

Globalisation, Education & Social Policies



School selectivity and excellence as a policy trajectory: The effect of assignment to an academically

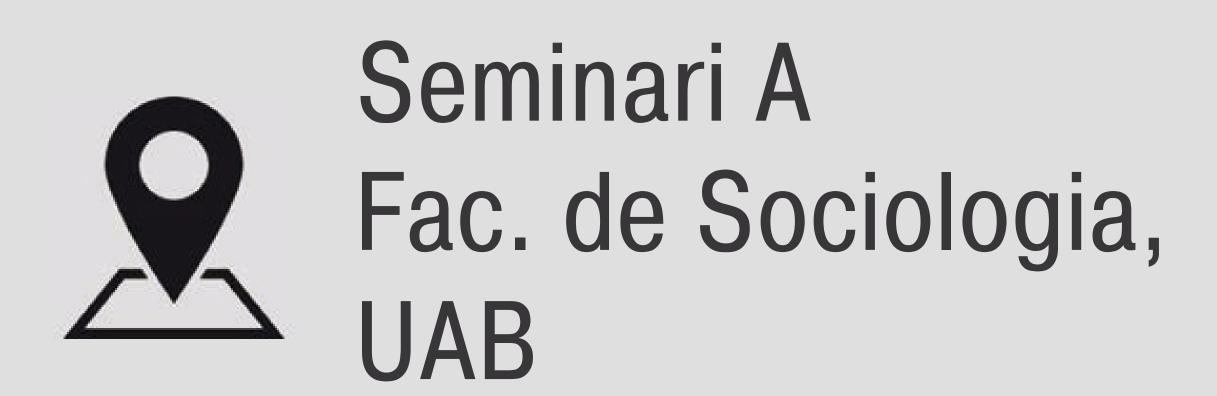
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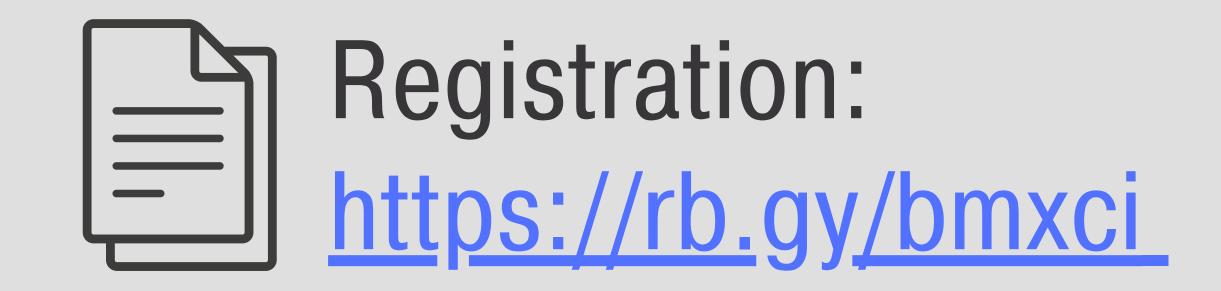
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selective school in Chile

In 2017 Chile began a phased implementation of a new centralized admission system based on the Gale and Shapely mechanism for all public and private subsidized schools. We examine a select set of "academically excellent" (AE) schools that are permitted to phase in lottery admissions while maintaining selectivity. They utilize a dual admission system with an increasing percentage of students admitted by lottery and the remainder assigned via admission test scores. We draw from student level administrative records from 2017-2023 to conduct quasi-causal analyses.







Preliminary results suggest that lottery winners have higher rates of attendance at the assigned school, and of promotion at the end of the school year than lottery losers, but not significantly higher rates of application to college. The results of the study will inform the scholarly debate regarding the effect of academically selective schools on student behavior, performance, and persistence.



