1st issue) |
| 2005 | Outstanding Teacher of the Year – SIPA, Columbia University |
| 2005 | Abortion research featured in the book Freakonomics by Steven Levitt and Stephan Dubner |
| 2002 | Derek Bok Award for Excellence in Teaching |
| 2001-2002 | MacArthur Network on Inequality and Poverty in Broader Perspective – Graduate Student Fellowship |
| 2001-2002 | Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies – Saltonstall Graduate Associate |
| 2000-2003 | Center for International Development – Graduate Student Fellow |
| 1998 | Thomas T. Hoopes Prize and Allyn A. Young Prize for Undergraduate Thesis |

Academic Presentations and Seminars:

- Boston University, Economics Department - 2003
- Brookings Institution – 2006
- BU/Harvard/MIT Health Seminar - 2011
- Case Western, Economics Department – 2007

Chicago, Harris School – 2006
Clemson, Economics Department – 2003, 2011
Columbia, Economics Department - 2003, 2004, 2005
Columbia, ISERP - 2004
CUNY-NBER, Health Economics Seminar – 2007, Economics Seminar - 2010
BREAD Conference – 2007
Brown University, Population Studies and Training Center - 2010
Essex, Department of Economics, 2005
Harvard, Economics Department – 2002, 2003, 2008
Harvard, Center for Population Studies - 2001
London School of Economics, Economics Department - 2005
Maryland, Economics Department, 2004
Michigan, Ford School - 2006
Minnesota, Population Center – 2008
NBER, Summer Institute - 2003, 2007, Education Meeting - 2010
NEUDC Conference – 2001, 2002, 2005
Princeton, Economics Department - 2005
Rochester, Economics Department – 2008
Stanford, Economics Department – 2011
UC Berkeley, Economics Department – 2004, 2011
UCLA, Economics Department – 2006
UC San Diego, Economics Department – 2006
UIC, Economics Department – 2011
University of Delaware, Economics Department - 2011
Vanderbilt, Economics Department - 2003
Yale, Economics Department – 2006
Yale, Health Policy - 2008
World Bank - 2002

Advising:

Camelia Minoiu (Reader), Ph.D. Economics 2007. First position: International Monetary Fund.
Stephan Litschig (Reader), Ph.D. Economics 2008. First position: Universitat Pompeu Fabra.
Daniel Choate (Reader), Ph. D. Economics 2009. First position: Lexis-Nexis.
Shubha Chakravarty (Sponsor), Ph. D. Economics 2009. First position: World Bank.
Matthew Wai-Poi (Sponsor), Ph. D. Economics 2010. First position: World Bank.
Gordon Mccord (Reader), Ph. D. Economics 2011. First position: UCSD IRPS.
Beliyou Haile (Sponsor), Ph. D. Economics 2011. First position: IMPAQ International.

Teaching:

SIPA, Columbia University – Microeconomics and Policy Analysis
SIPA, Columbia University – Quantitative Methods II
Department of Economics - Graduate Development

Referee for:

Quarterly Journal of Economics, Journal of Development Economics, Journal of Public Economics, Review of Economics Studies, Journal of Human Resources, Journal of Law and Economics, Economics of Transition, Journal of Legal Studies, Economica, Review of Economics and Statistics, Journal of African Economies, National Science Foundation, Journal of Development Studies, Journal of the European Economic Association, Journal of Comparative Economics, Economic Journal, Journal of Health Economics, American Economic Review, AEJ: Applied, Scandinavian Journal of Economics

Grants:

- Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), “The Impact of Nutrition and Health Interventions on Children’s Health and Socio-economic Outcomes” and “Complementarities and Externalities of HIV/AIDS Prevention Strategies in Malawi: HIV/AIDS Education, Male Circumcision, and Cash Transfers”, 2010-2013, \$2,000,000, co-PI
- Spencer Foundation, “The Effects of Home Computers on Child Outcomes” 2009, \$40,000, co-PI
- National Science Foundation, “Family and School Influences in the Determination of Child Outcomes: Evidence from Two Sources of Variation”, 2008-2010, \$458,331, co-PI
- Doris Duke ORACTA Grant, “Transport Support to Improve ARV Treatment Outcomes”, 2007-2009, \$203,130, co-PI
- World Bank, “Adherence to ARV Treatment and its Effects on Medium Run Socio-Economic Outcomes: Evidence from Western Kenya”, 2007-2008, \$226,883, co-PI
- ISERP Seed Grant, Columbia University, “The Impact of Computer Use on Child Outcomes”, 2006, \$10,000, PI
- CIBER Grant - Columbia University, “The Impact of ARV Treatment on Socio-Economic Outcomes in Botswana and Kenya”, 2005, \$3,000, PI
- PER Seed Grant, Columbia University, “Understanding Brain Drain”, 2004, \$4000, PI
- PER Summer Grant, Columbia University, “Educational Reform in Romania”, 2005, \$5000, PI
- ISERP Seed Grant, Columbia University, “Educational Reform in Romania”, 2004, \$10,000, PI